OMANI-INDIAN ECONOMIC TIES DURING 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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Abstract

This study aims at highlighting the Omani-Indian economic relations during nineteenth and twentieth century, showing the depth of civilizational intercommunication between the two peoples. Omani communication with the Indian Sub-continent dates back to the times when Omanis started navigation activities which made them acquire high reputation in all Indian sea ports as well as the high seas of China and East Africa.

The importance of this paper derives from its documentation and (of the) development of the Omani-Indian political and commercial relations since India represents an important commercial partner for Oman as well as a strategic dimension of the joint economic and investment interests of the two countries. Such close relations between the two countries were strengthened by the advent of Islam as Omanis contributed to the spread of Islam in India. Peace and security have always characterized the relations between the two countries.

In recent history these relations have been solidified and strengthened as India and the Gulf countries fell under the European domination which made the two regions share a lot in common and face the same British policies which facilitated the Omani-Indian communication and the smooth flow of trade and human movement between the two countries.

The paper comes in two themes: one deals with the political relations since the mid-18th century, when special commercial, military and political cooperation marked the relations between the princes of the western Indian coasts and Imam Ahmed Bin Said Al-Bu Saidi, the founder of Al-Bu Said state. The second theme focuses on the commercial and investment exchange between the two countries, showing the kinds of goods, commodities, and products exchanges as well as the nature of investment during the Omani Renaissance and the contribution of the Indian experience and expertise to the Omani development in the economic and construction sectors, detailing economic agreements between the two countries. The paper concludes with a recommendation to reinforce the economic and political ties between the two countries.

Keywords: *Oman, India, relations, economy, politics, trade, civilization, Al-Busaid*

INTRODUCTION

Communication among nations usually helps them acquire a wide range of knowledge and close ties, especially if such nations have integral and mutual relations and share a lot of daily affairs. In principle, knowledge exchange often leads to the development of distinct political relations, which ultimately contribute to an active commercial exchange. If we adopt this principle, neighboring countries will lead in applying this rule, and if we add to this the strategic and economic depth between the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian subcontinent, the interdependence of the two peoples must not be ignored. It is true that we are discussing the Omani-Indian civilization communication from pre-historic times, but we must not ignore the present relations for which there is pressing need in order to fruitful communication to fulfill the civilization exchange on both the economic and political fronts.

Given the scope of this paper previously identified, and given the time and space limitations of this paper, it is not possible to have a comprehensive view of the historical relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Democratic Republic of India. Thus, we will only give a brief review of this long period of relations to enable us to cover a wide range of political, economic and social studies which document these relations over the period covered.

The Indian sub-continent is a huge region which at present consists of four states, which were formed right after the region took its independence from the British colonization in 1947:Republic of India, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Bangladesh, and the Sri Lanka Republic. India with an area of about 3287590 sq. km. (ranking the seventh world country in area) was announced as an independent republic in 1950 with a population, of over one billion and a hundred million, ranking the second populated country in the world. Thus, India is one of the largest countries in terms of area and population. Many local languages (24 major ones) and dialects (more than 1652) in addition to English are spoken in India. Religion is central in the Indian culture with at least seven major religions (Hinduism with 80% of the population followers, Islam with 10% and Christianity and Sikhism 5%, and Buddhism, Jineah and Baha'is, with 5%) in addition to a great number of minor ones.

The Indian federation consists of 28 states, each with its local elected government, and 7 regions whose governors are appointed by the federal government. New Deli, the capital, is situated in the northern part of India. For this study, five states are mainly relevant to the relations with Oman. These comprise the Western ones, which include Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala. The major cities in these states are: Bangalore the capital of Karnataka, Mumbai the capital of Maharashtra, Surat the commercial capital of Gujarat, and Calcutta, the largest commercial center in the western Indian coast, the capital of Kerala (Tirmizi 1993).

India was under the rule of the Mongols for three centuries since 1526 when Zahir Iddiin Babur, the founder of the state, entered New Delhi where he was received in its mosque (Holt 1970, vol. 1, pp. 35-36), until Delhi fell under the rule and domination of the British in 1803 when the real authorities of the Mongol Sultans came to an end and was replaced by a puppet government until the great national Indian revolution erupted in 1857 which was later suppressed by the British, thus ending the rule of the Mongols. Britain took over the direct rule of India and appointed a ruler for the country under the title of Minister of India and the Royal Viceroy. Some Islamic states continued to have their self-rule under the British crown, with an elected parliament system in Legislative councils.

