CHAPTER - I
INTRODUCTION

The Persian Gulf has been an important region in human history from remote antiquity. But in recent times it has assumed greater significance because of the discovery of oil, without which the economy of all countries cannot function smoothly. Every power, whether big or small, has come to develop keen interest in this region because of its oil resources. Rivalries of various kinds in the region have been resulting in open conflicts and wars. The political importance of this region in international affairs need not be overemphasised. The presence of super powers and their navies in the waters of this region have added a new dimension to issues of security, peace and development. The region has attracted the attention of geologists, archaeologists, historians, statesmen and strategists.

Asia being the cradle of some of the world’s ancient civilizations is also home to great religions. South India has had active intercourse with the West Asia from prehistoric times. There is abundant evidence that this connection was maintained through the subsequent ages.1 The Egyptian mummies recently excavated terracotta sarcophagi on short legs up at Pallavaram and now they have been discovered near Baghdad.2 As regards the exports of cloth and various dyes according to Aristobulus, south India had its legitimate contribution. The Gulf region is located in an area where some of world’s prominent religions emerged and have come to determine the religious destiny of large sections of humanity along with their political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural life. Some of the

1 Ravinder Kumar, India and Persian Gulf region, Asia Publishing House, Bangalore, 1965, p.7
2 Venkateswara S.V. Sea-Power In Early South Indian History, in QJMS, Bangalore, No.1, Vol.XVI.P.256
major religions which have emerged in western and southern Asia are Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

India is the largest democracy in the world and has the richest historical legacy. It is home of some of world’s great religions and religious philosophies. It is very rich in history and philosophical heritage. More than any one the Arabs recognise the richness of India in domains such as mathematics and the Panchatantra.

The eighteenth century opens in Asian history with some remarkable developments namely the decline of the four great Asiatic states namely, (a) the Ottoman Empire, (b) the Safavid Empire, (c) the Khanates of Central Asia, and (d) the Mughal Empire. The century also witnessed the rise of Europe, industrialization and domination through subjugation. In this process, the Persian Gulf came to play a decisive role without which conquest and subjugation of Asia by European powers (especially England which was emerging as a great power) was inconceivable.

The Western, Southern and Eastern coasts of Arabia were an integral part of the ancient trade routes of the Persian Gulf. For several centuries the Arab domination of the land and sea existed on Arabian coastal cities flourished as service stations along the water routes of commerce as did the desert cities along the Caravan routes. During the period’s Arab domination, their influence extended on the land and sea routes from the Mediterranean eastward as far as Canton. Arabia led close contact with most of the civilized world. A few centuries later, with the rise of Portuguese power a new sea power entered into the arena and successfully displaced the Arabs in the Indian Ocean. Besides, the Portuguese brought in new elements in the political and economic control

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of the region. Along with the Portuguese, the Dutch, the English and the French entered the scene for control of the spice trade route. Eventually it led to conflict of interests and confrontation of various kinds and at various levels. These developments ultimately led to the triumph of the English in the Persian Gulf and South India.⁵

As the eighteenth century dawned, India as a whole found itself in a peculiar situation, The Mughal Empire began to decline and the states which emerged on the ashes of this empire more or less were entirely dependent on land revenue as a major source of revenue. This phase of Indian history coincided with the rise of Europe, followed by colonial conquest and subjugation of India by European powers. Though some of the Indian states were larger than the size of the European states in territory, natural resources and manpower, their control could not withstand the economic power of the European states. Largely dependent on land revenue, they could not face the competition introduced by the joint stock companies of Europe in the Indian Ocean and eventually they succumbed. An astonishing exemption to this kind of a new situation was the state of Mysore under Haider Ali and his son Tipu Sultan. Mysore, not only resisted subjugation; but also effectively developed a resistance of massive proportions against colonial expansion.

In the early stage itself it should be made clear that South India by itself is a large macro region and Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were rulers of a large state situated in this macro region offering not only toughest resistance to the establishment of British hegemony in India but also modernizing the economy of the state to face varieties of economic competition that could witnessed under the umbrella of mercantilism and industrialization of the colonial powers.

⁵ Ravinder Kumar, India and Persian Gulf region, p.9
At the political level Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan tried their best to enter into various treaties and alliances not only with other Indian powers, but powers of consequence outside India including France to checkmate the spread of British colonial hegemony. At the economic level they initiated various measures to strengthen the economy of the state. A peep into the economic regulations of these rulers will give an idea as to how they attempted to develop the state. Ashin Das Gupta a modern writer even goes to the extent of classifying the economy of Mysore under these rulers as state capitalism. The Karkhans, the emporia and depots that these rulers established all along the coast, including the Kutch region, in the Persian Gulf and other parts of West Asia stand testimony to this. The ambassadors who were sent to various courts such as Afghanistan the Ottoman Empire and French speak of the genuine political will to build up a wall of resistance to colonial expansion. But the fact is these rulers did not know exactly the depth of the political decline that had set in the Asiatic states. Similarly, the economic measures of these rulers though, helped in the development of the state economy, in no way placed these rulers in a superior position against the competition of the joint stock companies of the European powers. All attempts of these rulers to unravel the secret of the progress of the western powers failed for myriad reasons. Though political chickenry and treason played their role, providence also to a large extent went against them, even though Tipu called himself “citizen Tipu” a “modern” concept as one can understand, was beyond the comprehension of these rulers, and they remained new to this concept.

At the two ends of the Asian land mass stood Japan in the east and Turkey in the west. It is not to touch upon the position of the Ottoman

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Empire in the eighteenth century. It was a very powerful and formidable state till the seventeenth century, so, much so, that only an ‘elchi’ or agent represented the Ottoman empire in the European courts but the decline of such a state during eighteenth century was such that the European domination not only branded Turkey a ‘sick man of Europe’, but refused to admit it in any European conference.\(^9\) One has to ask the question, as to whether the rulers of Mysore in the later part of the eighteenth century were aware of this fact of decline. A student of history at least for academic purposes has to ask this question. Has this decline on the one hand and the rise of Europe on the other hand, had any interconnection or are these two developments independent each other: was the rise of capitalism and industrialization of Europe set the decay of Turkey or Iran or India which were primarily agrarian and craft oriented economies?\(^.\) Another striking question that occurs is that, this was the phenomena even in China and Japan. It is surprising to find Japan emerging as an economic giant as the land of rising Sun in the later part of the nineteenth century, especially with the Meiji restoration. But nothing of the kind could be seen in the Ottoman Empire despite the reform decrees and the Midhat constitution of 1876. The same is the story in respect of Safavid Iran and Mughal India.

