to find that feudal society still retained numbers of slaves. Parts of China, Burma and India also had considerable numbers of slaves as the society moved away from elementary communalism, but there was never any time-span when slavery was the dominant mode of production in Asia. In Africa there were few slaves and certainly no epoch of slavery. Most of the slaves were in North Africa and other Muslim societies, and in those instances a man and his family could have the same slave status for generations, within the overall feudal structure of the society. Elsewhere in Africa, communal societies were introduced to the concept of owning alien human beings when they made captives in war. At first those captives were in a very disadvantaged position, comparable to that of slaves, but very rapidly captives or their offspring became ordinary members of the society, because there was no scope for the personal exploitation of man by man in a context that was neither feudal or capitalist."

Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Bogle L'Ouverture Publications, 1976, pp.45-46.

.....

Contact with Islam was not just trade in currants, silks and spices. Contact with Islamic scholarship helped Europeans realise how indebted European civilisation was to the Islamic world. The great libraries of the East housed Greek documents on the Christian religion. Diplomats, such as Sir Thomas Roe, when he was ambassador at Constantinople, were under great pressure from the Earl of Arundel and the Duke of Buckingham to bring back art objects, documents and buildings. Sir Thomas Roe was to bequeath his large personal collection of Islamic documents to the Bodleian Library.

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"Thomas Roe, ambassador in Constantinople from 1621-28, was among the first of a long line of European diplomats to enrich their native lands with classical relics, beginning with inscribed slabs or carved capitals and increasing until in the nineteenth century whole temples and tombs were being removed."

Sarah Seabright, *The British in the Middle East*, East-West Publications, London, 1979, p.69.

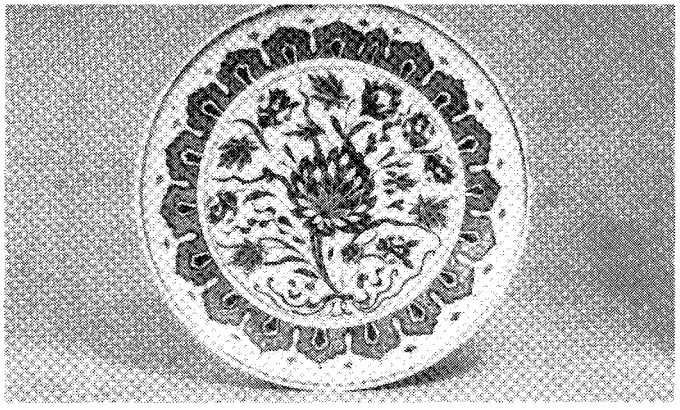
.....

There had always been close trading links between the Sudan and Egypt. There were three main trading routes, one of which passed through the town of Dongola. Christianity came to the Sudan in the second decade of the fourth century AD. The rulers of Constantinople, Justinian and his wife Theodora, sent missionaries to the Sudan. So the three kingdoms of Nubia were united as Christianity spread and united the people. The capital of Nubia, Dongola, fell to the Arabs in 1317 and Islam was imposed instead. When the Arabs captured Dongola a treaty was made which said that the Nubians must pay a tribute of 360 slaves a year and this treaty was enforced for many centuries. Islamic culture was introduced in Nubia and the use of the Arabic language.

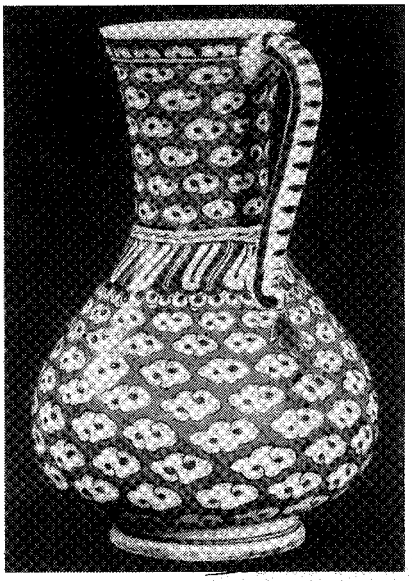
Dongola was described when it had fallen to the Arabs:

"Here lies the abode of the king. The town is large and lies on the blessed Nile. There are many Churches and brick houses in it and its streets are wide. The king's house is decorated with a number of domes, built of red brick and it resembles houses in Iraq."

Mandour el Mahdi, *A Short History of the Sudan*, Oxford University Press, 1965.