The Indian Government used to control and supervise the British commissioners and residents in the Arabian Gulf area through Mumbai government, which issued orders and received reports. Thus, the Arab Gulf countries had direct ties with those commissioners in their respective countries. An agency/commission was established in Muscat in 1800, followed by one in Sharjah in 1823, then a third in Bahrain in 1827, and a forth in Kuwait in 1904, and the last one was established in Qatar in 1949. All these agencies/commissions were under the direct control of the political commissioner in Boshar, in Oman, who was in direct contact with the Mumbai government, which in turn sent its reports to the central government in India and then to the King of Britain in London (Fahmi, Abdle Qawi. 1998, p. 30).

Oman is an Arab Muslim country located in the south-eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula, with a total area of 309,500 sq. km. and with more than 3165 km. of coasts (Ministry of Education, 2004, p. 84). It has land borders with the Republic of Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, which was established in 1971 as a result of the unification of seven northern Omani emirates, because these Emirates were originally integral parts of Oman. Since the early dawn of history, Oman has been a sea state (marine) with a navigation tendency as its coastal sea lines are more than its land borders, which do not exceed 1500 km.

Oman has an important location as it lies in the midway between India and Europe. So, it has played a central role in economic exchange and intercultural and intellectual interaction since the early days of history. Thus, this area has acquired great importance world-wide past and present. This has made it since the turn of the 16th century the target of western colonization where the Portuguese took control of East Arabian seas and the Indian Ocean, thus blocking the road from India to Europe. The other western colonizing countries such as France, Britain and the Netherlands competed with the Portuguese over the control of the area which had become a very vital one.

The imperialist countries took on themselves the job of the protection of the area for their own interests without any consideration of the area's interests. The discovery of oil at the beginning of the

1950s in the area has changed it into a focal and vital area and more important than it has ever been as it has the largest deposit of oil in the world with more than 40% of the world reserve.

Despite the lack of any specific reference to the beginning of the Omani-Indian relations, several pieces of evidence indicate that the historical ties and communication between the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian Sub-continent go back to pre-historic ages (Al-Mubarkburi, Al-Qadi Athar Al-Hindi. 1973, p. 102), which was evident in their poetry and prose (Abdulla, Faisal. 1990, pp. 241-246).

However, we are not concerned here with recounting the old history of these relations between the two regions before the modern times (see Saray, Hamad 2006) since these have been confirmed and widely documented in many historical sources which talked about many pieces of evidence coming from archeology and ruins. For instance, before the coming of Islam at the turn of the seventh century AD, the ports of Oman and the Gulf enjoyed economic wealth as their commercial seasonal markets were acting as international markets since a lot of trading exchange from India, central Asia and east Africa took place (See Chaudhuri, K. N. 1992). In Oman, for instance, markets like Daba, Suhar and Dama used to be held regularly as they were considered the most important commercial meeting centers. Ibn Habyaib (1942) in his book "*Al-Muhbar*, p. 256" considered Dama port as one of the Arab two ports to which merchants from Sindh, India, China and people from East and West used to come for trading". Similarly, Sohar was described by Al-Himyari (1984) in his book *Al-RaouD Al-Mi'taar, p. 403* as a commercial center where he said: "There was a commercial center in Sohar from which every town got its needs and its goods reached India and China". Al Maqdisi in his book "*Ahsan Attaqaasiim*, p. 87" also described Sohar as "the hub of Oman where nothing competes with its beauty on the sea of China, heavily populated, whose people were kind, fair and full of integrity, and the Gate to China, the treasure of the East and Iraq and the subsidy to Yemen" (Al-Ani, Abdel Rahman 1981, p. 6).

The fall of Byzantine Constantinople in 1453 at the hands of the Ottomans marked an era, which has been widely referred to as "the Modern Age". This has marked the beginning of European discoveries and colonization of many parts of the world. India and the Arabian Gulf fell under the European domination starting with Portugal and ending with Britain who also colonized the Gulf countries until 1970-1. Even under colonization, documents show the strong ties and relations between these two regions.

The Portuguese intentionally sent their ships to the sea ports/outlets in the area and took them over (seized them). As a result, they established settlements in Oman, Island of Hormuz, Bahrain and other Arabian Gulf ports. When the Omani Ya'ariba fleet chased them out of the Arabian Gulf in the mid-17$^{th.}$, another country was collaborating and supporting them, trying to win their friendship and alliance against the Portuguese. In fact, the first victory over the Portuguese was achieved in 1622 when the British allied with Shah Abbaas to drive away (evacuate) the Portuguese from the straits of Hormuz which ultimately motivated and moved the Omanis to raise the Flag of Jihad (to wage a war of Jihad) twenty years later to liberate their waters and subsequently all the Arab seas and the Indian Ocean were under the total control and sovereignty of Oman.