It is a rewarding academic exercise to trace the historical bonds between the Persian Gulf and South India. The Baveru-Jataka indicates that the Vanijas (merchants) of western India undertook trading voyages to the shores of the Persian Gulf and of its rivers in the fifth, perhaps sixth century B.C., just as in our own days between the coastal towns.\(^10\)

The Persian Gulf has been a channel of trade between the ancient centres of civilization and the outer world since the dawn of history. In

\(^9\) Ashin Das Gupta, The World of the Indian Ocean Merchant, p.52
\(^10\) Chakravarthi P.C, Naval warfare in Ancient India, Indian Historical Quarterly, Vol-VI, 1930, P.645.
the second millennium B.C. the Harappans of North India carried on commercial transactions with the people inhabiting the western head of the Gulf. According to Calvin, “Contacts between India and the coast of Oman Probably began very early in the commercial history of the Indian Ocean when maritime trade was conducted between Sumer and the Harappan civilization of the Indus valley.” The ancient Mesopotamian States (like Babylonia) exploited the Gulf to trade with India and Arabia, yet the Achaemenians could not achieve any considerable economic transactions, and Persian Gulf trade did flourish during the period of Alexander, the Parthians and the Sasanians. Indo-Arab commercial relations existed and can be traced to an early period. The author of the work, Periplus of the Erythrean Sea mentions ports on the western coast of India which exported goods a various kind to the Persian Gulf region and Arab countries.

The Arab accounts throw considerable light on the economic relations between these two regions. The Arab merchants carried the orient commodities to Syria via the Mediterranean. They travelled by land along the eastern coast of the Red Sea where they embarked on sailing boats. They also sailed past Hadramaut and Oman to Bahrayn and Iraq and thence to the Persian Coast of the Gulf. They further went and landed either at Thez, a harbor in Baluchistan, or at Daybal (Karachi), the port of Sind; and farther on at Cambay, the port of Gujarat and Kathiawar. The traders also reached Calicut and Cape Camorin by sea and from there to the Coromandal coast. They went past Burma and Malaya to reach China and the Indian Archipelago. The Arab merchants

12 J.W. McCrindle, Periplus of the Erythrean Sea, in The Indian Antiquary, May 1879. p.145
carried significant Indian products namely, cloth, gold, herbs, ivory, jewels, precious stones, iron, jute and spices.

The Persian Gulf was called the “Indian Sea” by Rabbi Benjamin Tudela in the twelfth century A.D. The resident Indian merchants were dominant traders and imported great quantities of spices from India. The Portuguese traders appeared on the Persian Gulf soon after Vasco-da-Gama’s discovery of the Cape of Good Hope route to the East in 1498. Of course, the Portuguese hegemony over the Gulf did not remain unchallenged for long. The annexation of Portugal by Spain and rivalry on the part of other European powers like England also contributed to the decline of the Portuguese. The Anglo-Dutch naval wars were responsible for the decline of business transactions between Europe and Persian Gulf. In 1742, the Governor-General of Fars, Mirza Mohammad Taki Khan invaded Oman. This invasion brought about economic relations between Arab and Hindu traders who had settled there for a long time.

In the historical period, these ties intensified on an increasing scale. The presence of early Jewish and Syrian Christian communities along the South Indian coast washed up by the waters of Arabian Sea, stand as a testimony to this aspect. The Arabs who held the monopoly of the international trade in the ancient as well as the medieval times had been visiting the coastal cities of India and eastern world and all the islands scattered over the vast ocean long before the rise of Islam. Although the Indo-Arab commercial relations are of ancient origin, the Arab merchants of pre-Islamic period have left little account of their maritime activities in the Indian Ocean. The rise of Islam, however, ushered in a new era in the Indo-Arab relations. With the rise of Islam and Islamization of West Asia such ties were on the increase. The Islamized Arabs were great sea-farers.

The whole of the Indian Ocean was opened for their overseas trade and the spice trade route that ran across this region was flooded with Arab merchants during the medieval period before the rise of Portuguese power.14

Arab mercantile activity led to the establishment of cultural centres along the west coast of India. The Rashtrakuta inscription of the time of Indra-III testifies to this fact that the Rashtrakutas went a step further; the mutual relation between the Rashtrakutas and the Arabs was not only very cordial but the former appointed an Arab as the local Governor over Sanjan (Sanjan in Thane Dist).15 Though the Rashtrakutas were very much a power of the interior, the Arab writers would see them as the ruler of Konkan. Aliyama’s governorship of a township along the west coast may be mentioned in the context of a grant made to a temple.16 The well-known Arabic terms ‘Kunkan or Kamkam’ are certainly equated in the Arabic texts with the kingdom of Balhara or the Rashtrakuta kingdom in the Deccan South of Thane, places like Chaul, Dabul, Honnavar, Calicut and other places could be well cited as examples of cultural centres.

The Persian Gulf has been a valuable waterway since the beginning of history and as the venue of the meeting of great oriental civilizations of the ancient East despite its mountainous coasts. It has a legacy as it was a meeting place of the east and the West from the dawn of civilization. In the period covered under this study, Europe came to evince great interest in the region. A great deal of literature in various indigenous and European languages is available for a student of history to study critically the developments in East and West.

14 .Krishnaswamy Iyengar.s, South India, Oxford University Press, Madras, 1921, p.69
The Arabian shore, with the exception of the western side of the Oman Peninsula, is exceedingly low and is full of reefs and shoals. The Persian Gulf, in the Southwest Asian region, is an extension of the Indian Ocean, located between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. Throughout the Gulf there is great scarcity of fresh water. The coast is dotted by a large number of islands, and subject to strong storms especially during the winter month where the south-easterly wind called ‘quas’ or ‘sharqi’ blows it, is regarded as dangerous, and hence has a bad reputation according to Sir Arnold Wilson.

The Arabian Peninsula is mainly a plateau, separated from the mountainous country of Persia and the rest of Asia. This lowland is occupied with the lower portion by the Persian Gulf and in the upper region by the plain of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The Arabian plateau in form and characteristics seems less related to Asia than to Africa with which it is connected by the Isthmus of Suez and nearly connected at the straits of Bebel-Mandeb. Between the two lies the long, narrow, and deep Red Sea basin, which with moderate changes to the southern end could become transformed into a lake. This is a rift valley, the bottom of which sank, which is also the instance in the case of the long, narrow trough extending out of its north-easterly end and in which the Dead Sea is located.

The Persian Gulf as it was in the eighteenth century, on the right at the entrance of the straits of Hormuz lies the Island of Hormuz which was once the emporium of all the riches of India and for the manufactures of Europe and Asia. The great plateau of Persia and Arabia are situated on either side of the Persian Gulf which is very shallow. The Gulf of Oman is deep, descending to about 1,800 fathoms. The Persian Gulf is a crescent-shaped groove which hides itself from the waters of the Indian
Ocean at the Gulf of Oman in a span 900 km long and 240 km wide at the interior folds of the southern Zagros Mountains. The Persian Gulf and its neighbouring countries constitute almost one ninth of the 44 million square km span of the Asian continent.\textsuperscript{17} The Persian Gulf as it is called has been peopled by three nations at least for a thousand years and more, viz., the Iranians to the north east, the Turks to the north and Arabs in the south. Each of these people has its own periods of supremacy, but during the period covered in this study on the Ottoman and Safavid empires declined. Persia, in particular, had a vital stake in the Gulf, and only her naval impotence prevented her from adopting a more aggressive attitude in the area. One of the immediate consequences of the conversion of the Gulf into cockpit of international rivalry was the emergence of a new centre of interest in the region.\textsuperscript{18}

The European’s attention was drawn towards the Persian Gulf for two reasons. They believed that dominance over the Gulf and the Red Sea was necessary for a maritime power with possessions in India. Besides, a monopoly over the Indian trade was possible only through acquiring control over the Indian trade. This was possible only through acquiring control over the Arab routes to the East. So Europeans especially the English, gained ascendancy in this region. This was perhaps the most dangerous, but an equally important strategic development of the eighteenth century. While it resulted in the decline of the indigenous states and their freedom and independence, it also ushered in the era of colonial domination and subjugation of the region and proved a region of great strategic importance to the colonial powers for Asian dominance.

