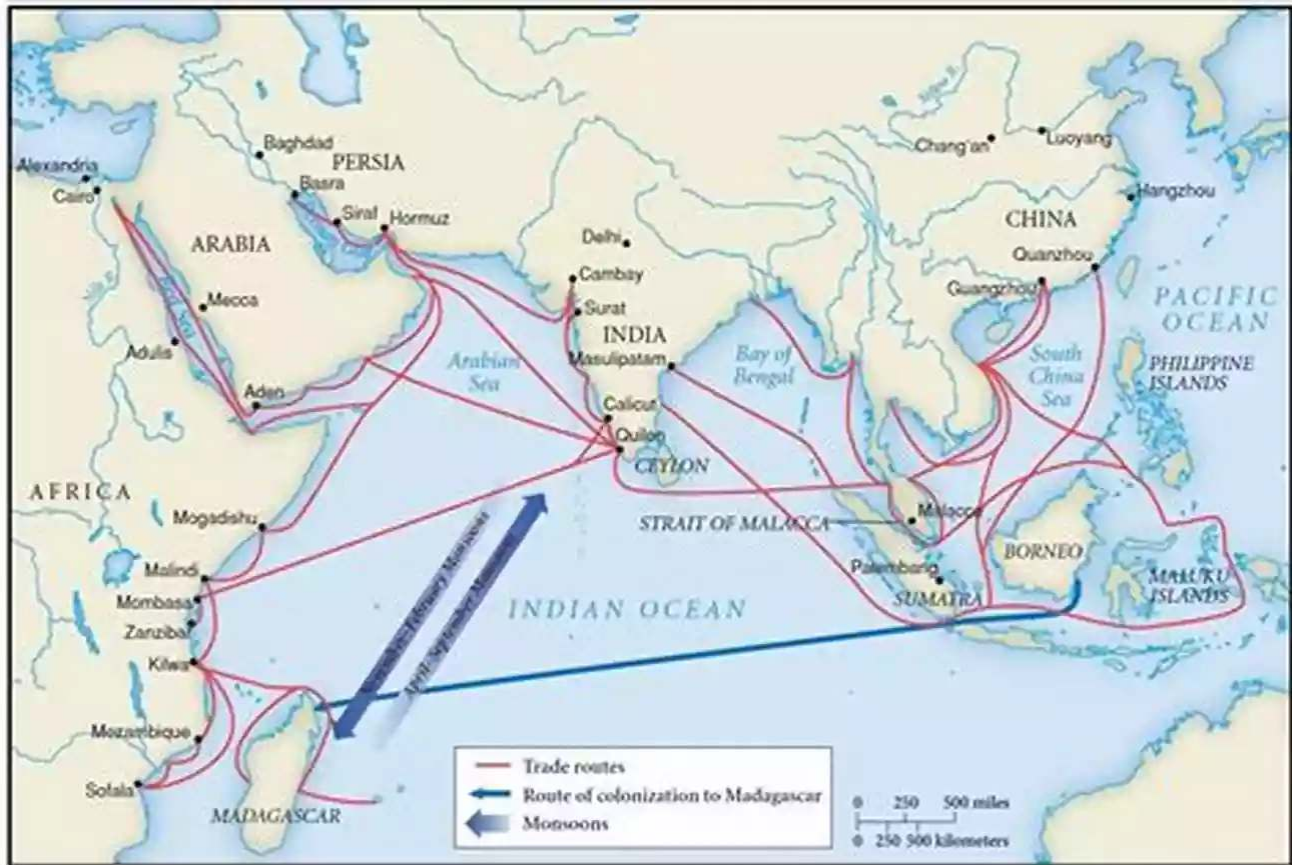


Discover the Fascinating Maritime History of Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka, with its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, has played a significant role in the maritime history of the world. From ancient seafaring civilizations to modern-day trade routes, the island has served as a hub of maritime activities. In this article, we will delve into the historical and contemporary perspectives of maritime Sri Lanka, offering you a glimpse into the captivating stories that surround the island's waters.

Ancient Seafaring Civilizations: The Beginnings

The roots of Sri Lanka's maritime history can be traced back to ancient seafaring civilizations. The island has always been a crucial stop on the trade routes

between East Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. It served as a melting pot of cultures, ideas, and goods, leaving a lasting impact on the island's development.



Maritime Sri Lanka: Historical And Contemporary Perspectives

by Sara Read (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5523 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 369 pages
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



One of the most prominent ancient seafaring civilizations in Sri Lanka was the Sinhalese civilization. The Sinhalese were renowned for their shipbuilding skills and navigational techniques. They ventured across the Indian Ocean and established trade links with other lands, contributing to the island's economic prosperity.

The Colonial Era: European Powers Set Their Sights on Sri Lanka

With the arrival of European powers in the 16th century, Sri Lanka entered a new era of maritime history. Portuguese, Dutch, and later British explorers and colonizers stumbled upon the island in their quest for spices and wealth.