1. POLITICAL RELATIONS

The researcher's main concern regarding the Omani-Indian relations is that the British had inherited/replaced the Portuguese in India and the Arabian Seas, following the decline of the Omani influence in the second quarter of the 18th century due to a civil war that resulted in the Omani loss of all previous achievements at their high time during the reign of their first five Ya'ariba Imams.

Following the collapse of Ya'ariba Dynasty State (1624-1744) (see. Bathurst, 1967), the Al Bu-Saidi Dynasty took over in 1744 under the leadership of Ahmad bin Said bin Ahmad Al-Bu Saidi who was able to drive the Persians out of Oman, thus forming Al Bu-Saidi Emirate in the coastal area with Rustaq as their capital (see. Badger, G.P. 1963).

Imam Ahmad bin Said Al Bu Saidi's relationship with India was good, in particular with Mysore rulers on Millibar Coast (Kerala) – known as Tipu Sultan (Sahib) (1782- 1799) (see. Khan, Hassan, 1950) and with Gujarat and Karachi, as Oman has recovered its power and influence and began to

trade with the territories of West India. Dry date crops were exported to India in exchange of rice, which was an important Indian crop that Gulf countries and Emirates used to import heavily (see. al-Shalaq, Ahmed, 2005, pp.131-149).

One of the documents we got from the era of Imam Ahmad is that shows a close relationship between the Wali (ruler) of Imam Ahmed in Muscat, Sheikh Khamis bin Salim bin Mohammed Al Bu-Saidi and Ghulam Shah Sultan al-Duly. The document is about a dispute regarding a trader called Zanwah al-Baniana who died in Muscat but his brother refused to pay the trusts that had been in custody of the diseased. There was correspondence regarding this issue. Ultimately, Ghulam Shah had to send one of his agents called Mohammed Rakalbi of the tribe al-Jalbani, one of his close ties, and asked the Wali to deliver the ledger (account book) and the diseased brother to his agent and to guarantee him safety (see. Al-Battashi, 1997, p.417-424).

More evidence of this close relation can be also seen in the fact that Imam Ahmad sent his own eldest son Sayyid Hilal bin Ahmad, who had some eye problems, to India for treatment. Unfortunately, he died in Duyool city in the Sindh Land where he was buried. The governor of the city built a great dome construction on his grave as a symbol of the status of this Prince and the close relationships between the governor of Duyool and Imam Ahmad bin Said (Ibn Ruzaiq, 2001, p. 387)

Even if we refer back to the Ya'ariba Dynasty and their struggle for the liberation of Muscat from the Portuguese, the role of the Indian merchant Nrotm Albanyani Al-Hindusi, a senior Indian community members in Oman, was highly praised and never forgotten for his role in facilitating the task of the Omani army in entering Muscat and expelling the Portuguese forever (Ibn Ruzaiq, 2001, p. 250).

It seems that the relations went well through the reign of Sayyid Sultan bin Imam Ahmad at the end of the century to the extent that Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821) sent a letter from Cairo which he occupied in 1798 to Sayyid Sultan, attaching with it another letter to be delivered to Tibu Sultan, Mysore ruler (Kerala) who had raged a war against the British but who had succeeded in ending his state and killed him on the fourth of May 1799 AD (Malcolm, J. 1970; Forrest, D. 1970). Tipu Sultan had a commercial agency in Muscat since 1786 and commanded the attention of Sultan bin Ahmad, who reduced taxes on goods coming from Mysore from 10% to 6% and Tipu reduced also a tax on Omani goods in ports of Mysore (Bhacker, 1992, p. 35).

In general, the Omanis continued to have close ties with the Indians, having a strategic location overlooking the straits of Hormuz which control the trade movement in the whole area (Al-Riyami, 2007, p.280).

Since the beginning of the nineteenth century, relations between India and Oman have been associated with the British who occupied India and extended their influence and domination to the coast of the Arabian Peninsula and thus the relationship between Oman and India had to go through this British medium. India had harbored many Omani politicians, such as Sayyid Turki bin Said bin Sultan, Sayyid Salim bin Thuwaini bin Said bin Sultan and his brothers, Sayyid Barghash bin Said, Sayyid Abdul Aziz bin Said bin Sultan, and Sultan bin Faisal Timor, and others, who all enjoyed the best treatment there. It is true that the presence of those was under the protection of the British authorities in India; yet the Indian people’s treatment of the Arabs was that of respect and appreciation (see. Al-Abed, Fuad 1984). The Omani communities played a major role in the cultural integration between the Indian and Arab cultures at different levels of language, religion, customs, economy, and architecture (Butshesh, 2011, pp.145-166).