The rise of Islam (AD 622) was a significant event for the Persian Gulf which was on the highway of international trade. The Arab conquests of Syria and Persia and the transference of the epicentre of the Islamic Empire to Damascus and Baghdad had a profound effect on the region. Mesopotamia or Iraq also emerged as a flourishing centre of economic activity in the seventh and eighth centuries.

The establishment of Abbasid dynasty consolidated Islamic forces in this region during AD 750-1258. The period AD 750 commencing from the rule of al-Saffah till the rule of al-Mutawakkil in AD 847 is documented as the golden time of the Abbasids in this region. Hitti observes: “The Abbasid period (AD 750 –1250) was a formative period during which Moslem civilization received that distinctive stamp which it has retained down to our time. With the coming of the Abbasids to power the centre of gravity shifted from Damascus to Baghdad which stood on the banks of the Tigris. The proximity of the Abbasid capital gave a new turn to the commercial activities of the Arabs.” They penetrated into the south and established numerous colonies along the Arabian coasts. Through the translations of classics of India, the Arabs became familiar with the life and thought of the Indian people. The establishment of a vast empire comprising the then civilized world, with a network of roads, canals, bridges and inns eliminated the barriers of time and distance, made free movement and facilitated the mingling of various nations much easier and safe. Sulayman Tajir a merchant who undertook several voyages from Siraf to China gave a vivid description of the political, social, religious and economic condition of south India. The coastal trading network along the Konkan littoral makes interesting reading from

his accounts.20 Abu Zaid Hassan Sirafi, Abu Dulaf and Ibn Battuta, and other scholars had come to India and their accounts supplemented and described a good deal of information on various subjects. Iranian geographers like Ibn al Faqih, Istakhari, Ibn Hakal, al Masudi, Idrisi and other historians of Arab origin gave valuable information about Indo-Arab political and commercial aspect of medieval time.21 The Arab accounts throw considerable light on this aspect of relationship. The Arab merchants carried numerous products of India which were much in demand in the West Asia and European countries. They carried them from India to Syria via Mediterranean. They collected valuable goods from the Islands of the Persian Gulf and carried them via Yemen the Red Sea to Syria and then to the western world by Venetian and Armenian merchants of Egypt. Theology and law, in science and philosophy, in literature and the humanities, Islam made much progress. Its schools of thought, developed then, have persisted in some form or the other even in present day. Under the stimulus of Christian as well as Hellenistic ideas Moslem asceticism became mystical in the second century Hijira. From speculative mysticism, Sufism advanced to theosophy. The step from theosophy to pantheism was not difficult and was made chiefly under Indo-Iranian influences. For the first five centuries, that form of religious experience the term Sufism stood almost entirely on an individual basis. The idea of wahadat ul wajud as Ibn al Arabic profounder found its way into India through the writings of Jalal uddin Rumi and profoundly strengthened Tasawwaf or Pantheism, and bought Islam very close to Vedanta. Various other independent fraternities developed in various countries at different times, ranging in their Sufism from ascetic quietism to pantheistic antinomianism. The Sufi orders represented the core aspect

20. Nainar. S.M,H,Arab Accounts of India.p.8
21. ibid. pp.35-38
in Islam. Moreover, Sufism founded and popularized the cult of sainthood in South India.”

The Arab region was subjected to Ottoman rule during AD 1298–1922. This was not only the greatest Muslim rule of modern times, but one of the most enduring Muslim states of all time according to historians. The rulers belonged to a nomadic tribe of Turks of Central Asian origin. In political terms the Ottoman Empire was a world power which reflected great brilliance, since it consisted of an economically prosperous empire of soldiers, clerics and administrators resting on an immobile, tax-paying, peasant base and developed various arts and crafts. Craft technology made progress under the Ottomans in Asia Minor.

The geography of the south has distinguished South Indians from their counterparts in the North in many ways. The geographical and geological potentialities of South India are being progressively exploited by modern science. South India stands at the head of the Indian Ocean commanding trade routes running in all directions. Its location, size and natural resources have made it the most promising region of the Indian nation. The Deccan Plateau is the largest unit, covering an area of about five lakh sq.km. South of the Northern plain of India is the triangular Deccan plateau bordered on the West by the broad deep Arabian Sea. This triangular plateau which wholly houses South India is bound by the Satpura and the Vindhyasto the north-west, the Mahadev and the Maikal to the north, the Western Ghats to the west and the Eastern Ghats to the east. With an average elevation of 600 m it rises to 1000 m in the south but dips to 500 m in the north. Its general shape is from west to east which is indicated by the flow of its major rivers such as the Godavari, the Krishna and the Cauvery. An ancient and much denuded plateau

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largely built by volcanic rocks, fills the southern part of the peninsula. The natural conditions of the land and the climatic influences have rendered South India predominantly agricultural. Hence, from time immemorial, the agriculturist or the cultivator has been the backbone of economic life. Rice and other crops such as sugar cane, and cotton were grown in abundance and in consequence trade increased. The volume of trade in agriculture products contributed to the growth of merchant guilds or association of merchants. The Deccan Plateau is the loftiest on its western edge, where it sinks in abrupt terraces to the sea, presenting a mountainous wall known as the Western Ghats. The coast lines on both the sides are remarkable for their unbroken character and the gentle shelving of the beach. From the earliest times, South India had maintained trade relations with foreign countries. It played a major role not only in inland trade but also in the Oceanic trade with the West. Having a fine coast on the East and Western side of the South India enjoyed a strategic position commanding the sea routes connected the West. The geographical position of South India and the desire on the part of the trading communities to extend their trade to foreign countries helped a lot in the growth of prosperity. Geographically Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala States constitute South India.

South India is known as a vast natural resource base since the dawn of civilization. The Chalukyas of Badami ruled Karnataka from the fifth to the eighth century AD. South India had relations with the west ancient times and this contact continued under the Chalukyas of Badami. South Indian merchants had maintained trade contacts with Western and West Asian or Arab countries. Arab merchant princes and Iranians, most of the time made their homes in South India and flourished to Shahrukh, Iranian

envoys were present in south Indian courts. It was again their tolerance that was responsible for the generous treatment that was given to the Arabs. The Arabs were especially honoured not only with marked and delicate regard with a special permission to have their own magistrate from amongst themselves to adjudicate their disputes according to Islamic law. Evidence of specialization in trade and commerce instead of total reliance on agriculture can be traced with respect to the south Indian economy from the twelfth Century onwards. The Hoyasalas, who ruled over Southern Mysore from about the beginning of the eleventh till the beginning of the fourteenth century. They encouraged the growth of cities in order to promote economic development. The first stage of the relationship between the two regions was one which preceded the rise of Islam, with which this study is not very much concerned.