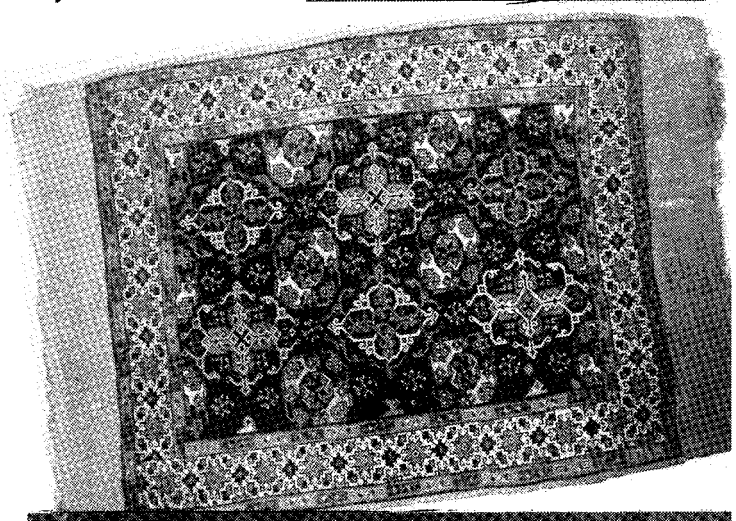


Isnik dish made in Turkey in the second half of the sixteenth century. Victoria and Albert Museum.



Isnik jug 1570—80. Victoria and Albert Museum.

Below: Europeans were very keen to buy Islamic carpets and rugs, which they often used as a tablecloth or a wall hanging rather than a floor covering. Rugs, such as this small-patterned Holbein rug, came from Anatolia in Turkey and may well have come to England by the Russian route.



Right: Holbein was an artist who often portrayed Turkish carpets in his paintings. Instead of such carpets being known by their local names, they are known in Europe by the names of the European artists who depicted them in their work. Rugs from Turkey are called Holbein rugs. John Mills, Carpets in Painting, National Gallery, London. The Ambassadors by Hans Holbein. With the permission of the National Gallery, London.

4. Trade with Islamic India and Turkey

When the East India Company decided to establish a firmer foothold in India, Sir Thomas Roe (1581-1644) was sent as the first British ambassador to the brilliant court of the Moghal Emperor, Jahangir. The Emperor was very wary of any British interference and preferred to trade with the Portuguese. In fact Jahangir had little intention of signing a trade treaty with Roe. Despite such gloomy prospects, Roe was diplomatic and patient and eventually managed to win certain trading rights for English merchants. It was no mean achievement.

Roe's diplomatic career continued when he was appointed ambassador to the Ottoman Court at Constantinople in 1621. Roe was to live in Turkey for seven years, smoothing trading relations between the English and the Ottoman Turks and trying to suppress the power of the Barbary pirates who were disrupting shipping in the Mediterranean.

Sir Thomas Roe, born in Leyton, was a member of a prosperous merchant family. His grandfather had been Lord Mayor of London in 1588 and members of the family held land in Walthamstow, Hackney, Muswell Hill and in the City of London. There was money to educate Roe at Magdalen College, Oxford and at the French Inns of Court. On his return to England he was appointed Esquire to Elizabeth I and continued in royal favour with the new king. In 1609 Roe set sail for the West Indies, eventually sailing further south to the mouth of the Amazon and Orinoco rivers. The purpose of the trip was to look for gold but none was found. After a brief stop in Trinidad, Thomas returned to London in 1611. He was to return to South America twice more.

Sir Thomas Roe. With the permission of the National Portrait Gallery.

Thomas was sent to Flushing, in the Netherlands, in 1613, on Crown business and a year later was elected a Member of Parliament for Tamworth. Roe went to India in 1615, returning four years later through Persia.

Roe took his wife on his diplomatic mission to the Ottoman Court, stopping on the return journey to visit the daughter of James VI of Scotland, living in Bohemia. Charles I, who had come to the throne in 1625, immediately despatched Roe to mediate peace between Sweden and Poland. A friendship grew between Roe and the King of Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus. Returning to England in 1630, Thomas Roe went to live quietly in the country on a much reduced income. Although he had served the royal family faithfully, he was never financially rewarded for his services. In fact, he was not allowed a peaceful retirement at all, for in 1638 Roe was appointed ambassador at the Peace Congress held consecutively at Hamburg, Ratisbon and Vienna. He became a member of the Privy council in 1640 and Ambassador Extraordinary at Vienna in the following year. Roe died in 1644.

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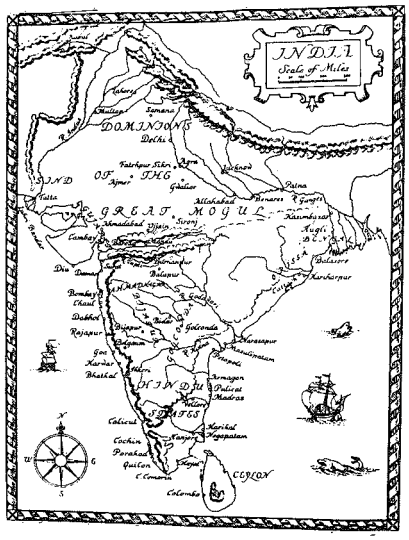
When Roe reached the Moghal Court, he found a hotbed of intrigue among courtiers and foreign traders. The King turned against the Portuguese in 1614 and asked the English to join forces against them. However the English traders refused to be drawn into the fight. The Moghal ruler then encouraged Dutch traders instead of the Portuguese. Roe arrived in India in the middle of this intrigue. He soon realised that Jahangir, the Moghal, was not intimidated by foreigners, so instead, he took a softer line of approach. Roe hoped to get a trade treaty from Jahangir with favourable terms for the English merchants. Although Jahangir had no intention of submitting to the requests of James VI of Scotland, he was intrigued by the royal presents. Roe had presented a miniature by Isaac Oliver to the delight of the Moghal. He called his Court Painters and asked for copies of the miniature to be made. So skilful were the Moghal painters, that nobody could tell the original from the copy. Roe was given the copy by Jahangir, who added, "to showe in England wee are not so unskillfull as you esteem us."