The Omanis hold mutual and great respect to the Indian people for their good treatment to Omani politicians as well as ordinary people who frequently visited India for medical treatment, study, or trade. The Omanis used to find place on the Indian ships sailing to the holy places in Hijaz every year for pilgrimage (al-Humaidi, Sad, 1990, pp. 207-218). Furthermore, Sultan Taymour Bin Faisal during his long stay (1920-1963) in India had received utmost care and the best respect and treatment from the Indians (al-Jbarat, Mahmoud. 2011. P. 46ff)

In 1947, India got its independence from Britain and six years later in March 1953, India signed a bilateral trade and navigation treaty with Oman, which strengthened the political exchanges between

the two countries. Consequently, India decided to open a consulate in Muscat on the 1st of Feb. 1955 which was later in 1960 developed into a general consulate.

When HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said, ascended to the rule of Oman on July 23, 1970, the Embassy of India was one of the first three embassies raising the Omani flag in Muscat, thus the Sultanate of Oman maintained its political relationship with the Republic of India due to their historical deep-rooted ties. Several factors have promoted such relations, including: the huge population size of India with a large community in Oman, India is one of the big atomic powers with great political ambitions in the Indian Ocean, and Oman is her immediate next western neighbor. In 1997, Oman and India were among the ten countries that formed the "Indian Ocean Rim Association for regional Cooperation" (IORARC), then the number has increased to 19 countries. India is also one of the founders of Non-Aligned Movement, of which Oman is a member. Thus, India and Oman are two countries concerned with world peace and stability. Furthermore, having India on the side of Arabs to support their issues is of greatest importance and enhances regional and international cooperation in many issues of the peace-loving world.

Officials in both countries exchanged official visits. Sultan Taimur Bin Faisal used to have frequent medical treatment visits to India since 1920, and so did his son Sultan Said bin Taimur. Just after the independence of India in 1947, the first direct contact was between Indian and Omani officials. The first Embassy of India in Muscat was opened in 1971, and the Sultanate of Oman also opened the first embassy in New Delhi in 1972 and in 1976, the Sultanate opened its first Consulate in Mumbai (al-Makhaini, Ahmad bin Ali, 2006, pp. 70-81).

Oman benefitted from Indian military personnel and experts in training and developing its army at different periods, especially during the rule of Sultan Said bin Taimur (1931-1970) (Sad, Mahmoud. 2011, pp. 368-377)

In 1991 a cultural agreement between India and Oman was signed to promote the cooperation between the two peoples in the fields of education and literature. During a visit by Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao to the Sultanate of Oman in June 1993, several joint projects between the two countries were launched, a joint ministerial committee for cooperation between the two countries was formed.

In October 1996 the President of India, Dr. Sharma, visited Oman where he received a rapturous royal welcome. During this visit a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the fight against crime was signed, and another one on cooperation in the field of agriculture was also signed. The two sides also signed an agreement of cooperation in the field of science and technology, (al-Makhaini, Ahmad bin Ali, 2006, pp. 70-81).

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos paid a similar visit to India in April 1998, during which he signed a Memoranda of Understanding on double taxation and scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture, and another MoU on the promotion and protection of investment in the two countries, and in the field of civil aviation, and the program of cultural exchange. The visit was culminated in the signing of an agreement on a joint venture for the production of fertilizers in Oman.

Ministerial as well as administrative and expert delegations continue to exchange joint issues between the two countries, in particular in the field of transport, agriculture, engineering, architecture, and economic construction.

2. TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Trade relations between India and Oman are deep rooted in history as we stated above by virtue of Omani ships becoming an intermediary in the transfer of goods and commodities to and from the Arabian Peninsula and India. Furthermore, local sources widely reported that Oman played a major role in transit trade as Omani ports and markets had become the focal point for traders from different areas of the Indian Ocean. For instance, Ali al-Nasiri stated in his book Annashaat *fi shibh al-jazeerat alarab"* that the Omanis were not less skilled than their Indian counter-parts (al-Nasiri, Ali. ? pp.185). He added that the Omani ships used to take trade trips to the Indian ports and come back carrying Indian goods and commodities to the Peninsula (Ibid,: p. 185f). Meeruli Khan Al-Masu'udi (? P. 315) alluded to such goods and commodities, saying that "the trade relations between Oman and India go back to the pre-Islamic era, to the flourishing period of trade between Majan, Dilmoon, and Malukha. During the Islamic era, though, the trade of spices, perfumes and scarce woods had been thriving between the two countries" (Ibid. p. 315).

