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Indo-French Relations

By K.S. Mathew, S. Jeyaseela Stephen

Pragati Publication, 1999. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. First edition. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the English and the Danes came to India primarily for trade and commerce. Though the French initially showed some interest in oriental trade and tried to challenge the Portuguese claims based on Papal bulls, they could not continue to insist on their rights on account of their involvement in problems at home. Moreover, they found better avenues for trade in the western hemisphere, namely Canada. Indo-French contacts began to be established initially through overseas trade in the second half of the seventeenth century with imports of precious metals into India by the French East India Company and through exports of spices and textiles from India to France. In due course, these relations began to be diversified covering local politics, society, defence, diplomacy and culture. The present work highlights some of the aspects of these interactions. A couple of articles in this collection seek to explore the French relations with the native rulers like the Nawab of Bengal, Raja of Travancore, rulers of Mysore, the Marathas and even with some indigenous merchants. Changing strategies adopted by them to fight their common enemy, the English, are discussed in this...



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