The Portuguese were the first to establish a maritime presence in Sri Lanka. Their control over the island lasted for more than a century until the Dutch seized

power in the 17th century. The Dutch built impressive fortifications and established trade monopolies, shaping the island's maritime landscape.

However, the most influential colonial power in Sri Lanka was undoubtedly the British. As they expanded their empire across the globe, Sri Lanka became a key strategic point on their maritime trade routes. The British developed ports, railways, and infrastructure, transforming the island into a modern maritime hub.

Contemporary Maritime Sri Lanka: A Hub of Trade and Connectivity

In the present day, Sri Lanka continues to thrive as a maritime nation. The ports of Colombo and Hambantota serve as major transshipment hubs connecting East and West. The Colombo Port City, a megaproject funded by Chinese investments, aims to transform the capital into a global financial and business center.

Furthermore, Sri Lanka's maritime sector plays a vital role in the country's economy. The fishing industry provides employment to thousands, while the tourism sector capitalizes on the island's stunning coastline and pristine beaches.

Another notable aspect of contemporary maritime Sri Lanka is its naval forces. The Sri Lankan Navy, with its advanced fleet and strong presence in the Indian Ocean, ensures the safety and security of the island's waters.

Preserving Sri Lanka's Maritime Heritage

As Sri Lanka embraces modernity, it is crucial to preserve and celebrate its rich maritime heritage. The Maritime Museum in Galle offers visitors a chance to explore the island's seafaring past through artifacts, models, and interactive exhibits.

Efforts are also being made to protect and conserve the underwater archaeology sites that hold valuable insights into Sri Lanka's maritime history. The Hikkaduwa National Park, for instance, provides a glimpse into ancient shipwrecks and coral reefs.

Maritime Sri Lanka, with its historical and contemporary perspectives, offers a treasure trove of stories and experiences. From ancient seafaring civilizations to the rise of colonial powers and present-day trade routes, the island's waters have witnessed it all. As Sri Lanka looks towards the future, it continues to be shaped by its maritime heritage, ensuring that the island remains a vibrant hub of trade, culture, and connectivity.



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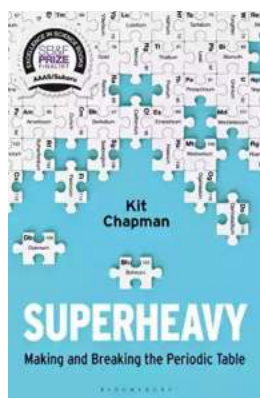
Being an island nation, the ocean is never too far from Sri Lanka. Situated right at the center of the world's busiest sea lanes of communication, the geography connects the country with the Indian Ocean, and its destiny is linked to this strategic body of water. For centuries, the Indian Ocean has been part of Sri Lanka's strategic, security, and political narratives. However, over the years, the

country's involvement in the affairs of the Indian Ocean has retracted due to domestic and regional circumstances. Its consciousness of its ocean identity declined when it took an inward orientation which gave greater visibility to its South Asian identity, and its own imagination began to pivot towards the Indian hinterland. However, with the rising importance of the Indian Ocean in geopolitics, and with the end of the civil war, Sri Lanka's consciousness of its ocean identity has grown. Successive governments have formulated policies that would have paved its way to become the hub of the Indian Ocean, making the ocean the center of its economic development, maritime security, and defense relations. Amidst this backdrop, this book explores historical and contemporary perspectives on Sri Lanka's relations with the Indian Ocean.



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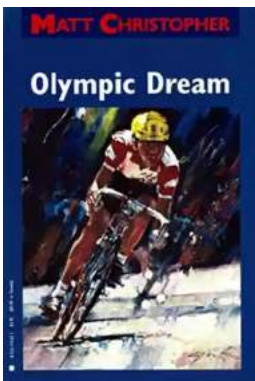
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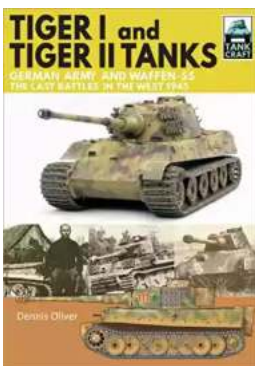
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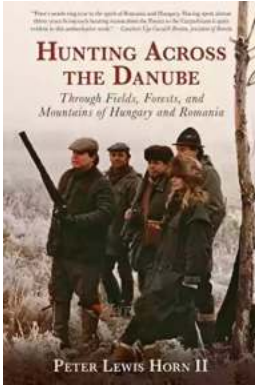
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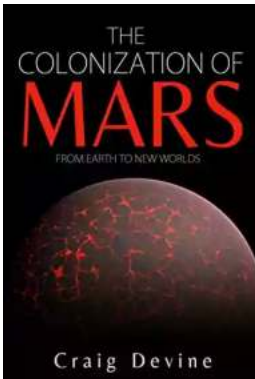
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