William Foster, *The Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to India*, 1615-19, Volume I, Hakluyt Society.



Map of India in the seventeenth century. Sir William Foster, England's Quest of Eastern Trade. India Office Library and Records.

A Moghal miniature showing Roe at the Court of Jehangir. British Library.

When Sir Thomas Roe set sail for India, he was to see the court of one of the great empires of the world. Jahangir was the fourth in a dynasty founded by Babur. The first emperor, a descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan, captured Delhi and Agra in 1526 and controlled the plains of the Ganges within three years. Babur was not only a great soldier but also a man of culture who loved poetry, paintings and gardens. The second Emperor, Humayun, knew troubled times but Ackbar, the third ruler, was a wise administrator who ruled for 49 years. The story of his life was recorded in a beautiful book called the Ackbarnama, a copy of which is held at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Jahangir was the son of Ackbar but with few of his father's skills. He was an unreliable ruler, although he still pursued, in the family tradition, an interest in the arts. He brought Persian manners to the court and made Persian the official language. (Urdu was to develop from this newly imposed language.) Jahangir was succeeded by his son Shah Jehan, well remembered as the emperor who built the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort at Delhi. The Empire ended with the rule of Aurangzeb who unwisely fostered war with the Rajput princes and Hindus.

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The Moghal Emperors

1526	Babur
1530	Humayan (first reign)
1540-55	Suri sultans of Delhi
1555	Humayan (second reign)
15556	Akbar I
1605	Jahangir
1627	Dawar Baksh
1628	Shah Jehan I
1657	Murad Bakhsh (in Gujerat)
1657	Shah Shuja (in Bengal until 1660)
1658	Aurangzeb Ala,gir I
1707	Azam Shah
1707	Kam Bakhsh (in the Deccan)

Europeans with servants c. 1605-10. Moghal. India Office Library and Records.

1707	Shah Alam I
1712	Azim al-Shan
1712	Muiz al-Din Jahandar
1713	Farrukhsiyar

The list continues but the power of the Moghals was in decline.

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The East India Company was founded in 1600 with a Charter granted by the Crown; that, however, was all the royal support the Company was given to expect. The Dutch East India Company was founded two years later but it was a much larger company with considerable governmental backing. The Dutch company also had more capital and more ships. It meant that English traders started at a distinct disadvantage and could only trade in the East Indies with the consent of the Dutch. While the Dutch were able to send out a large number of ships, the East India Company only made five voyages in the years 1601-9. Those five voyages were highly profitable and encouraged the Company to send annual fleets from 1610. The Dutch were worried by this decision and started a policy of squeezing English traders out of Eastern waters by attacking English ships. An armed fleet was sent from England to defend the English factories in 1619, but without the support of King James was able to achieve little. The Dutch had firm control of the East Indies by 1623. The East India Company could do little else than turn its full attention on trade with India. Sir Thomas Roe had gained the permission of the Moghal Emperor for Englishmen to live at Surat and the English managed to hold on to that tenuous right.

When Murat VI came to the Ottoman throne, he was a young boy. His mother, Kosem Sultan, took control and ruled until he was old enough to take the reign of government. Under his rule the Turks captured Egypt and the Mamluke dynasty was established. There were many revolts against Ottoman rule during Murat's reign; there were revolts in Iraq, Egypt, Yemen and Mount Lebanon. The Ottoman Empire was under great stress. Murat managed to regain a measure of control when he recaptured Baghdad in 1638. Islamic law puts no restriction on trading and Murat wished to encourage the economic life of the Empire. Many ports began important international trading centres; Bursa, Istanbul, Cairo, Edirne and Salonica.

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"Edirne's textile merchants traded extensively with Europe, sending the products of the looms of Istanbul, Anatolia and even Dubrovnik, to places like Paris, Florence and London in return for special kinds of European cloths that were popular in the sultan's dominions."

Stanford Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, p. 158.

5. English attempts to trade with Japan

"Mr Eaton, who was second in Japan, is now living in Highgate and may be able to give the Company full satisfaction concerning the trade there and the civility of people."