However, during the Portuguese domination over the Indian and Peninsula coasts for over a century and a half, the Omani ships suffered a great setback in navigation, Thus the two regions went through great economic stagnation and depression; yet, the Omani navigation regained its activities after Omanis freed their country and the Gulf from the Portuguese colonization since the mid-17th century during the Ya'rubi Dynasty and its early imams (see. al-Abid Salih, 1988; Abd al-Nabi, Ali, 1994).

Imam Ahmad bin Said Al Bu-Saidi inherited the burden of the Ya'ariba Dynasty ravaged by civil wars that prevailed in Oman since 1719 and until the final fall of this Dynasty in 1749. Imam Ahmad took on himself the foundations of his state after freeing Oman from the Persian occupation.

Imam Ahmed bin Said of Oman then resumed relationship with the outside world, including India. The political relationship that linked Oman and the princes of India, in particular the Emirate of Duyool in Sindh, has been referred to above.

Ibn Ruzaiq (2001) stated "that rice was cut off from Oman in the period of the reign of Imam Ahmad bin Said" (p.327), so Imam Ahmad sent an Omani mission in order to investigate the reasons behind this drop in rice supply from India. The delegation was headed by a man from al-Harith tribe. Al-Harthy and the accompanying delegation headed to Manjour district and met with its ruler who welcomed the delegation. The issue of the interruption of the export of rice to Oman was discussed with the ruler. After deliberations, it appeared that that was due to the presence of bandits between the ports of export and rice farms who used to deny the transport of rice to ports. Those were known as "Koliyya" (Ibid, p.327)

Accordingly Sheikh al-Harthy decided to support Manjour ruler to eliminate the gang, and al-Harthy succeeded in their expulsion and the elimination of their leader, which led to the flow of rice to the Indian ports and then to Oman and other places. However, there is a lack of statistics and information about the types of goods exported or brought from India before the last third of the nineteenth century.

The local production in the Gulf and Oman regions is primarily dates, and so most of the Gulf ships traded in it. For instance, Iraq, al-Hsaa and Oman produce large quantities, which they exported, particularly to India, Iran and East Africa. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the United States and Turkey imported dates from the Gulf. Two types of dates used to be exported from Oman: the processed dry dates known as "Bsour" and tender/soft normal dates taken from "al-fardh palm tree". The following table 1 shows the quantities of "al-bsour" exported during the period: 1873 – 1883. (al-Hashimy, S. 2000, p.122)

Year	Quantities exported	Value in Austrian dollar
1873-74	150,000 sacks	455,000
1874-75	137,000 sacks	441,000
1875-76	175,000 sacks	500,000
1876-77	250,000 sacks	725,000
1877-78	175,000 sacks	650,000
1878-79	93,000 sacks	393,000
1879-80	225,000 sacks	850,000
1880-81	175,000 sacks	800,000
1881-82	150,000 sacks	600,000
1882-83	194.216 sacks	552,615

Table 1

It is not certain that all of these exported quantities went to India but certainly most of it did. Miles, a Political Agent in Muscat, (1990) talked about the status of trade in Dhofar. For example, he described the situation in 1884 saying: "Some Indian traders visited me and gave information about the Dhofar trade. They told me that Al-Qara tribes had frankincense, other dyes and tanned leather, natural ghee (worth 3 Riyals), and that the textiles imported from India were mostly black and sometimes they imported white fabrics, rice and salt, and that the value of annual import was about 50,000 Riyals. (Miles 1994, pp. 543 & 547). Talking about Mahout Wilaya, he said that, "the imports of Mahout are mainly wheat, rice, fabrics, ceramics, and other Arab necessities of life. Its exports were mainly dates, shark fins, and the crops of fish bones and turtle bones, salted fish, salt, and mackerel which were shipped to Bombay and then to China", and described the trade as active and thriving and that the population is wealthy (Ibid. p. 449)

Although we lack specific pre-twentieth century schedules showing trade between Oman and India, we may include the following tables 2 to illustrate the two-way trade between the two countries between 1903 and 1908. (al-Jawarnah, Ahmed, 2011, pp. 295-298)

Year	Export vale in Indian Rubi	Imports in Indian Rubi
1903	256.150	331.458
1904	209.190	318.203
1905	224.700	355.980
1906	269.200	432.500
1907	297.975	444.470
1908	328.701	521.756

Table 2

It is clear from the table above that India is the major partner of Oman in trading. This is due not only to the availability and abundance of various kinds of goods in India but also presence of Indian merchants in all Omani cities as traders, agents to Indian companies or partners in many Omani as

well as Indian companies. Such merchants have been playing the mediators since the Portuguese times (al-Qasim 2000, pp. 54-58).

