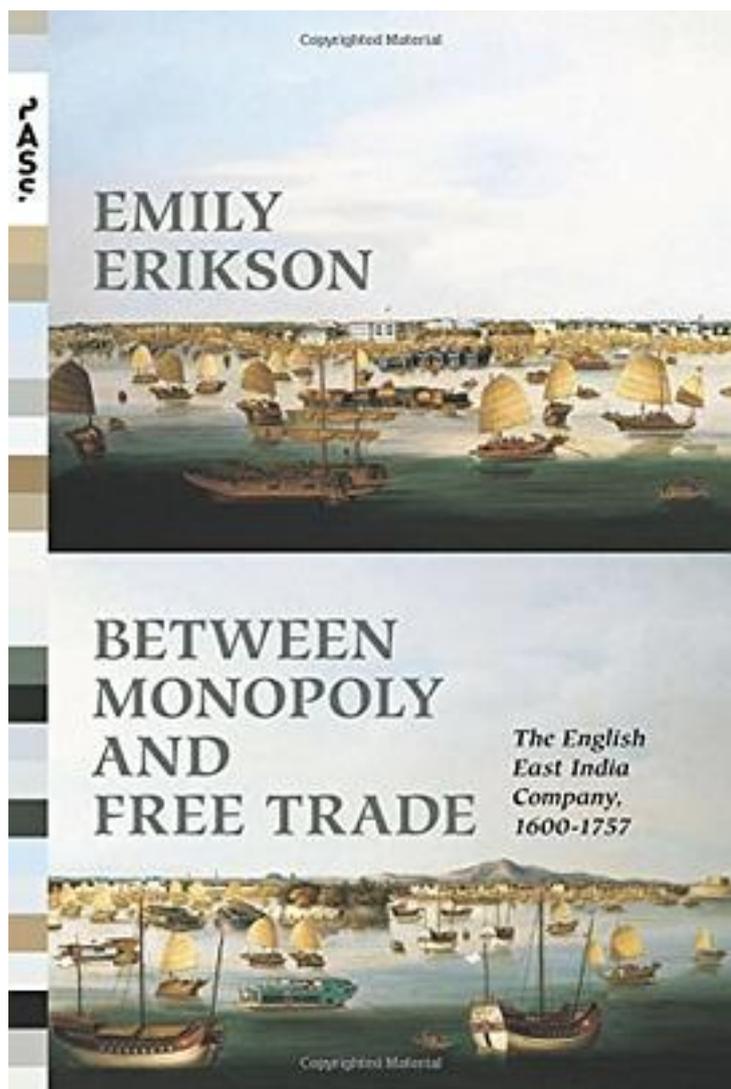


Between Monopoly and Free Trade



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The English East India Company was one of the most powerful and enduring organizations in history. *Between Monopoly and Free Trade* locates the source of that success in the innovative policy by which the Company's Court of Directors granted employees the right to pursue their own commercial interests while in the firm's employ. Exploring trade network dynamics, decision-making processes, and ports and organizational context, Emily Erikson demonstrates why the English East India Company was a dominant force in the expansion of trade between Europe and Asia, and she sheds light on the related problems of why England experienced rapid economic development and how the relationship between Europe and Asia shifted in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Though the Company held a monopoly on English overseas trade to Asia, the Court of Directors extended the right to trade in Asia to their employees, creating an unusual situation in which employees worked both for themselves and for the Company as overseas merchants. Building on the organizational infrastructure of the Company and the sophisticated commercial institutions of the markets of the East, employees constructed a cohesive internal network of peer communications that directed English trading ships during their voyages. This network integrated Company operations, encouraged innovation, and increased the Company's flexibility, adaptability, and responsiveness to local circumstance.

Between Monopoly and Free Trade highlights the dynamic potential of social networks in the early modern era.

作者介绍:

目录:

[Between Monopoly and Free Trade_下载链接1](#)

标签

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社会学

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资本主义

评论

文笔不好。重复很多，应该是社会科学家的做法。但是结构清晰，理论有力。影响深远。

课程材料读了第一章和第三章。新制度经济学、分析社会学和比较社会学的方法来研究英国印度公司，重点是提出了private trade的概念，并分析了印度公司运作的模式。是一种垂直的、层级的模式与横向的由船长、船员、代理人等公司雇员私人组成的社会网络的有机结合。作者认为公司的成功恰恰在这两种组织模式的结合。第三章进行了比较研究，将英国的private trade分成三个阶段1600-1660、1660-1760和1760-1830，中间阶段是官方合法化之下公司领导层和雇员之间的协同合作。同时和当时的葡萄牙、荷兰（这两个和英国公司一起是当时印度前三大）以及法国、丹麦、奥地利等公司相比较，指出了英国公司的制度模式。问题在于理论层面过于弯弯绕，其实很简单的东西非要说的复杂。。。

第二章的论点在第七章又重复一遍，一句话的论点写成了一本书，但观点还是挺新颖的，方法严谨。

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书评

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