***Court Minutes of the East India Company*, 1668-1670, Oxford, 1929, p. 105. India Office Library and Records.**

William Eaton sailed from the Downs on April 18th 1611 in the Eight Stock Voyages of the East India Company, under "General" John Saris. The Campany's commission included instructions for a visit to Japan.

When Eaton's ship The *Clove* anchored at Hirado in the following year, Will Adams was on the quayside to welcome his compatriots. Adams had been shipwrecked on a Dutch ship upon Japanese shores but had subsequently earned the favour of the Shogun. (His story was fictionalised in James Clavell's novel *Shogun*.) Will Adams took an immediate dislike to John Saris but nonetheless led him to the court of the Shogun to seek essential permission to trade. Such was Adam's friendship with the powerful ruler that permission was granted. Saris returned to England and Richard Cocks was put in charge of the English factory at Hirado. William Eaton, also a factor, was put in charge of the new trading station in Osaka, where he and Adams worked closely to foster trade.

The Dutch had started to trade in Japan sometime after Adams' shipwreck in 1600. It was the Englishman's influence on the Shogun that eased trading relations for all Europeans. Adams himself had won the respect of Iyeyesu, the Shogun, by building European-styled ships. His reward had been an estate outside Edo. As he was not allowed to leave Japan, Adams married a Japanese woman. When told he could leave, Adams could not leave his family and decided to settle for good. When the English ship arrived at Hirado. he was willing to work for the East India Company and smooth tensions between the English traders and the Japanese government. So it was that Eaton and Adams tried to interest the Japanese in the inferior English goods they had to sell. Trade was difficult. Trade did not go well for the factors. The Dutch were competing in selling cloth and the Japanese were unimpressed by English woollens. The political situation in Japan was changing too. Iyeyesu died in 1616 and was succeeded by a son who was hostile to foreigners. Will Adams had also died and his valued support was sorely missed. When, in 1619, there was

Portrait of Ieyasu, Shogun of Japan.

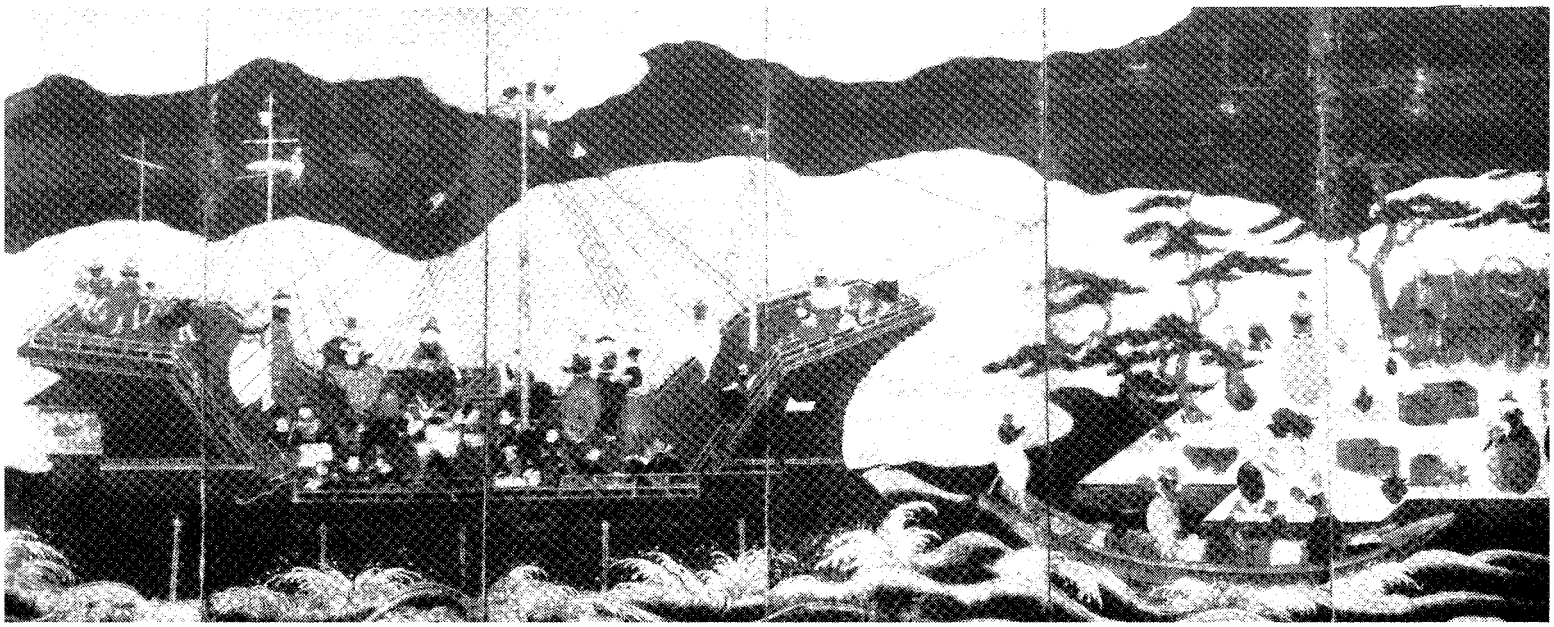
open war between the Dutch and the English, the situation worsened.

