

= History of Bombay under Portuguese rule (1534 ? 1661) =

Bombay , now called Mumbai , Bombaim in Portuguese , is the financial and commercial capital of India and one of the most populous cities in the world . At the time of arrival of the Portuguese , current Bombay was an archipelago of seven islands . Between the third century BCE and 1348 , the islands came under the control of successive Hindu dynasties . The Muslim rulers of Gujarat , who had been ruling current Thane and Vasai for a few decades , annexed the islands in 1348 , that were later governed by the Gujarat Sultanate from 1391 to 1534 . Growing apprehensive of the power of the Mughal emperor Humayun , Sultan Bahadur Shah of the Gujarat Sultanate was obliged to sign the Treaty of Bassein with the Portuguese Empire on 23 December 1534 . According to the treaty , the seven islands of Bombay , the nearby strategic town of Bassein and its dependencies were offered to the Portuguese . The territories were later surrendered on 25 October 1535 .

The Portuguese were actively involved in the foundation and growth of their Roman Catholic religious orders in Bombay . They called the islands by various names , which finally took the written form Bombaim . The islands were leased to several Portuguese officers during their regime . The Portuguese Franciscans and Jesuits built several churches in the city , prominent being the St. Michael 's Church at Mahim , St. John the Baptist Church at Andheri , St. Andrew 's Church at Bandra , and Gloria Church at Byculla . The Portuguese also built several fortifications around the city like the Bombay Castle , Castella de Aguada (Castelo da Aguada or Bandra Fort) , and Madh Fort . The British were in constant struggle with the Portuguese vying for hegemony over Bombay , as they recognized its strategic natural harbour and its natural isolation from land @-@ attacks .

By the middle of the 17th century the growing power of the Dutch Empire forced the British to acquire a station in western India . On 11 May 1661 , the marriage treaty of Charles II of England and Catherine of Braganza , daughter of King John IV of Portugal , placed Bombay in possession of the British Empire , as part of dowry of Catherine to Charles . Even after the treaty , some villages in Bombay remained under Portuguese possession , but many were later acquired by the British .

= = Arrival of the Portuguese = =

Between the third century BCE and 1534 , the islands had come under the control of successive dynasties : Mauryas (3rd century BCE - around 185 BCE) , Satavahanas (Around 185 BCE - 250 CE) , Abhiras and Vakatakas (250 CE - early 5th century) , Kalachuris (5th century) , Konkan Mauryas (6th and early 7th century) , Chalukyas (later 7th century) , Rashtrakutas (mid @-@ 8th century) , Silharas (810 to 1260) , Yadavas (late 13th century - 1348) , Muslim rulers of Gujarat (1348 ? 1391) , and the Gujarat Sultanate (1391 ? 1534) . At the time of arrival of the Portuguese , Bombay was ruled by Sultan Bahadur Shah of the Gujarat Sultanate , and was an archipelago of seven islands : Bombay Island (Bombaim) , Parel , Mazagaon , Mahim , Colaba , Worli , and Old Woman 's Island (also known as Little Colaba) . The Salsette group of islands were located east of Bombay , separated by the Mahim Bay . Important strategic towns located near Bombay were ; Bassein (Baçaim) to the north , Thana to the east , and Chaul to the south .

The Portuguese first reached the west coast of India when the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut in 1498 . For several years after their arrival in India , they had been consolidating their power in north Konkan . They had established a strong foothold in Goa , which they captured from the Sultan of Bijapur in 1510 . Portuguese explorer Francisco de Almeida 's ship sailed into the deep natural harbour of Bombay in December 1508 on his expedition from Cannanore to Diu . The Portuguese paid their first visit to the islands on 21 January 1509 , when they landed at Mahim after capturing a barge of the Gujarat Sultanate in the Mahim creek . Between 1513 @-@ 14 , they requested Sultan Bahadur Shah to allow them build a fortress at Mahim . In 1517 , during the viceroyalty of Lopo Soares de Albergaria (1515 ? 18) , João de Monroyo entered the Bandora creek (Bandra creek) and defeated the Gujarat commandant of Mahim . Between 1522 and 1524 , when Duarte de Menezes was viceroy of Goa , the Portuguese were constantly prowling about Bombay for the ships of the Gujarat Sultante .