In the medieval period with the rise of Islam and expansion of the Arabs, quite a large number of Arab travellers, geographers, and merchants spread out and plenty of travel literature revealing the geography of countries in the Indian Ocean was produced. Quite a few Arab settlements also appeared on the south Indian coast. Horses imported from Arabia through these ports maintained the local cavalry, which formed the backbone of the kingdom’s military system. Textiles and peppers were exported from these ports sustained the kingdom’s economy to a great degree. The volume of business conducted by South Indian merchants reached a climax during the Vijayanagar period. Land and overseas commerce was a prominent feature of the economic life of Vijayanagar. The collapse of Vijayanagara and its replacement by

26 B.A. Salatore, Karnataka’s Trans-Oceanic Contacts, Karnataka University Dharwad, 1956, p. 14
28 Nainar S.M.H., Arab Accounts of India, Madras University, Madras, 1942. p.5-35
unhindered *Palegara* anarchism was a severe blow to the growth of economy in South India.

European attempts to penetrate into south-west India had started with the coming of the Portuguese in the sixteenth Century but their power was confined to Goa, Cochin and Quilon. The English and the Dutch entered the area a century later but Dutch attempts to monopolize Malabar trade met with no better success. Trade was, of course, the prime purpose for the entry of foreign companies, but gradually an interest in politics was also developed. Besides the detailed networks of trade and commerce, production processes had become sufficiently advanced in South India by the end of the Eighteenth Century to engage the attention of foreign observers.\(^{29}\) There was also a gradual change in British Imperial Policy towards more emphasis on territorial control, as the collection of Land Revenue became an increasingly important alternative income to profits from trade.

Economic change, rebellions and wars guaranteed that the degree of centralization never remained something fixed in South India. Most important economic activities outside the subsistence agriculture tended to become state monopolies during the rule of Tipu Sultan in Mysore. Under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan, the pattern of ‘State Socialism’ became even more marked. Tipu established state monopolies and the trading centres were controlled by the State.\(^{30}\) While declaring an embargo against the English, Tipu was eager to promote trade with friendly countries.

From 1761 when Haider Ali seized power to 1799 when Tipu Sultan fell, Mysore was able to fight four wars against colonial power,

\(^{30}\) Sebastian Joseph, *Colonial Trade and Price Manipulation: A study of Late 18\(^{th}\) Century Malabar in 43\(^{rd}\) IHC Proceedings, Delhi, 1983, p. 1436
de-mythologizing the notion that the English were invincible reasons that enabled Mysore to resist colonial conquest in the later part of the eighteenth century. This is crucial question, which has been investigated in this work. Minor findings are in the form of the measures adopted by the rulers such as Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan to modernize the navy, army and revenue system automatically emerged. The acquisition of the coastline towards the west and the need for trading contacts with Persian Gulf states made these rulers of Mysore organize a naval force almost of equal proportion with one, which the Europeans had brought on the Indian Ocean Sea board. Organization of commercial fleet of Mysore was something very unique in the history of Mysore.

Haider Ali was fully conscious of the British intentions and also their methods of acquiring territory. The British were keen on taking over the Malabar areas which were rich in spices, sandalwood and pine trees as also such ports like Calicut and Cannanore in order to increase the revenues of the Company. During Haider Ali and Tipu’s rule the Arab trade made considerable progress on West Coast. Their trade settlements covered all major and minor ports in western coast. Haider and Tipu took several measures to strengthen the maritime trade with Arab countries in order to discourage the European trading companies. The force of Haider Ali which had infested the coast hampered trade and threatened the supply lines of Tellicherry and Karwar British settlements. So Haider’s fleet at Mangalore and Calicut was next target of the British navy. Tipu Sultan’s commercial Regulations were hampering British East India Company’s trading activities. This clearly shows that Mysore under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan had made astonishing strides in the field of trade and commerce. The diplomatic and commercial relations with
Persian Gulf states had become “the terror of Leaden Hall Street” the head quarters of East India Company in London.

The treaty of Srirangapatna in 1792 deprived Tipu of one half of his kingdom and sapped his economic and military resources thereby crippling his power and paving the way for his overthrow in 1799. But even after the treaty of Srirangapatna in 1792 Tipu continued to be a threat to the British foothold in India. Tipu, since the conclusion of treaty had grown stronger by increasing the military strength and commencing friendly relation with Indian and as well as foreign rulers. He did all this with the intention of eliminating the English from India. More than that implementation of his scheme in the field of Trade and commerce, agriculture and industry had galvanized the economy. He reorganized his Army through the new regulations in 1794 which had laid down the regulations for the naval building programme. Tipu appears to have had a clear perception of the political, economic and military advantages of closer relations with the Gulf countries. The Persian Gulf remained a significant center of political and economic activity in the eighteenth century and no wonder Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan paid special attention to building ties with the rulers of this crucial area.

Based on a wide range of primary and secondary sources this dissertation provides an analytical narrative of the factors which bridged the gap between South India and the Persian Gulf during the eighteenth century under the epoch-making rule of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. Contrary to biased historical writing, this dissertation makes a comprehensive presentation of the role played by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in developing diplomatic and economic bonds between these two regions. The geographical, political, economic, religious and historical

31. For detail see , Marine Regulations, Appendix-B. PP. xviii -xxxi.
aspects of South India and West Asia in general and the salient features of the study in particular are furnished here.

India and the Arab world have long shared a unique relationship. As a matter of fact, the Arab world has a strange fascination for the Indian mind. Indian Muslims in particular are greatly attached to the Arab world because the area seats the cradle of their religion and the Arab nations phenomenalise the pristine culture of Islam according to eminent historian Asaf A.A. Fyzee.\textsuperscript{33} The average Indian can truly appreciate the affinity between Nasser and Nehru who were the founders of the non-aligned movement. Indian leaders Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and others who were greatly inspired by the Islamic culture and our planning and socialistic developmental approaches were greatly influenced by the Arab values and cultural ethos.

