La economía del entrepôt: juncos, Country Traders y redes mercantiles: resumen

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La economía del entrepôt de la Singapur del siglo XIX reunió a comerciantes chinos de juncos, flotas bugis de prahus, casas mercantiles árabes e indias y Country Traders europeos e indios, cada uno con sus propias estaciones y redes. El comercio chino de juncos transportó mercancías, migrantes, dinero y noticias entre el sur de China y Singapur hasta que la apertura de los puertos abiertos por tratado después de 1842 trasladó gran parte de él a los barcos occidentales. El opio indio circulaba por el archipiélago casi como una moneda y financiaba al gobierno colonial a través del arriendo fiscal, lo que vincula la prosperidad inicial del puerto a un comercio que las generaciones posteriores condenaron. Las Agency Houses europeas actuaban como intermediarias entre estos comerciantes y los mercados de Europa y la India, y desempeñaron muchas funciones bancarias antes de la llegada de los primeros bancos. Largas cadenas de crédito unían Londres y Calcuta con los comerciantes más pequeños del archipiélago. Las aseguraba una combinación de reputación personal, instituciones comunitarias y tribunales ingleses, cuya lógica pervive hoy en la gestión del riesgo del sector comercial y financiero de Singapur.

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