

Takeaway 1

Before reading “Before European Hegemony” and “Ludden’s Presidential Address” was unfamiliar with the concept of natural migration effecting cultural territories instead of boundaries being drawn through war or imposed by large empires. However, the cause of many limits of influence, specifically in South Asia, had more to do with monsoon and wind patterns. In the 13th century the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea all formed circuits of where trade and influence tended to be. I found it interesting that these regions coexisted and shared culture which added to the non-trivial nature of traveling. Islamic culture was spread through water routes along the Arabian Peninsula and West India, majorly Gujrat. The commonality between Hinduism and Buddhism made it pleasant to trade to Southeast and East Asian waterways.

Additionally, I became aware that maps are not a neutral representation of world, in fact they are political and emotional pieces that take shape based on the creator’s view of the world. In the modern world maps have become commercialized ways for people to remember places and memorize people. This thinking draws a rigid line to where people “should” be people have always moved through regions. Even in modern times many South Asians move west for employment in routes resembling the Silk Road, history has always been about moving people and maps tend to restrict the way we think about that migration. Another important fact is the role colonization had on mobility in the region of South Asia, what once was a flourishing interactive world was condemned by the British and other parties to control persons. This effect stayed even longer, far after countries gained independence, causing modern problems such as the alienation of Muslims in India and the modern-day fight of Kashmir.

Unfamiliar words:

- Hinduized
- Hegemony
- Hinterlands
- Hitherto
- Intelligential
- Demarcated

Unfamiliar places/people

- Ibh Majid
- Straits of Malacca and Sunda