

STUDIES ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Edited by
İsmail Hakkı Göksoy
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PRESIDENCY FOR TURKS ABROAD
AND RELATED COMMUNITIES





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CHAPTER FOUR

HADRAMIS AS OTTOMAN SUBJECTS IN SINGAPORE AND BATAVIA

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Introduction

For centuries the Indian Ocean has provided a vast trading network between South Arabia and the South China Sea, passing the Malacca Strait. Ḥaḍramawt in South Yemen that lays on the shores of the Arabian Sea was naturally exposed to this network and its people were attracted to travel and migrate to certain coastal destinations, not only to escape economic constraint but to participate in proselytizing activities also. R. B. Serjeant, when discussed about the Sayyids of Ḥaḍramawt, pointed India as the initial attention of their eastward migration, where they settled in several important commercial centers. Yet, their most important migration was to Southeast Asia and their presence in this region had preceded the Dutch.³ The Sayyids or the Alawis of Ḥaḍramawt whose lineage are connected to Ḥusayn ibn 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib were of course not the only participants of the diaspora, for the other Ḥaḍramis were also involved in the enterprise. The connection of the two regions, the Arabian Peninsula and Southeast Asia, can be curiously seen in the mentioning of Mas'ūd al-Jāwī who invested al-Yāfi'i, a Yemenite Shāfi'i scholar in the 14th century, with a *khirqah* (Sufi cloak).⁴ The appellation of al-Jāwī indicates that he came from the Southeast Asian region, either

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3 R. B. Serjeant, *The Saiyids of Ḥaḍramawt* (London: School of Oriental and African Studies, 1957), pp. 24-25.

4 Al-Yāfi'i, *Mir'at al-Jinan*, Vol. 4 (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyah, 1997), p. 232.



RESEARCH WORKS SERIES

Despite the great distance, there have always been commercial, religious, political, and cultural relations between the former Ottoman geography and the Southeast Asian region through the Indian Ocean. Research and studies on these relations and the connections between the two worlds have been increasing in recent times. The proliferation of our sources of information in this field and the increasing mutual contacts between the worlds have also contributed to this process.

The studies carried out so far have revealed the fact that more specific research can be conducted in various fields in the context of Ottoman-Southeast Asian relations by using different sources of information. The existing research on the relations and interactions between these two different Muslim geographies has also been reviewed in the light of archival records, newspapers and journals written in Ottoman Turkish, and new publications have been produced accordingly.

This book aims to show the current situation and where we stand in the field of research on the Ottoman-Southeast Asian Relations through references to those studies. It is hoped that this study will guide future studies, encourage young researchers in this field and contribute to the modern relations between our country and the countries of the region through our ancient past.