In 1526 , the Portuguese established their factory at Bassein . During 1528 @-@ 29 , Lopo Vaz de

Sampaio seized the fort of Mahim from the Gujarat Sultanate , when Sultan Bahadur Shah was at war with Nizam ul mulk , the emperor of Chaul . Bombay came into prominence in connection with the attempt of the Portuguese to capture Diu in 1530 . Nuno da Cunha , the viceroy of Goa , commanded the largest fleet seen in India , which passed through Bombay Harbour . In March ? April 1531 , the Portuguese torched the towns of Thana and Mahim . In consequence of this success , and later of Nuno da Cunha 's capture of Bassein in January 1533 , the islands of Bombay and Mahim , together with Bandra , became tributary to the Portuguese .

= = Accession of the islands to the Portuguese = =

The Mughal Empire , founded in 1526 , was the dominant power in the Indian subcontinent during the mid 16th century . The dynasty was founded when Babur , hailing from Ferghana (in modern day Uzbekistan) , invaded parts of North India and defeated Ibrahim Shah Lodhi , the ruler of Delhi Sultanate , at the First Battle of Panipat in 1526 . After Babur 's death on 26 December 1530 , his son Humayun (1530 ? 40) ascended to the throne at Agra on 29 December 1530 .

Sultan Bahadur Shah had grown apprehensive of the power of Humayun . He dispatched his chief officer Xacoes (Shah Khawjeh) to Nuno da Cunha with an offer to hand over the seven islands of Bombay together with Bassein , its dependencies , and revenues by sea and land . On 23 December 1534 , the Treaty of Bassein was signed on board the galleon San Mateos (St. Matthew) . Bassein and the seven islands of Bombay were surrendered later by a treaty of peace and commerce between Bahadur Shah and Nuno da Cunha on 25 October 1535 , permanently ending the Islamic rule on the islands .

= = Development of islands = =

In the general distribution of estates which occurred after 1534 , Bombay Island was leased to Mestre Diogo for an annual rent of 1 @, @ 432 ½ pardaos (about Rs . 537 @-@ 3 @-@ 0) , payable at the royal treasury in Bassein . Mahim was similarly rented for 36 @, @ 057 foedeas (Rs . 751 @-@ 3 @-@ 0) , the custom house of Mahim for 39 @, @ 975 foedeas (Rs . 791 @-@ 2 @-@ 9) , and Mazagon for 8 @, @ 500 foedeas (Rs . 178) . The San Miguel (St. Michael 's Church) in Mahim , the oldest Portuguese Franciscan church in Bombay , was built in 1534 . Bombay was placed under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Vigario da Vara at Bassein . Under his auspices , the Franciscan Order was established . The Jesuit Order was established in 1542 , the most notable member of which was the Navarrese Jesuit Francis Xavier . The Dominican Order established in Goa in 1545 , was established in Bombay in 1548 . The Portuguese called the islands by various names like Mombai , Mombay , Mombayn , Mombaym , and Bombai , which finally took the written form Bombaim , still common in current Portuguese use . After the British gained possession , it was believed to be anglicised to Bombay from the Portuguese Bombaim . Between 1545 and 1548 , during the viceroyalty of João de Castro (1545 @-@ 7) , the four villages of Parel , Wadala , Sion , and Worli were granted to Manuel Serrão for an annual payment of 412 pardaos (Rs . 154 @-@ 8 @-@ 0) . Salsette was granted for three years to João Rodrigues Dantas , Cosme Corres , and Manuel Corres . Trombay and Chembur were granted to Roque Tello de Menezes , and the Island of Pory (Elephanta Island) to João Pirez in 1548 for 105 pardaos (Rs . 39 @-@ 6 @-@ 0) . The revenue of the custom house at Walkeshwar was granted to a Portuguese officer for 60 foedeas (Rs . 1 @-@ 4 @-@ 0) . Mazagaon was granted to António Pessoa . In 1554 , during the viceroyalty of Pedro Mascarenhas , the seven islands of Bombay were leased to Garcia de Orta , a Portuguese physician and botanist , for a yearly rent equivalent to about £ 85 sterling . Orta had fled Portugal to escape the trials of the Portuguese Inquisition , established in 1536 , that kept an eye on Jewish families converted to Catholicism and severely persecuted them in case of real or imagined relapse on their former faith .