In fact the Indian presence in Oman is deep-rooted in history, and many Indian traders known as Binyan, Hidosi Indians, are still engaged in trade in Oman (Allen, 1978).

The following table 3 also shows the inter-trade between Oman and India during WW1 (al-Jbarat, 2011, p. 32)

Year	Export value in Indian Rubi	Imports in Indian Rubi
1912	243.122	321.158
1913	217.188	482.963
1914	260.917	429.108
1915	309.546	309.546
1916	WW1	WW1
1917	WW1	160.321
1918	208.294	284.588
1919	208.294	246.318
1920	209.229	502.387

Table 3

It is clear from this table that the balance of trade between the two countries is uneven (in favor of India), but this disparity is due to the fact that Oman used to re-export to the Gulf regions, Persia or Yemen and East Africa (al-Kharusi, Salih).

The development of Omani exports to India during the period 1993 - 2003 is illustrated by the following table 4, where Omani exports began to invade the Indian markets, let alone the joint ventures in both Oman and India, in particular, in factories, gas and others (Ministry of National Economy: Statistics Year Book for the years 1993-2003).

Year	Value in thousand OR	Percentage of imports
1993	7.657	5.6%
1994	9.419	5.4%
1995	10.487	7.5%
1996	10.257	6.7%
1997	31.215	16.4%
1998	20.386	16.3%
1999	11.294	12.3%
2000	6.671	6.0%

Table 4

It is not relevant here to point out the goods that make up these exports, but it is clear that dates, oil, and gas come on the top of the list.

The following table 5 shows the human Indian labor in Oman with Omani imports and exports to and from India in Omani Riyal (Ministry of National Economy: Statistics Year Book for the years 2001-2009).

Year	Human labor in Public sector	Human labor in Private sector	exports	imports
2001	7.323	295.773	7.423	87. 116
2002	7.198	312.055	8.492	104.323
2003	6.926	247.590	8.729	110.641
2004	6.405	256.903	14.039	121.278
2005	6.185	259.118	78.176	153.304
2006	5.884	……	134.567	222.167
2007	5.659	395.657	185.651	400.127
2008	5.532	466.188	257.661	400.650

Table 5

It is clear from this table that the growth and development of economic and human exchanges between Oman and India are on the rise, and that there are differences/imbalances in the types of exported and imported goods and commodities which is due to India's large industrial power, including automotive, and electrical appliances, as well as food, timber and other materials Oman needs in the expansion of social and economic development.

The list of forms of investment is rich, where Indian companies enjoy Omani great attention. In fact, Indian contracting companies have the largest number of contracts in Oman, let alone many Indian insurance companies working in the Sultanate. India has also contributed to a number of development projects in Oman, including the fertilizers project in Qalahat. On the Sultanate of Oman part, it has made many investments in the field of energy, health, and others in India.

CONCLUSION

The study sheds light on the Omani-Indian civilization communication by showing the economic history and the exchange of goods and commodities during the 19th and 20th centuries. The study reaches the following conclusions:

1. The study confirms that the Omani-Indian relations have been friendly across generations and that Oman was the passage of both Islam and international trade to India. Many Omanis moved to India and settled there forming Omani communities in India where cultural integration and exchange took place.
2. The study reveals that in spite of lack of documentation, trade exchange between the two countries started since eternity. However, during the British domination over the region, this communication and trade exchange was well documented as the British and French authorities recorded all Indian exports to and imports from Oman. These records show that the balance was in favor of India since Oman used to re-export many commodities, not to mention that India is rich in agricultural, animal, and mineral resources.
3. The study shows that Oman has benefitted from Indian military, commercial and economic expertise and such expertise forms the nucleus of the Omani Army at the turn of the 20th century. Similarly, the administrative and accounting expertise forms the base in Omani Ports

4. The study also shows that the two countries have established vital and great joint projects in both India and Oman.

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