Indian historian Vasanta Madhava observes that one of the main factors that influenced Arab relations with India was the topographical peculiarities of the region, namely the existence of the Arabian Sea. Trade was the determining factor in the relations between Arabia and India. Various historical documents confirm that the Arab civilization flourished largely on their Indian trade. Both the Arabic and Indian sources allude to the existence of Indian trade centres in Arabia and vice versa. It is interesting to note that the Arabs had appreciation for Indian medicine and astrology. The views of a contemporary ‘Arab scholar’ endorse this view. He remarks: “In the science of medicine their (Indians) ideas are highly advanced. The study of Indian astronomy and mathematics by the Arabs had a profound impact on their maritime trade”.\textsuperscript{34}

\textsuperscript{33} A.A. Fyzee, Introducing the Middle East, Prasaranga, University of Mysore, India 1967
\textsuperscript{34} Madhava Vasantha K.G., Karnataka’s Trade with the Arab World (c.9\textsuperscript{th} – 18\textsuperscript{th} century), The quarterly Review of Historical Studies, Vol.xxxvi, April-Sep.1996, No-1&2, pp 29-30.
Persia, in the eighteenth century witnessed many changes and revolutions which have been noticed in great details in a number of authoritative works. The natural environment of the Persian Gulf is rich with good fishing grounds, extensive coral reefs, and abundant pearl oysters, but its ecology has come increasingly under pressure from heavy petro – chemical industries, and petroleum spillages associated with the recent wars fought in the region. Among the countries in the Indian Ocean which have great bearing on The Gulf region of India has emerged as quite a powerful and dominating entity in recent times much to the chagrin of the NATO Powers including the US which have strong bases in the region.

The Persian Gulf was once part and parcel of the Ottoman Empire. At the beginning of the eighteenth century Shah Hussain upon the thrown of Persia, and the first twenty years of his rule, Says Malcom, “passed in that deep lull which often precedes a storm”.35 A fierce struggle in Persia for the Shah’s throne took place between the Afghans and the Kajars during the first half of the century. The Safavid rule came to an end in1720. Afghans became the rulers. The country was invaded by the Russians under Peter the Great in 1725. During these internal troubles the weakening position of the Ottoman Empire led to the formation of the Persian Gulf area through that which is known as a “power vacuum”. The year in 1726 is marked by the rise to power of Khan of Khurasan, better known as Nadir Shah, his reign lasted until his assassination in 1747. Then Kerim Khan ruled Persia until his death in 1779.Says Arnold, “almost to the end of the century, it was torn by the internal dissensions”36. The Arabs drove out the Dutch in 1776 who tried to dominate the region economically and politically and the East India

36 Wilson. A.T. op.,cit.,P.172
Company clashed with the population of South and East Arabia in order to control this region. The 1798 Treaty marked the beginning of endless British provocations in Oman. The British policy in the Persian Gulf region was conducted in accordance with the plan adopted by the English government. Yet the Arab population in the eastern areas of Arabia strongly resisted the colonialists.

In South India, the Mughals, the Nizams, the Marathas, the English and the French rulers dominated the political scenario. The decline of the Mughal Empire virtually began during the last years of Aurangzeb’s reign and continued on its downward spiral on account of the assassination of Alamgir II in 1758. In the Deccan, Nizam-ul-Mulk was appointed as *Subadar* of the Deccan in 1713 and 1720 A.D. He also obtained “*Subadari of the Deccan*” by force in 1724 A.D. after defeating Mubariz Khan in the battle of Shakarkheda. Laying the foundations of the kingdom of Hyderabad. In the war of succession, Muzaffar Jung worsted his rival Nasir Jung, the second son of Nizam-ul-Mulk and declared himself *Subadar* by obtaining the support of the French during Carnatic wars.

The Marathas revived their power after the death of Aurangzeb and succeeded in establishing an extensive kingdom. They occupied some parts of the Mughal Empire, but, they were routed by Ahmed Shah Abdali at Panipat in 1761. This event shattered the confidence and dominance of the Marathas in South India. In 1762, Nizam Ali Khan, seized the government because of his courage, wisdom and statesmanship, he was able to maintain his position by playing the English, the Marathas and the new rulers of Mysore against one another. The English and the French also established their political supremacy in Bengal and on the eastern and western coasts of India. The French
occupied all the English posts in the Carnatic, except Madras and Trichinopally.

The Battle of Plassey in 1757 virtually paved the way for the establishment of English rule over Bengal and Bihar. The defeat of the French in the Seven Years’ War also greatly increased the resources and power of the English. Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan emerged as strong rulers of South India in the eighteenth century yet Haider Ali failed to crush the English in the Second Anglo-Mysore War. After the death of Haider Ali in 1782, his son Tipu Sultan continued the war and beat the British in 1784. The English could not forget the serious reverses which they had suffered at the hands of Haider and Tipu. But, Tipu became a formidable force and established political supremacy in South India. Tipu lost half of his empire in the Third Anglo-Mysore War in 1792. However, Tipu was killed by the British in 1799 in the fourth Anglo-Mysore War. Afterwards, South India was controlled and dominated by the English.

**Area of the Study**

The word *Dakkhan* is an Arabic appropriation of the Sanskrit word *Dakshina*, which roughly corresponds to the three linguistic regions which had fully formed by this time namely, Marathi, Telugu and Kannada. The word *Dakshina* is normally used to designate the portion of the Indian Peninsula lying to the south of the Narmada. The name more usually found in Sanskrit works and elsewhere is *Dakshinapatha* or ‘the southern region’. The region of peninsular India lying to the south of the Vindhya Mountains was known as *Dakshinapatha* in ancient times. According to “Indian Antiquary,” this name was in ordinary use in ancient times the author of the Periplus calling the portion of the country
Dakhinabades. In the vernacular or Prakrit speech of the time, the Sanskrit Dakshinapatha must have become Dakhinabadha or Dakkhinavadha (according to the usual rules). The shorter form of the name also must have been in use since the beginning of the fifth century of the Christian era according to Fah-Hian. Dakshinapatha or South India was the name of the whole peninsula to the south of the Narmada which consisted of the kingdoms situated in two geographical regions – namely the Deccan plateau which lays between the river Narmada in the North and the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers in the South. The Tamil country included the territory to the South of these rivers, the Krishna and Tungabhadra, extending to Cape Comorin. The kingdoms of the Pandya, the Chera and the Chola were situated in this region. In ancient times the whole region was inhabited by people of Dravidian origin. In modern times it was the name of the country between the Narmada on the north and a variable line along the course of the Krishna to the south, exclusive of the provinces lying to the extreme east.

The Portuguese just entered South Indian politics towards the close of the fifteenth Century. Albuquerque captured significant coastal areas and earned the status of the founder of the Portuguese power in the East. The Portuguese controlled the Indian waters for almost a century, but eventually they could not become territorial power in India, due to multiple reasons. The emergence of powerful dynasties in Egypt, Persia and North India and the rise of the Marathas in India, infact brought about the decline of Portuguese power in South India.

Nizam ul-Mulk laid the foundation of the kingdom of Hyderabad in 1724. He won the war of succession by soliciting the support of the French. The Nizam ruled the kingdom of Hyderabad during AD 1748 –

37 McCrindle J. M. op., cit., p. 143
1762. After his assassination, Salabat Jung was made the **Subadar**. In AD 1762, Nizam Ali Khan ruled for about 40 years and provided political stability to the kingdom of Hyderabad. He maintained his position by successfully playing the English, the Marathas and the rulers of Mysore against one another. He further established a firm alliance with the English and became their tributary.

