Trade and commerce between Iran and India during the Safavid period (1505-1707). Delhi, Indian Bibliographies Bureau, 2003, xvi+197 p., bibliography, no index.

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Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/2749>

DOI : 10.4000/abstractairanica.2749

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2005

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Rudi Matthee, « *Trade and commerce between Iran and India during the Safavid period (1505-1707)*. Delhi, Indian Bibliographies Bureau, 2003, xvi+197 p., bibliography, no index. », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 26 | 2005, document 227, mis en ligne le 08 décembre 2005, consulté le 25 septembre 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/2749> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.2749>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 25 septembre 2020.

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- 1 The students of early modern Iran who eagerly picks up this work in the hope of finding a solid (and overdue) study on the country's trade relations with India in the Safavid period, will be greatly disappointed. It is not easy to say anything positive about this poorly written study, less than half of which concerns the stated subject – trade relations between Iran and India. Most critically, the author failed to make use of the archives of the Dutch and English East India Companies, which are absolutely indispensable for anyone who wishes to say anything new about this topic. A few Persian-language chronicles and the obligatory travelers – e.g. Tavernier and Chardin – aside, the author relies almost exclusively on secondary material, mostly in the form of publications from before 1980. This means that not even the many recent scholarly writings on Safavid Iran have been incorporated into the study. The result is the presentation of a hodgepodge of conventional notions about the political economy of Safavid Iran. One wonders about the book's intended audience.

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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