Garcia de Orta was responsible for building the manor @-@ house (Bombay Castle) in Bombay . He also mentioned several accounts of the islands and the people living in Bombay during his time . During his regime , as regards the population of the island , Bombay was composed of seven

villages subordinate to two *kashas* (*kashas*) or chief stations , at which customs @-@ duty was levied . These villages were Mahim , Parel , Varella (Wadala) and Syva (Sion) under the *kasba* (chief officer) of Mahim , and Mazagaon , Bombaim (Bombay) , and Varel (Worli) under the *kasba* (chief officer) of Bombay . In addition to these , there were smaller hamlets like Cavel , Colaba , Naigaon and Dongri , which had existed from the epoch of indigenous Hindu settlement . The Kolis , a fishing community , formed the most numerous class of people , and dwelt in most parts of Bombay from Colaba in the south to Sion and Mahim in the north . Other Hindu communities residing were , the Kunbis and Agris (Curumbins) (who cultivated the fields and sowed them with rice and all sorts of pulse) , the Malis (who tended the orchards) , and the Piaes (men @-@ at @-@ arms) (who were Bhandaris) . The Parus (Prabhus) dwelt in Mahim , Bombay , and Parel . They collected the rents of the King and of the inhabitants and their estates , and were also merchants . The Muslim Moors in Bombay were solely engaged in maritime trade . A few Muslims of less mixed descent were living in Mahim , but the bulk of the followers of Islam belonged to the Konkani Muslim community . Christians residing in Bombay during his time included eleven Roman Catholic Portuguese families of married men . The other three communities mentioned by Orta as residents in Bassein and its surrounding tracts were Baneanes (Banias) , Coaris or Esparcis (Parsis) , and Deres (Dheds or Mahars) or Farazes . Most Banias and Parsis did not actually settle in Bombay until after its cession to England by the Portuguese . Bombay apparently remained in Orta 's possession until his peaceful death in Goa in 1570 . Several years later , his bones were exhumed and burnt at the stake for his Jewish faith . The islands appears to have been granted on the same tenure to several Portuguese officials in succession .

The Portuguese encouraged intermarriage with the local population , and strongly supported the Roman Catholic Church . They converted nearly 10 @,@ 000 natives to Christianity in Bassein , Thane , and neighbouring places . They started the Inquisition in India in 1560 . These people were referred as " Portuguese Christians " . Later , named themselves as the East Indian Catholics (after the British East India Company) during the British regime because Goan and Mangalorean Catholic settlers in Bombay were also referred to as " Portuguese Christians " by British . After António Pessoa 's death in 1571 , a patent was issued which granted Mazagaon in perpetuity to the Sousa e Lima family . The St. Andrew Church at Bandra was built in 1575 by the Portuguese Jesuits . The union of the crowns of Portugal and Spain in 1580 ? 1640 opened the way for other European powers to follow the spice routes to India . The Dutch arrived first , closely followed by the British . The Portuguese also built several fortifications around the city . The Madh Fort was one of their most important constructions in Salsette . The first English merchants arrived in Bombay in November 1583 , and travelled through Bassein and Thana . A prominent merchant among them was Ralph Fitch from London . They mentioned that Bassein and Thana were trading in rice and corn on a small scale . They arrived in Chaul on 10 November 1583 . During this time , Bombay 's main trade was coconuts and coir . The Portuguese Franciscans had obtained practical control of Salsette and Mahim by 1585 , and built Nossa Senhora do Bom Conselho (Our Lady of Good Advice , affiliated to igreja de São Miguel / St. Michael 's Church in 1596) at Sion and Nossa Senhora da Salvação (Our Lady of Salvation , popularly referred as " Portuguese Church ") at Dadar in 1596 . The immense natural advantages of Bombay aroused the cupidity of the English who recognized its value as a naval base . In November 1612 , the British fought the Battle of Swally with the Portuguese at Surat for the possession of Bombay . The British emerged victorious in the battle , and the Portuguese defeat was a significant event in marking the beginning of the end of their commercial monopoly over western India . Later , the British burnt the manor house built by Garcia de Orta in 1626 . Dorabji Nanabhoy , a Gujarati trader , was the first Parsi to settle in Bombay in 1640 . The Parsis immensely contributed towards the future development of Bombay during the British period . In 1640 , the Portuguese built Castella da Aguada (Fort of the Waterpoint) at Bandra , as a watchtower overlooking the Mahim Bay , the Arabian Sea and the southern island of Mahim . It was armed with seven cannons and other smaller guns as defence .