Shivaji laid the foundation of the **Maratha** kingdom during the second half of the Seventeenth Century. The Marathas revived their power and established an extensive kingdom during AD 1714–1761 under the Peshwas. They also occupied Orissa and raided other parts of the country including Lahore in AD 1758. But, they failed to ensure economic and political stability due to lack of statesmanship. They were routed by Ahmad Shah Abdali at Panipat in AD 1761. The Marathas remained very active in South India till AD 1805.

The English and French East India companies started their activities in India during the early part of the Seventeenth Century. Dupleix was mainly responsible for the establishment of French power. In the beginning the French achieved successes capturing English posts in India eventually the French possessions in the Carnatic were occupied by the English. By AD 1763, the English defeated the French in the Seven Year’s War. Haider Ali established his kingdom in Mysore and in the Carnatic in AD 1755. He organized economic, political and defence systems and entered into relations with the rulers of Oman and Persia. After the death of Haider Ali in AD 1782, Tipu Sultan arose as the true successor to his heroic father. He also emerged as a powerful ruler in South India and challenged the English power till his death in AD 1799.
Tipu also established new economic and political orders and emerged as a great patriot, visionary and nation-builder in the eighteenth century.

Ravindra Kumar recalls that the relationship between India and the Gulf region is well rooted in history. It stretches back to ancient times. Based on the artefacts like embellished pottery and seashells recovered from the Harappa Valley in north India and those belonging to the Dilmun civilization of Bahrain or Magan civilization of Oman, some archaeologists suggest that Indo-Gulf interactions can be traced to the third millennium B.C.\textsuperscript{38} The Persian Gulf has been a channel of trade between the ancient centres of civilization and the outer world since the dawn of history. The Euphrates and the Tigris had sheltered some of the earliest civilization known to antiquity.

As archaeology unravels new centres of civilization greater contact between India and the Persian Gulf may be revealed. A new tradition of non-violence grew in the Indian sub-continent under the impact of Buddhism 2500 years ago. Buddhism also prevailed in Western Asia in early times. Al-Biruni substantiates the claims of the Emperor Asoka that in former times Khorasan, Persia, Iraq, and Mosul upto the frontier of Syria came under the influence of Buddhism, and, to some extent, Indian culture had entered very early into the very heart of the Middle East.

The frequent visits of Indian traders led to the establishment of an Indian colony on the upper Euphrates in the 2nd Century B.C. The Syrian writer Zenob says that the Indians built two temples and installed in them the images of their own particular gods. Historical evidences also reveal that Indian physicians worked with their Arab and Persian colleagues. The ancient Greek system of medicine took its firm root in India via

\textsuperscript{38} Ravinder Kumar, India and the Persian Gulf (1858-1907), Asia Publishing House, Bangalore, 1965, p.7
Arabia and Persia. During this millennium evidence points to a limited exchange in philosophy and religion between these two regions. Arab travellers also came over to India in search of learning or to earn a living, according to Al-Biruni (973-1050).\footnote{39}

Historians have further documented that at the time of Prophet Muhammad, Indian tribes such as the Jats were settled in Iraq and even in Arabia. Hazarat Aisha, wife of the Prophet was treated by an Indian physician when she fell ill; the physician belonged to the Jat tribe.\footnote{40} India also exercised a great attraction upon the Arabs resulting in numerous Arab travellers coming over to India, recalls Fyzee.

Tara Chand documents the words of appreciation of prominent historian al-Ya’qubi in this manner: “The Indians are men of science and thought. They surpass all other people in every science; their judgment on astronomical problems is the best. In the science of medicine their ideas are highly advanced, and on logic and philosophy they have a large number of books dealing with first principles.”\footnote{41}

It was during the Middle Ages that the two peoples came into intimate contact with each other, politically, commercially and culturally. The Arabs conquered Sind, but they came to South India as traders and travellers. In both the regions the immediate impact was noticed. In Sind they came into conflict with the neighbouring Indian rulers; in Gujarat, Konkan and moved east to the towns on the Coromandel Coast. Indian scholars in their turn visited parts of the Arab world taking with them their knowledge of astronomy, mathematics (particularly the concept of Zero), and medicine. Islam influenced, over a long stretch of time, religious and social reform; it had an impact on the educational system.

\footnote{39}Nainar M.H. Arab Accounts of India, op., cit., P.19
\footnote{40}Maqbul Ahmad, in \textit{al-Arab}, Oct., No.1,1962, N.Delhi, p.10
\footnote{41}Tara Chand, in \textit{al-Arab}, Oct., No.1,1962, N.Delhi, p.21

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Such intimacy naturally led to diplomatic exchange. The association with the West Asian countries increased after the East India Company came to be established in India.

“Fyzee states: “There was a good deal of mutuality in philosophical speculation between India and the Middle East during the middle ages, to be precise, between the seventh – fifteenth Centuries AD. During the days of King Solomon, voyages were made every three years. The merchandise consisted of gold, silver, jewels and ivory. During the Sasanian times, Arab trade declined, but the Persians were supreme in the field. During the Islamic period (AD 600-1300) swords were imported from India into Arabia. During the 10th Century there were settlement of Arab merchants on the West coast, near Malabar in the South, and the Konkan. They even inter-married with Indians and their progeny were known as the *bawasira*. There was a certain trade and cultural relationship between the Yemen and India, particularly in the West Coast. During the sixteenth -seventeenth centuries, Portuguese, French and British competition began and later they were using ships with steam as its motive power. The Arabs lost ground and the trade was captured by the European powers in the eighteenth century.

However, the present study evaluates the role of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in establishing strategic relations between South India and the Persian Gulf during the eighteenth Century. The area, significance, nature, scope and research methodology constitute the salient features of the study. These features are briefly furnished in this part.

During the eighteenth century there were three outstanding powers dominion of the Persian Gulf itself, they were the Persians, the Arabs and the Turks. Each had its period of supremacy but, finally controlled by the

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Omani Arabs. The Arabian Peninsula is mainly a plateau, separated from the mountainous country of Persia and Asia. This lowland is occupied in the lower portion by the Persian Gulf and in the upper by the plain of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The Persian Gulf has been a valuable waterway since the beginning of history and as a venue of conflict between great civilizations of the ancient world. The Persian Gulf, in the Southwest Asian region, is an extension of the Indian Ocean located between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. Geographically, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and U.A.E. constitute the region of the Persian Gulf.

South India stands at the head of the Indian Ocean commanding trade routes running in all directions. Its location, size and natural resources have made it the most promising region of the Indian Republic. The Deccan Plateau is the largest unit of the Peninsular Plateau of India covering an area of about five lakh sq.km. South of the Northern plain of India is the triangular Deccan plateau between this and Arabia lies the broad deep Arabian Sea. This triangular plateau which houses the whole of South India is bounded by the Satpura and the Vindhya in the north-west, the Mahadev and the Maikal in the north, the Western Ghats in the west and Eastern Ghats in the east. This Deccan Plateau is the loftiest on its western edge, where it sinks in abrupt terraces to the sea, presenting a mountain like a wall known as the Western Ghats. The coast lines on both the sides are remarkable for their unbroken character and the gentle shelving of the beaches. Geographically, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala constitute South India.

