

The End of a Commercial Era: From the English Junk Affair to the Vietnamese Maritime Embargo in 1693

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ABSTRACT

According to the English records, on Christmas Day 1693, the King of Tonkin issued an edict forbidding Vietnamese people from leaving the country on board foreign ships. Subsequent developments depicted the Vietnamese Court's strict regulation, ending an era of relatively liberal maritime trade and travel.

Surprisingly, the Vietnamese Court's maritime embargo was not recorded anywhere in the Vietnamese chronicles. Using new data retrieved from the English archives, this article highlights the "English Junk Affair" in 1693 which subsequently led to the Vietnamese Court's imposition of a maritime embargo, practically ending the commercial era of Tonkin. It also places the English misfortune in the context of local socio-economic changes as well as the transformation of the regional maritime commerce which largely contributed to the English withdrawal from northern Vietnam during the late seventeenth century.

Key Words: Tonkin/Vietnam, East Asia, early modern period, maritime trade,
English East India Company

貿易時代的終結： 由 1693 年英籍中式帆船事件 談越南海禁年代的開始

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摘 要

據英國文獻記載，東京國王曾於 1693 年聖誕節頒佈命令，禁止人民登上外國船隻出海，並繼之採取更為嚴格之管制措施。一般咸認，越南歷史上向海洋開放、交流之紀元，於焉終止。然而，此一命令卻未曾於越南編年史中留下蛛絲馬跡，難以印證。筆者由英語檔案中蒐羅證據指出，1693 年之「英屬中式帆船事件」，才是導致越南朝廷發佈一系列海禁政策的轉折點。本文並且將當時的社會經濟境況、區域海洋貿易變遷等等，導致英人在十七世紀末，由越南北部撤出的背景因素，納入討論，藉以重構此一不幸英船事件的歷史脈絡。

關鍵字：東京／越南、東亞、近代早期、海洋貿易、英國東印度公司