

Pahang and the Iberian Thalassocracies: From the Golden Peninsula to the Passage of Empire

Pascal Menore

Good afternoon, folks, and welcome to this last session of the conference. My name is Pascal Menore. I'm the Khaled bin Abdallah Al-Saoud Professor of Modern Arabic Studies. And I've been asked to chair. It's a pleasure to be with you here. And what we'll do is that basically we're going to give 15 minutes per participants. And the four presentations will be followed by a discussion by my colleague, Professor Herzog, after which we'll open the floor for your participations and your questions. All right, so our first panelist today is Dr. Raman Vega-Pinella, who is currently a Lee Kong Chang Research Fellow at the National Library of Singapore. Raman, the floor is yours.

Dr Ramón Vega Piniella

Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, committed colleagues, it's a great honor to be here in this wonderful project, Akan and the Sea, with the generous support of Sam Anthony's colleagues. I would like to thank you for your host, and I acknowledge the research group of the Lan Museum of the Yang and the Deacon Yang Research Fellowship of Singapore. Their support made this work possible. Today, I invite you to travel with me into the waters of the early modern world. My central question is simple but powerful. Why was Bahan important for the Iberian empires? And what does the Italian Antonio de la Torre document reveal about its global significance? So first stop, gold and interest. Let us begin with the magnet of empire, the gold. Quanto Rivera, the set who is writing about the strategic landscape of the region, stated this wonderful phrase. All the nations of the world are moved by interest, which is the magnet of hearts. We see that for silver and gold, many have gone and gold, even to the shadows of hell. It like gold well is the motto for the 16th century. Empires were boiled on precious metal. But Rivera also observed that in this region, one can find two more kinds of coal, condensed coal, that is species, and also white seal. But from the Antiquity, the Malay Peninsulas have been imagined as the Aurea Heronestus, they called the Peninsula. Ptolemaeo played the name, likely drawing on earlier cartovers on India's sources. Renaissance maps repeated the legend. Portuguese chronicles like Duarte Barbosa claimed that the gold in Bahan could be collected almost without before. Now, the reality was not quite so tasty, but, and this is an essential point, the belief itself shaped the action. Bahan Madras, because it was imagined as a place full

of hope. And that sent us to the second stop, the encomienda mentality. Another event and concepts separated her vision, the comendia, the comienda. An institution with roots of the medieval meaning of Spain and encomedero collected a tribute and overshaw the label, also the thinking of God. And In theory, protested and the people under this church. In practice, the system often produced exploitation. Felipe Guaman of Matayala, monumental Nueva Gronica in Nuevo Bovierno, was one of the many petitions arguing the Spanish king to reform this abusive truth. Reforms forward the new laws from 1542 abolished indigenous slavery in all these forms and declared that the was will end up on the holder's death. Renaissance was scarce. The 1565 conspiracy for proclaiming Mexico independence, for example, was one of these main like rebellions about it. Why does this matter fall Southeast Asia? Because the Spanish target the institution to the Philippines. There were local chiefs and missionaries that created a fragile balance. Indigenous communities were not passive. They negotiated a tribute, user clinical allies to resist next test and adapted 4 system for shifting the alliances. This dynamic, weakening the fienda, would also give voice to the same people who would later guide the Spanish not only in tribute, usually in chicken, rice and blankets, but in navigation itself, as we saw here. We jump to the third stop, the imperial rival, it's Malacca, Manila. Let us now turn to the imperial rivalry. Since the little no threat of Alcasovas, 1479, Spain afforded a neighboring and marching powers, but attempted to delegate their sperms overseas. Later, the Treaty of Torresillas, 1494, and the Treaty of Zaragoza, 1599, extended these limits to a global scale. The Portuguese captured Malacca in 1511, making it the jibel of the Asian Empire. Her article noticed that Pahan supported gold Malacca markets through the Chinese and the Japanese traders. And as Professor Santos Alves has emphasized, Malacca depends heavily on Pahan on other things like food, mainly on rice. Meanwhile, the Spanish pursued Latin parent path. In 15 In 1919, Magellan Fleet departed its powerful voice through traffic and silicon elated the drove. Graffetta, the expedition chronicle from Italy, explicitly mentioned Han. So you need to think about this. In this list of people joining the expedition, you have a 62% of Hispanics, but the rest of the people were from other countries. As you can imagine, we can mention here, but other people, Muslims, and less than of Muslims, like Jorge Morisco, nowadays we don't know where they were from. So it's really important of this language, these translators were part of this empire, and also the demantiscos from the post east of Spain, from the area, were many of the seat builders of the region. So we continue, because they were following the Chinese Americans to reach Manila and refuned it in 1571. It became the Spanish Maraca, attracting up where the American silver met Chinese ship. And Once the Manila-Galion rule began, as a result, Manila attracted some of the Asia's most formidable pirates, including Limahon, who attacked the city in 1574. We will speak later about him. But there was a distinction. Portugal controlled the straits. Spain did not. Thus, Spain concentrated on the China trade and forgot about other areas. But that sent us to the 4th stop, the Liberian Union and the map of the world. In 1580s, Spain

