



## Aden and the Indian Ocean Trade: 150 Years in the Life of a Medieval Arabian Port (Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks)

By Roxani Eleni Margariti

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Positioned at the crossroads of the maritime routes linking the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, the Yemeni port of Aden grew to be one of the medieval world's greatest commercial hubs. Approaching Aden's history between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries through the prism of overseas trade and commercial culture, Margariti examines the ways in which physical space and urban institutions developed to serve and harness the commercial potential presented by the city's strategic location. Her analysis brings the port city to life, detailing its fortifications, water supply, harbor, customs house, marketplaces, and ship-building facilities. She ultimately demonstrates how port cities, as nodes of exchange, communication, and interconnectedness, are crucial in Indian Ocean and Middle Eastern history as well as Islamic and Jewish history.

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**Aden and the Indian Ocean Trade: 150 Years in the Life of a Medieval Arabian Port (Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks) By Roxani Eleni Margariti Bibliography**

- Rank: #2158776 in Books
- Brand: Brand: University of North Carolina Press
- Published on: 2007-12-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.07" h x 6.36" w x 8.76" l, 1.19 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 360 pages

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Review

An interesting book. . . . Uses primary sources well to construct a detailed analysis of the port of Aden and of its commercial activity. . . . A useful contribution to the scholarship on this area.--*The Historian*

Review

Notable for its broad use of both archeological sources and medieval Judeo-Arabic documents, which provide a crucial window into both Aden and the Indian Ocean trade.--*Middle East Journal*

A significant original step in the right direction.--*International History Review*

Dotted with numerous . . . insights.--*International Journal of Maritime History*

*Aden and the Indian Ocean Trade* is an excellent historical analysis that will be a standard reference work and should also stimulate further research on the important port of Aden.--Daniel Martin Varisco, Hofstra University

Well-researched. . . . A welcome addition to the never-completed work on the Indian Ocean trade.--*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*

[A] fascinating and scrupulously researched book. . . . Sets a high standard for port and Indian Ocean studies.--*Northern Mariner*

"Fascinating. . . . An important and eminently readable monograph.--Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society

Margariti's work should be required reading--not just for those interested in the Indian Ocean trade, but for anyone who is interested in seaborne trade in the medieval period. Her mastery of the sources and her ability to extract maximum data from Geniza letters and Arab texts enables her to reconstruct the physical setting in Aden on a scale lacking in all previous works.--Jere L. Bacharach, University of Washington

[A] major contribution to scholarly understanding of seaborne trade in the medieval period, not only in the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and the Gulf. . . . A very readable book.--*Quaderni di Studi Indo-Mediterranei*

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#### About the Author

Roxani Eleni Margariti is assistant professor of Middle Eastern and South Asian studies at Emory University.

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