The East India Company, dissatisfied with little profit, recalled the factors. Richard Cocks was in disgrace, escaping censure by dying on the return journey. William Eaton also returned home, bringing with him his son, also named William. During his eleven-year stay in Japan, during which time he made two voyages to Thailand, Eaton took a Japanese wife. Two children were born, a girl and a boy. The wife and the daughter were left behind.

We do not know where William Eaton went to live on his return to England. He was not employed by the East India Company again. However in 1624 Kamezo, Eaton's wife, wrote to Richard Cocks hoping that news would be passed on to her husband. The letter must have reached London aboard a Dutch ship. Richard Cocks had meanwhile died, so the letter lay unopened in the East India Company office. It was only opened and translated recently. In the sad letter Kamezo shows her concern for her son and that he should be well cared for. The letter is all the sadder for never being read.

William Eaton Junior wrote to Charles I in 1639 asking for naturalisation, which was duly granted. A year later he wrote

Portuguese merchants arriving in Japan. Silk screen, Victoria and Albert Museum.



again to the King to have his scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, restored to him. He had been very sick and had lost his place at the College. Trinity College Library has no further record of the young man.

When the East India Company decided to reopen trade with Japan in 1668, a letter was written to William Eaton Senior asking for his advice on how to proceed in trade with the Japanese.

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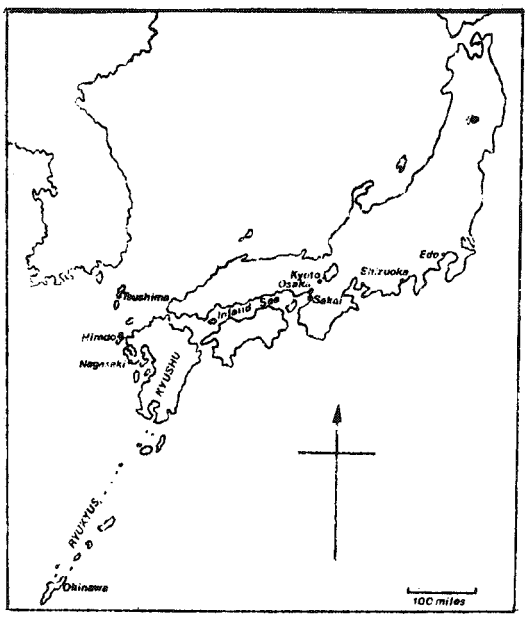
The East India Company, newly formed in 1600, with letters patent from Elizabeth I, was very keen to trade with China. It was only in China that such fine silks were produced. The Chinese however were less than enthusiastic about traders from Europe. The *Clove* had been sent to Japan carrying letters from James I of England and VI of Scotland to the Japanese Emperor. When the East India Company contacted William Eaton again in 1668, they planned to renegotiate trade with Japan. An English ship reached Hirado in 1673. There was a Japanese man on the quayside who recognised one of the Englishmen from the 1612-23 mission! The situation was tense. The Dutch traders had established a firm trading agreement with the Japanese and held the monopoly. In fact, the Dutch, knowing how much the Shogun hated the Portuguese, explained that the English king, Charles II, had just married a Portuguese princess, Catherine of Braganza. The English were immediately expelled.

Much as the English wanted Chinese silk goods, they had nothing to sell that the Chinese wanted to buy. The Chinese would only sell silks in return for silver bullion. The Japanese were equally wary. The East India Company therefore concentrated on trading with India and the Moluccas, although still in stiff competition with the Dutch.

Anthony Farrington, *The Japan Letter Book of Richard Wickham*, 1614-1617, India Office Library and Records Report, 1979.



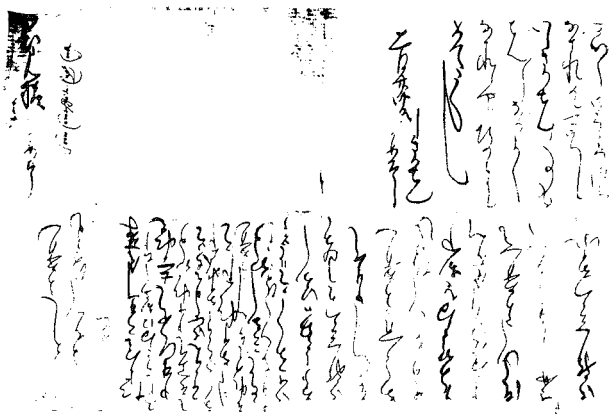
A sketch map of Japan. Anthony Farringdon. The Japan Letter Book of Richard Wickham, 1614—1617. **India Office Library and Records Report, 1979.**

Japan was ruled by an emperor who lived in the palace of Kyoto. Although originally a man of much power, by the twelfth century that position was very weak. There was constant fighting among the nobility. In 1185, the leader of the Minamoto clan of samurai warriors, a man called Yoritomo proclaimed himself Shogun and set up a military government. The Emperor was stripped of any remaining powers but allowed to act as a figurehead. As time passed even the position of Shogun was attacked and weakened.