Geographically, the Persian Gulf and South India constitute the most precious locations in terms of natural resources throughout the world. These two regions also represent universally significant cultures.
and civilizations. The colonial forces invaded these two regions and gained an extraordinary quantity of resources and several privileges. The Persian Gulf countries remained within the secure parameters of India and the operational radius of the Indian Army. The South Indian states also remained within the security parameters of the Persian Gulf countries and the operational radius of the armies of the Persian Gulf countries. As a result these two regions developed economic ties and diplomatic relations since ancient times mainly because of the highly conducive geographical factors and advantages.

The relations between the Persian Gulf and South India assume great significance for a number of reasons. First, the Persian Gulf and South India have shared a unique relationship since ancient times and have developed mutually beneficial cultural relations.

Secondly, the Persian Gulf falls within India’s proximity and extended neighbourhood which is why India has always had multi-faceted relations with peoples of these regions.

Thirdly, the Persian Gulf and South India are geographically sensitive and economically congenial areas.

Fourthly, these two regions are important in terms of trade (especially exports) which fetch valuable foreign exchange.

Fifthly, numerous attempts were made by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan to establish politically and economically beneficial relations between the Persian Gulf and South India, particularly to contain the colonial forces in these two regions.

Sixthly, Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan put forth historically landmark efforts to challenge the European powers and facilitate economic and political sovereignty in these two general regions, especially in the latter half of the Eighteenth Century.
Though a few highly valuable research findings both by Indian and foreign scholars are available with respect to the historical significance, trends and developments in the Persian Gulf and South India separately, hitherto, no systematic historical study has been conducted, duly focusing the multi-faceted relations between the Persian Gulf and South India with reference to the eighteenth century. However, the past studies did not seem to appreciate in the right perspectives the attempts of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in building an alliance system with the powers of the Persian Gulf to keep Europe contained. In the ultimate analysis Mysore failed in completing this historical mission, but, this failure cost the interests of the people of the Persian Gulf and South India very clearly.

An authentic and systematic evaluation of the forces and factors which impeded the alliance system between the Persian Gulf and South India assumes great historical significance by raising the question of what these two regions have learnt from their historical experience. The question which frequently haunts the contemporary scholars pursuing such a study is how safe are the Persian Gulf and the Indian sub-continent in the light of the huge presence of super powers in the waters of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. In the modern age, the nations of the Persian Gulf are linked with India not only through tradition and centuries old cultural ties, but also through the presence of several million non-resident Indians who form an organic link with India. The whole question of energy and security cannot be properly understood without throwing light on the geopolitics of oil which has become a highly debatable subject of our times. Besides this, our economic and political interests are also very significant in the present times. A systematic and serious historical study based upon archival records in different languages, spread across different parts of the world has revealed certain
truths behind the incomplete alliance system between the Persian Gulf and South India.

Very eminent Scholars like J.B.Kelly, Arnold Wilson, P.K. Hitti, H.A.L. Fisher, Kate Brittlebank, Jean-Marie Lafont, Irfan Habib, Ashin Das Gupta, K.M.Panikkar, Mohibbul Hasan, Sultan Muhammad Al-Qasimi, C.R.Low, Calvin H.Allen, Sheik Ali, D.Selvaraj, Aniruddha Ray, Nikhilesh Guha, N.K.Sinha, Mohammad Moienuddin, M.H.Gopal, AlooDastur, A.A.Fayzee, M.S.Agwani, A.K.Pasha and others have highlighted the history of Persian Gulf and South India in general. A couple of scholars have tried to some extent to assess and evaluate the role of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in building alliance between the Persian Gulf and South India in particular. None of these scholars has made a comprehensive study of the role of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in building an alliance between the Persian Gulf and South India during the second half of the eighteenth century.

The objective of the present study entitled “South India And The Persian Gulf During The 18th With Reference To Haider Ali And Tipu Sultan : A Study ” is basically academic nature, to make an earnest attempt to investigate and understand the following questions with a historical perspective:

- What was the political and economic condition of South India and The Persian Gulf during the eighteenth century?
- Were the Asiatic decline which was primarily agrarian on the one hand and the rise of Industrial Europe; has any interconnection or independent of the two developments?
- What enabled Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan to resist the British colonial power in the later part of the eighteenth century?
• What measures did Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan initiate to strengthen the economy of Mysore kingdom?
• Did Haider and Tipu Sultan initiate any measures for the confrontation with colonialism in South India during the eighteenth century?
• Why did these rulers need political and economic cooperation with Perso-Arabian Gulf?

The present study has been divided into seven chapters. The introductory chapter deals with the nature of the study, historical contacts of South India and Persian Gulf during the past, scope, limitations of the study and methodology.

The second chapter is devoted to a survey of historiographical literature on various schools of historical writers and research works. Special attention has been given to the historical writings on the eighteenth century South India.

The third chapter examines the political and economic condition of South India and the Persian Gulf. This chapter examine a formation of a confederacy in south India to prevent European penetration into South India. Here we are concerned basically with the advent of the Europeans and more specially the British in India and the subsequent conquest and subjugation of the Indian subcontinent which in recent years has come to be designated as South Asia.

The fourth chapter is devoted to a brief profile on Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. Haider Ali was not the representative of any ancient line of kings. His parents were instructed by Haider Ali Shah, one of the great saints of those times to name their son Haider Ali. He told his parents that in the disturbed conditions following Mughal sack of the Bijapur and Golkonda kingdoms, the disbanded soldiery of the period sought services where
they were available under local chiefs. Haider Ali, seems to have been a scion of such disbanded family. He rose from the rank of a private soldier to not that of a General but of an independent sovereign. Haider Ali rose to prominence during 1749-1755 mainly due to his courage, energy and enterprising personality. He became a master in one of the fairest realms formed out of the ruins of the Mughal Empire according to historians. Tipu Sultan a worthy son of Haider Ali was born in 1750 at Devanahalli, north of Kolar in Karnataka. He had been groomed for the task ofShouldering the responsibility of governance and administration from the day of his accession to power till his death in May 1799.

The fifth chapter examine the Mysorean resistance and confrontation with colonialism. European colonialism was institutionalized in South India mainly due to naval superiority, monopoly of trade and vulnerability of Indian ports. There was no question of equality or friendship in the idea of partnership in the partnership even though both shared the same structure of trade and politics in the eighteenth century. Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan fought against Europeans as part of their conquests and strongly resisted British colonialism with well organized military power and a state exchequer. The resistance and confrontation of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan was a crucial factor from the point of view of political stability of South India.

The sixth chapter of the research study to examine the economic relations between South India and the Persian Gulf under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. The most significant aspect of is the state direct intervention in production and commerce. Factories were established along the Arabian coast. Commercial fleet put on sea to safeguard the state trade. They ardently believed that the state economy could shake and challenge effectively and decisively, to reduce the British power in India. His keen
interest for mobilization of the resources through vigorous trading and commercial activities with the Persian Gulf was also with a view to consolidate his territory and place her on strong footing to make his people happy and ensure harmony in the society under his regime.