and Portugal united under the Philip II for six decades, 2 Talasso crises, 2 sea empires, as were to one crown. Yet the connection had gaps. Macao, largely isolated and defensive, would not fully integrate with Manila. That was a really great rivalry that avoided the cooperation. But the cartography reflected this Iberian knowledge. From the Jesuits, that information reached to the main core. And of course, Bahan appeared in many of these hybrid documents, as you can see. These marks were something vital. Bahan was not in the peripheral. It was a king of Asia. But why? Now we are going to reach to the heart of the matter. We are going to speak now about the Trabecia de Bahan, our interest of the passage of Bahan. we found the answer. In the cluster of documents evolving all the sense, we have discussed all the commanders, tribality and alliance, Malacca, Manila, anti-roads, spices, parishes, and of course Bahamas. All converts in the proposal of Papetine, Antonio de la Torre, in the late 1880s, advocating a joint Portugal-Spanish campaign to counter Sumatra after the Spanish after the Castilian War over in 1578, Spain showed better strategy ground, now without arguing with the Fort Peace, thanks to the Iberian Union. To unite both empires territorial needed a viable shared route, this was the route. As you can read, we have the description that is not entirely accurate in the geography, but if you read the key points and really interesting information about the population in the islands and also at the river and centre, and that's why they call this passage the passage of Mahan, because it was the way for them to measure when they reach or not to cross this arc. Also, they speak about the local religion and also the production, but from there they will bring billions. So, you can see the maps, and also they mentioned in the documents many of the different dangers that they can find by the pirates, the Portuguese conflict with the government, and also the robbers then of Montana. where other figures like Lim Ngoc Chan and Lim Mahom were waiting, the same one that was after like a few years trying to conquer Nolila. But they also have many problems, many other governments. As you can see, the list is really long, but it's not only thinking about like the Dutch and the British. They have many, many enemies and they were taking care of this area of Singapore and reaching their throat behind. For the joining expedition required the special ships. As you can see, they mentioned 3 to 4 galleons, 2 Caribbean-designed frigates, advanced vessels, 150 soldiers, and 50 sailors and gunners. We have some of the reproduction of these kind of ships that they were using in the area. because it was really important for us. From the point of view of the Navy, the Spanish Navy was quite special, because during the 300s, they were not only using the local ships, they were copying them and sending models back to Manila, and some of them they were sending back to Spain. So nowadays we have a really big collection. When the Spanish Navy Museum opened in 1842, 1/3 of the models that they have in exhibition were coming from South Asia. And as you can imagine, they are also related with the documents, the mentions to hold the wheel, and also with really, really good information about the constructions and the kind of woods that they were using. So the entire proposal that we found in the document He estimated that they can use 5000 to 6000 and Filipinos

will join the expedition and they will have 1000 people from Malacca and requesting 1000 more from Portugal or disorders. No regional power will face such a force. They were quite optimistic with the amount of people that they can play together. Kevin crafted a manual to deal with Fan, Batani, and Xiang powers. But how he did know is growth. And this is, for me, one of the main important parts of these really long documents divided in three. That is this area. This I know from the account of the Indians in my encomienda. So now you realize what we were speaking about, like Paul, the encomienda, and these kind of things. He explained that this classic is extraordinary, because we have indigenous knowledge as the central point. Filipinos, from his encomienda, quite far away, but sailed with the Bruneians in their own ships, and their experience Eight, imperial planning. Torres recognized the passage of Cahan, not merely as a short noun. For them, it was a Heinrich connecting. And for that, you need to think in a global point of view. This was the last part of a chain for the fierce global trade in a really global point, because if they were using this Baham train, they were able to jump from the area of the Spanish to the area of the Portuguese. And that changed the global idea. That's a real globalization. This link unit, the Portuguese Indian Ocean, and the Pacific and America, all together in front of this area. It voided the dream of a unified empire around all the world, a single route of bombers, correspondence, and royal authority circling the globe. And it emerged as a world of danger. Pirates rolling the seas, Valdani was heard, and Huhan offered a safer alternative. It's right here in the documents. The La Torre proposal is not just another fragment. It's the synthesis of the Iberian ambition. Old and commanders, local navigations, piracy, cartography, all coverage of the Bazaar of Bahamas. And this was not only a theory. You did say before that they were thinking to send a really big army or navy to this area. But in 1584, Agarado Bona Polanhos Monsable attempted the journey. He passed through Brunei and Bahan and criticizing a lot of the Portuguese of the area. We can speak about this later. because he was also looking for the situation in Malaysia. He was also like a Spanish spy of the Portuguese areas that were not really under the Spanish culture. And confirmed that the route along the Pahan River was also a really good area to Span. He proves that Lore's vision was not a fantasy. The passage of Pahan was both symbolic and also Uvira. And with this, we jump to the conclusions, our final stop. To summarize, Han was imagined as golden, and this belief had complete consequences. Spanish actors depended on indigenous navigators, especially those linked to the encomiendas, an essential yet forgotten aspect of the First Global Age. Barthography, from Pirafetta to Ricia, consistently marked Bahan for a vision. It was a reference point in both latitude and longitude at the global trade growth. The passage of Bahan joined to the last crisis. It represented both the dream of a unified empire and the continuity of ancient local roads. And to close, we return to the phrase of Juan de Rivera, and his idea of the first global age, where Han was not a place of problem only. Thanks to these documents, you can say that it was a lighthouse or the seats. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Raman.