Portuguese traders arrived in Japan in 1543; they brought firearms and Jesuit priests to convert the Japanese to catholicism. The Japanese were soon manufacturing their own firearms on similar lines and many of the samurai class were converted. In fact the new firearms were soon used in civil wars that raged through the country.

The uncertainty was checked when a member of the Tokugawa family became Shogun in 1600, after winning a great battle in the valley of Sekigahara. Iyeyesu took firm control of the whole country and elevated the samurai class to a great position of power, demanding great loyalty from these brave warriors. The Shogun was very suspicious of foreign influence and in 1614 began to persecute the Christians. Both European and Japanese Christians were crucified. The Dutch were allowed to have a factory at Nagasaki. They were to bring new ideas to Japan. The Japanese learnt to speak and read Dutch, ordering Dutch books from Holland. In 1640 all foreigners were expelled, except for the Dutch, whose Dutch factor still paid his regular annual visit to the Shogun to report the political events that had occurred in Europe. Japan withdrew into isolation and had little contact with the European world.

Letter from Kamezo, William Eaton's woman, 14 January 1624. British Library.



"Having a good opportunity, I am writing you this letter. I have been worrying whether you were safely arrived. We are all enjoying a peaceful life here. I feel grateful to you for that kindness which you showed me while you were here. Excuse me for repeating this, but I beseech you to take care of Uriemon [William]. I am relying more on you than on my own father, and I always told Uriemon so. Please be kind enough to take good and gentle care of him, and I also wish you to be on good terms with the Ishikiriban [William Eaton senior].

Hoping everything will turn out well
Sincerely
Ishokirban Kamezo.
24th day of the 11th month
To kapitan sama

P.S. I repeat once again, my mother, O-Foku and Tora, also write a few lines to you. I am only anxious about your safe arrival. Please be kind enough to take care of Uriemon and give particular attention.
Endorsed in English: From Camesho to Capt Cocks."

Kamezo, William Eaton's wife at Hirado, to Richard Cocks, 14 January 1624:
BL: *Cart Cotton III*, 13 XXVI 28, ff. 47-48. Origami type one sheet, 31 x 47.5 cm. Murakami *London no Nippon komonjo* pp. 46-49. British Library.

...ish Wars

...enteenth century was a period of fierce trading ...tween the Dutch and the English. Battles were ...tween individual merchant ships as well as national ... culmination of such battles was the Treaty of ... 1714, when the English won the 'Asiento', the ... carry on the slave trade in the Spanish colonies. ...sperous colonial trade.

... beginning of the seventeenth century the Dutch ... trade in the Baltic, the Americas and the West ... They were also influential in Africa and the East ... wherever English and Dutch ships met, there was a ... James I of England and VI of Scotland, who did not ... that encouraging trade should be part of his foreign ... made a peace treaty with the Dutch in 1619. It infuri... ...ish traders. It left English traders in the Far East ...ly unprotected.

... Dutch massacred the English at Amboina in 1623. ...Dutch achieved success after success. By the 1640s, ...ish were out-trading the English in every field. They ... establishing a monopoly on ship-building materials ... more successful in the supply and sale of slaves. ... English Parliament passed two Navigation Acts which ... effectively exclude the Dutch from trading at British ... It was the first governmental step to support English traders in overseas trade. Whereas James I of England and VI of Scotland and his son Charles had pursued a pro-Spanish foreign policy, Parliament under Cromwell was anti-Spanish. Parliament wanted to support the trading interests.

The first Anglo-Dutch war started in 1652. Four years later the English made a treaty with the Portuguese to exclude Dutch traders from Portuguese colonies as well. Meanwhile the English Parliament tried to attack the Spanish colonies in the Americas but with little success. Cromwell, however, managed to capture Jamaica in 1654.

When Charles II was restored to the throne, he continued to encourage trade. In 1660 a further Navigation Act was passed which said that only English ships, with 75% English crew, could bring African, Asian and American goods into England. Heavy import duties were raised on Dutch goods. It was truly war.

The English captured many Spanish factories on the west coast of Africa, took New York in America and drove the Dutch out of the Baltic. The second Anglo-Dutch Wars started in 1667. In the following year, Charles married Catherine of Braganza, whose dowry included Tangier and Bombay. The third Anglo-Dutch war was in 1673.

