

The world between the Cape of Good hope and Japan, where the Portuguese strove to build an elaborate network of trade and power between 1500 and 1700, was not a static one. It was characterized by change, at times almost imperceptible at other times more clearly visible, both at the institutional & functional level. To understand the portuguese actions in Asia, therefore, and to comprehend the accomadations they had to make as well as the avenues they used, one needs to do more than describe the "Asian stage" on which they were actors