= = End of Portuguese rule = =

In 1652 , the Surat Council of the British Empire urged the British East India Company to purchase Bombay from the Portuguese . In 1654 , the British East India Company drew the attention of Oliver Cromwell , a top English military officer , to this suggestion by the Surat Council , laying great stress upon its excellent harbour and its natural isolation from land @-@ attacks . By the middle of the seventeenth century the growing power of the Dutch Empire forced the English to acquire a station in western India . The Directors of the Council of Surat reported in 1659 that every effort should be made to obtain Bombay from King John IV of Portugal . On 11 May 1661 , the marriage treaty of Charles II of England and Catherine of Braganza , daughter of King John IV of Portugal , placed Bombay in the possession of the British Empire , as part of Catherine 's dowry to Charles .

On 19 March 1662 , Abraham Shipman was appointed the first Governor and General of the city , and his fleet arrived in Bombay in September ? October 1662 . On being asked to hand over Bombay and Salsette to the English , the Portuguese Governor contended that Bombay Island alone had been ceded , and alleging irregularity in the patent , he refused to give up even Bombay Island . The Portuguese Viceroy declined to interfere and Shipman was prevented from landing in Bombay . He was forced to retire to the island of Anjediva in North Canara and died there in October 1664 . In November 1664 , Shipman 's successor Humphrey Cooke agreed to accept Bombay Island without its dependencies , with the condition of granting special privileges to Portuguese citizens in Bombay , and no interference in the Roman Catholic religion . However , Salsette (including Bandra) , Mazagaon , Parel , Worli , Sion , Dharavi , Wadala and Elephanta island still remained under Portuguese possession , as much as Thane or Vasai . From 1665 to 1666 , Cooke managed to acquire Mahim , Sion , Dharavi , and Wadala for the English .

= = Historiography = =

The historical period of Portuguese colonial rule in the seven original islands of Bombay (1534 ? 1665) and in the remaining territory of the Northern Province of the Estado da Índia (1534 ? 1739) has been scantily researched . During the second half of the 19th century , Dr. J Gerson da Cunha , a Bombayite of Goan origin , began compiling information on the subject and published some books and articles . He wrote the first book on history of Bombay , *The Origin of Bombay* , published by the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society . Later , Braz Fernandes , an East @-@ Indian , took up da Cunha 's work and provided more in depth studies , especially about the Island of Salsette (Shashti) and the ruins in Vasai . Since the Independence of India , a few historians and scholars in Bombay have studied local or partial aspects of the period 's history . Of particular interest are the works of Mariam Dossal , Pankaj Joshi , Theresa Albuquerque and Fleur de Souza . However , the most significant recent contribution to the study of Bombay 's Portuguese layer has come from the research project *Bombay Before the British* , developed by the Architecture Department of the University of Coimbra between 2004 and 2007 . Broadly speaking , the state of the art regarding Bombay 's indo @-@ Portuguese historical layer is currently (2012) represented by two PhD dissertations recently concluded in Portugal and also most of the content in the " *Heritage of Portuguese Influence* " inventory .