By 1714, at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, "London had succeeded Amsterdam as the centre of world trade."

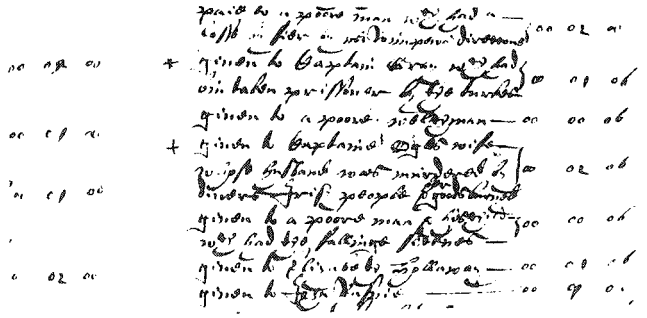
Christopher Hill, *A Century of Revolution*, p. 266.

6. The colonisation of Ireland

Lord Coleraine 1606-87

Hugh Hare became Lord of the Manor of Tottenham in the year 1626 and took possession of the Manor House, Bruce Castle. Although there is no overt or even discreet connection between Hugh Hare and the town of Coleraine, founded by the Clothworkers Company in the early 1620s, he took the title, in 1625, of Lord Coleraine of the Kingdom of Ireland. His wife Lucy, however, was the daughter of the First Earl of Manchester who held extensive landed estates in the county of Armagh.

Letter of reply from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 66, Balmoral Avenue, Belfast.



Tottenham Poor Rate Accounts, 1637, Bruce Castle Museum Archives.

Transcript of the entry:
"Given to Captain Gray who had been taken prisoner by the Turks. One shilling and sixpence.
Given to Captain Ogle's wife whose husband was murdered by divers Irish people and her goods burned. Two shillings and sixpence."

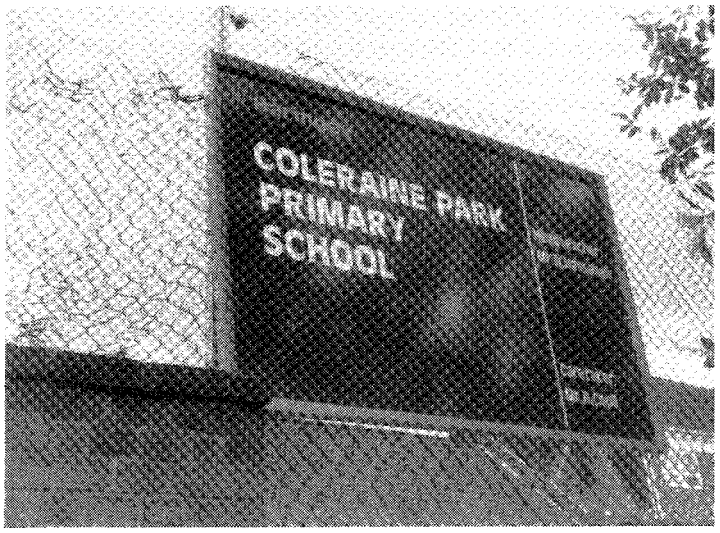
Ireland had been colonised by the Norman kings of England and a feudal system was set up in 'The Pale', a thirty-mile strip of land behind Dublin. Most of the Irish land was still owned by Anglo-Irish nobles or the Gaelic Irish families, however, until Henry VIII brought the Reformation to Ireland. Irish monasteries were dissolved and more land became available for plantation farming. Also plantations were set up in Leix and Offaly to defend 'The Pale'. The Irish who owned land were forced to leave. They were forced to wear the English style of dress and to teach their children English rather than the Gaelic language.

Queen Elizabeth I was also interested in Irish affairs. During her reign careful maps of Ireland were drawn for the first time and the whole country was neatly divided into shires. Elizabeth sent her most able administrators and soldiers to defeat 'The Catholic League', set up jointly by The Pope and Philip of Spain, and the 'Northern Confederation'. The resistance to English rule, led by Hugh O'Neill, was finally squashed in the reign of James I of England and VI of Scotland.

Plantations were set up in Leinster, Munster, on the confiscated lands of Desmond, Connaught, Tipperary and Clare. It meant that large numbers of Irish people were dispossessed of their homes and livelihood.

The defeat of Hugh O'Neill resulted in the setting up of the Plantation of Ulster. All native Irish had to move out of the six counties of Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. Twenty three new towns were built in a regular grid pattern across Ulster and a new road network established.

The City of London Companies acquired the county of Coleraine, later called Londonderry. James VI of Scotland invited Scottish and English settlers to take up offers of land in other counties too.



