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CENTRE FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

PORTS OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA: A GUIDE TO THE LITERATURE

Compiled by
H. DODGEON
and
A.M. FINDLAY

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INTRODUCTION.

Port facilities in the Arabian Peninsula have been radically transformed by the economic revolution which has taken place in the region over the past five years. The increasing commercial and economic importance of the Arabian Peninsula in world trading patterns has emphasised the need for an awareness of available port facilities and shipping services. This bibliographic guide has been compiled to provide an introduction to the literature concerning port development, a topic pertinent to the interests of both the academic and business worlds.

From early times the Arabian Peninsula acted as a transit zone between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. The vicissitudes of east-west trade and the centre of political power largely determined the changes in commercial hegemony. Section II provides a selective introduction to the wide range of historical material concerning geographical aspects of port location and development. Accounts of exploratory expeditions and voyages, descriptions of ports and references to changing trading patterns are included.

Modern port development is considered in three sections comprising a general section (III) and sections on the ports of the Red Sea and of the Arabian Gulf (IV and V). In 1975-76 severe bottlenecks resulted from the excessive levels of port congestion and inefficiency. By 1978 following extensive port expansion, new port construction, improved port legislation, and increased port specialisation, port management consultants were forecasting the emergence of surplus port capacity. Each section of the bibliography provides what must be a selective guide to a very diverse literature ranging from geographical, economic and political aspects to engineering and legal problems. The guide has attempted to identify the major sources of material monitoring recent port developments.

Trade statistics, regular port bulletins, port authority publications and national development plans are vital sources of information. A selection of the most important of these has been included in Section VI.

In Section VII a range of periodical literature which contains regular news items has been listed.

Compiled by H. Dodgeon
and A.M. Findlay.
Acknowledgements.

A research project on port development in the Arabian Peninsula, undertaken as part of the M.A. course in the Geography of the Middle East and the Mediterranean, provided the initial stimulus for the compilation of this literature guide. The authors are much indebted to Dr. G.H. Blake for his encouragement and assistance throughout the project. Without the facilities and advice of Professor H. Bowen-Jones and Dr. R.I. Lawless the production of this guide would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to Mr. A.J. Parkinson who contributed to the historical research and also to Mr. W. Donaldson for directing our attention to many useful items.

The authors would also like to thank the following libraries for their assistance:

Middle East Documentation Centre, University of Durham, Durham.
Oriental Section, Durham University Library, Durham.
Science Section, Durham University Library, Durham.
The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.
The Library, Overseas Development Ministry, London.

Finally our thanks to Mrs. H. Smith and Miss A. Yeates for the typing and preparation of the final draft.
User's Note.

Much of the relevant historical material is obscured within traveller's descriptions and early accounts. To facilitate the use of this material the ports referred to have been listed in the form of annotations where appropriate.

A detailed bibliography of the Suez Canal was compiled by G.H. Blake and W.D. Swearingen in 1975. (Blake, G.H. and Swearingen, W.D., 1975, The Suez Canal: A commemorative bibliography 1975, University of Durham, Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, 1975 (Occasional Papers Series, 4)). Further material published since 1975 has been included in the present guide and is intended merely as a supplement to their earlier work.

Current affairs items published in newspapers etc. included, comprise only the most recent material and are designed primarily to indicate available sources for tracing current developments.
INTRODUCTORY WORKS.

Directories, yearbooks, atlases, general references:


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