On the Beginnings of South Asian Spice Trade with the Mediterranean Region: A Review

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Abstract

When did the trade in lucrative spices from South Asia to the West commence? Recent organic residue analyses performed on small early Iron Age (11th–late 10th century BCE) Phoenician clay flasks provide the first concrete archaeological evidence that such sustainable trade took place much earlier than hitherto suspected. The analysis shows that several of the flasks contained cinnamon, which in this period could only have originated in South/Southeast Asia. Here, we first summarize the rationale and results of that study. Subsequently, we provide an updated review of all sources of data relevant to the question at hand—archaeological, analytical, and textual. Finally, we offer suggestions for future research on the Asian spice trade with the West.

DOI: 10.2458/azu_rc.57.18562

Keywords

trade; spices; South Asia; Iron Age

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The spice trade was important during ancient times and the Middle Ages. Spices led to the creation of vast empires and powerful cities. When Europeans heard of spices like cinnamon, pepper, ginger and vanilla they travelled to Asia to bring them home. People used spices to flavour their food and make them taste better. Some were used to preserve food and make it last longer. Greek merchants traded with India and got as far as south-eastern Asia. The Romans explored the Mediterranean Sea. During an intensive period of trading with India they brought goods back from the east and set up a trading post in Alexandria. There goods were transferred to ships that sailed back to Rome. Most of the trading went along the Silk Road. Start studying Spice Trade Review. Learn vocabulary, terms and more with flashcards, games and other study tools. Ferdinand Magellan: discovered a straight through the southern tip of South America that he named the Strait of Magellan, renamed the South Sea the Pacific Ocean, and became the first person to circumnavigate the world (his surviving crew members were because he died in the Philippines) Vasco da Gama: led the first exploration around the Cape of Good Hope to the west coast of India. In Southeast Asia, the Portuguese again were some of the first explorers to trade with the Asians. Under Afonso de Albuquerque, Portugal created an empire around the Indian Ocean. They seized cities such as Malacca and created outposts for themselves. Fiscal balances in south mediterranean countries. Ronald Albers and Marga Peeters1. January 2011. Abstract Just before the global crisis soaring commodity prices pushed up inflation significantly, not least in EU neighbour countries at the Mediterranean. These price shocks affected public finances in the southern Mediterranean region, notably via government subsidies. Partly due to lags in the transmission of commodity prices into prices for final users the subsidies burden continued to be felt, despite the price falls registered in the wake of the credit crisis. A third lesson drawn from these earlier episodes concerns the interference of governments with the pricing of market goods. The recessions in the countries concerned, triggered by rises. 7. The paper develops the hypothesis that zebu cattle depictions are a marker of Indo-European population dispersal from the Indus Valley to Syria and Anatolia in 7000–1000 BC. It combines the exploration of the data on human genetics (full genomes and Y-Haplogroups originating from South Asia), bovine genetic admixture distribution maps (mitochondrial, autosomal and Y-chromosomal), archaeology (findings of zebu figurines, pictures, images and seals) and Indo-European linguistics. The spice trade refers to the trade between historical civilizations in Asia, Northeast Africa and Europe. Spices such as cinnamon, cassia, cardamom, ginger, pepper, and turmeric were known and used in antiquity for commerce in the Eastern World. [1] These spices found their way into the Middle East before the beginning of the Christian era, where the true sources of these spices were withheld by the traders and associated with fantastic tales.[1] Early writings and stone age carvings. The South Arabia region was called Eudaemon Arabia (the elated Arabia) by the Greeks and was on the agenda of conquests of Alexander of Macedonia before he died. The Indians and the Arabs had control over the sea trade with India.