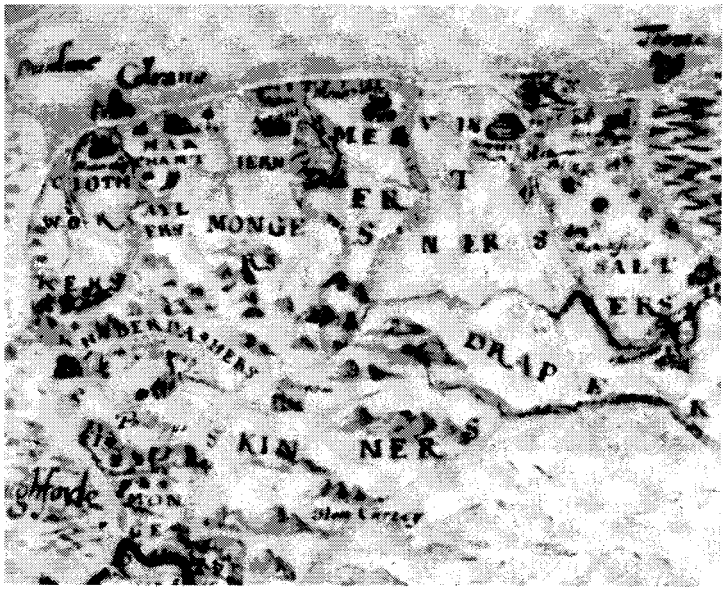
Coleraine Park School is named after the Coleraine Lords of Tottenham Manor.

Where's That? The suppression of indigenous languages was a systematic action wherever colonization took place.

WHERE'S THAT?

Inevitably the language of an invaded country and its place-names in that language, create difficulties for the invaders, resulting in the destruction or near destruction of that language and the distortion and mutilation of its place-names. With each successive invasion of Ireland the elimination of the language proceeded apace and in the second half of the 17th century England's frustrations with Irish place-names led to the Act of Charles II.

"His majestie taking notice of the barbarous and uncouth names by which most of the towns and places in this Kingdom of Ireland are called, which hath occasioned much damage to diverse of his good subjects, and are very troublesome in the use thereof ... for the remedy thereof is pleased that it be enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Lord Lieutenant & Council shall and may advise of, settle and direct in the passing of all letters patent in that Kingdom for the future how new and proper names more suitable to the English tongue may be inserted, with an alias for all towns, lands and places in that Kingdom that shall be granted by letters patent, which new names shall henceforth be the only names to be used, any law, statute, custom or usage to the contrary notwithstanding."
So spake his majestie!



Map of County Coleraine, which was 'given' to the City of London and re-named Londonderry. Public Records Office of Northern Ireland.

Further laws were passed to repress the Irish people but the effect was the growth of Irish nationalism rather than its demise. The Irish of Ulster rose up in protest against the plantation system and in 1641 the Confederation of Kilkenny captured Dundalk and besieged Drogheda. Owen Roe O'Neill returned to Ireland from his exile in Europe to lead the Rebellion. The success of the rebels was unchecked during the years of the English Civil War, but in 1649 Cromwell landed with his troops of Ironsides and ended the revolt with the Sack of Drogheda. Cromwell was keen to revenge the murder of many Ulster settlers, and he wanted to implement the 1642 Adventurers Act which pledged two and a half million acres in Ireland to further settlers. Ireland was reduced to the state of a conquered colony.

Cromwell wrote, on the 16th September 1649, after the sack of Drogheda,

"I believe we put to the sword the whole number of defendants. I do not think thirty of the whole number escaped with their lives. Those that did are in safe custody for Barbados – I am persuaded that this is a righteous judgement of God upon those barbarous wretches who have imbued their hands in so much innocent blood: and that it will tend to prevent the effusion of blood for the future – which are the satisfactory grounds to such actions, which otherwise cannot but work remorse and regret."

Liz Curtis, *Nothing But the Same Old Story, The Roots of Anti-Irish Racism*, Information on Ireland, 1984.

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The entry in the Tottenham Poor Rate Accounts is evidence, though unflattering, of Irish people living in the locality. Irish people have been coming to England for many centuries and similarly English people had travelled across the Irish Sea. This movement of people took place because Irish people were cleared off their land and Englishmen set up new farming estates.

"The original Irish colony in the early part of the seventeenth century was located in the Parish of St Giles in the Fields and by the close of the eighteenth century Saffron Hill, Bloomsbury, Shoreditch, Wapping, Whitechapel and Poplar had been added. The appearance of Irish vagrants and Irish workers in the streets of London gave rise to successive outcries which indicate both the growing settlements and the fear of competition expressed by native workers. In 1629 for instance, the City of London proclaimed that 'the realm hath of late been pestered with a great number of Irish beggars, who live here idly and dangerously, and are of ill example to the natives of the Kingdom'. Irish harvesters, increasingly a common sight in the agricultural districts of Eastern and Southern England from early in the eighteenth century, found their way into London at the end of the season in search of more permanent work."

John A. Jackson, "The Irish in East London", *East London Papers* Volume 6 No 2, December 1963.

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The newly arrived Irish were viewed by the English with hostility and fear.