The seventh chapter is in the form of a record conclusion. In this chapter the findings of the research have been given. Thus, this research study has attempted to collect for the first time a great deal of authentic information from a variety of sources on the political and commercial aspects of eighteenth century South India and the Persian Gulf they have been analyzed in proper prospective. However, this study emphasizes only on some important aspects of Mysore kingdom’s Diplomatic and commercial relations with Persian Gulf during the eighteenth century under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan.

These aspects are the subjects for the investigation this researcher to prepare a dissertation on South India and the Persian Gulf during the second half of the eighteenth century with special reference to Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. The researcher shall be using various kinds of sources; among them mentioned may be made of inscriptions, literary works, and some foreign accounts. Besides archival sources, diaries, travelogues, books and journals of the research topics were extensively studied. The people of the Persian Gulf and South India are required to draw suitable lessons on the basis of the findings of the study in order to bridge the communication gap between these two important regions and promote mutually beneficial relations in this age of globalization which is nothing but institutionalization of neo-colonialism. Thus, the present study forms a significant original contribution to the historical and scholarly understanding of the Persian Gulf and South India.
Research Methodology

The present study is mainly based on the archival materials and other prominent primary sources, both published and unpublished, preserved in different archives and libraries. Relevant primary and secondary data on the role of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in building strategic relationships between the Persian Gulf and South India during the second half of the Eighteenth Century were collected from National Archives, New Delhi; Sapru House, New Delhi; Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murthy House, New Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi; Goa State Archives, Panaji; Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad; Osmania University Library, Hyderabad; Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad; Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore Divisional Archives, Mysore; Connemara Public Library, Chennai; Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai; Kerala State Archives, Cochin and various other universities and research institute libraries in the country.

The primary sources were supplemented by appropriate secondary sources from books, journals, magazines and newspapers available at different archives and libraries. These primary and secondary sources furnish vivid accounts about the achievements and failures of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in terms of establishing a relationship between the Persian Gulf and South India. The reports of the archaeological departments were highly useful to learn about the tactics adopted by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan to contain the allied powers in South India. Based on a wide range of primary and secondary sources this thesis makes an analytical investigation of the factors and forces which decided the relations between the Persian Gulf and South India during the period of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan.
Summary

In brief, South India and the Perso-Arabian can be traced back to the Indus valley Civilization, thus making Indo-Perso-Arabian relations one of the most ancient of their kind in the world. The links between the two regions had not only endured through the ages but had actually grown in strength through wide-ranging co-operation in different fields, Indian culture, through the centuries came to be enriched by Persians. Indian influence on Arabs during the medieval period was more pervasive during the medieval period. Both the regions have shared a unique social and economic relationship since times immemorial. With the coming of the British India, the role turned and influences flowed generally in the opposite direction. During the fifteenth – eighteenth centuries, Portuguese, French and British competition began as they used ships with steam as its motive power; modern weapons and gunpowder are other factors for conflict. The greatest bond between the Persian Gulf and South India revived during the eighteenth century in the form of trade and commerce. Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were formidable rulers in South India who defied the British and refused to pay tribute to the East India Company. They cultivated a strategic relationship between the two regions under consideration in the Eighteenth Century, both politically and economically. The Arabs soon lost ground and trade was captured by the European powers in the eighteenth century. Focusing on the multi-faceted relations between the Persian Gulf and South India, with reference to Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan during eighteenth century. The primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information had a direct bearing on the regions under study. Most of them deal with the whole of South India and Persian Gulf under various rulers. The present thesis was brought out on the basis of the short and sketchy references which were
available from these various sources. The present study assumes great significance because no ruler, (Indian or West Asian) understood and appreciated in right earnest, the significance of the Persian Gulf and the management of its affairs better than Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. Based on the findings of a wide range of primary and secondary sources this thesis makes an analytical narrative of the factors and forces which facilitated the relations between the Persian Gulf and South India during the period of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan, adopting the historical methodology.

Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan are the two great strategist Karnataka has ever seen. They fought many wars in their brief career. Their life was a long battle against colonial forces. They were involved in wars against their neighbours, European armies. They fought all their life and died in fighting. These two rulers however fought against many disadvantages shortage of funds, soldiers, equipments and alone all treachery and betrayal. They were surrounded by enemies from every direction. A study of the foreign policy of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan reveals that Geopolitics factors in their foreign policy.

Geopolitics is a new concept which came into prominence in the early years of twentieth century. The term geopolitics was coined by Kejeller, it spread throughout Europe between the two world wars. Geopolitics is attempt to explain world political developments in terms of geographic space according to this theory the world contains only a limited amount of space and all countries are involved in a never ending struggle among themselves to get enough to survive. Geopolitics tries to describe the relationship between space and foreign policy.

The roots of its concepts go back to 1904 when a British Geographer Harold J Mackinder known as the founder of modern Geopolitics. He
wrote a paper on the geographical pivot of history. In it he drew a Geographical sketch of the globe identifying the inner core area of Eurasia as the pivot area of world politics. The key characteristics of this pivot area were its extensive continuous flat lands and its inaccessibility to see favour.

Mackinder advanced a theory of Geo-politics that emphasised the importance of world politics of nations that controlled land areas. He called the great landmass of Europe, Asia and Africa the world island. Mackinder foresaw the rise of the powerful state occupying the pivot area. In Mackinder’s strategic conception of a land power, that gains control over a large part of the Eurasia and African land mass could bear the vast resources of its land base on constructing the world’s powerful navy and in overwhelming all remaining insular favour.

How for did Tipu Sultan anticipated the theory of Kejeller, Mackinder and other pioneer of Geopolitics but, his foreign policy contains many important elements which were propounded by the pioneers of Geopolitics. The foreign policy of Tipu Sultan is a continuation of his father Haider Ali. Haider Ali came from a humble origin and had no experience in diplomacy or in internal administration. But he was a shrewd observer of men and elements. He achieved great victories with minimum resources. Tipu unlike his father was educated and equipped himself with the information and knowledge on many subjects and was always looking for information on various subjects. He was a born reformer, who was always trying to bring out changes, and implements in everything. He was acquainted with the contemporary concepts like mercantilism and cameralism. Bustling with enthusiasm he aimed at on all development of his kingdom. In order to push his reforms he wanted to have a control of a vast area, but his adventures and advances created
many adversaries who proved a stumbling block in his way. But there was a great difference between Tipu Sultan and his defectors. While his adversaries were squirming with narrow feelings and outdated concepts, Tipu Sultan was engaged in developing the face of his kingdom in a radical way. Tipu Sultan was an innovative ruler; his activities were not confined to the narrow limits of the small kingdom of Mysore. He was determined to work beyond the borders of Mysore may beyond the borders of the subcontinent.

Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were the first rulers of India who thought in terms of Geo politics. They considered for the first time Geo political aspects and features of several areas. Both of them had to deal with powerful adversaries. As a result they had very limited options. Haider had whose resources and authority was limited and was always under pressure, Tipu had many to tackle. His operations extended to almost all south India, his ambition and aggressive design invented the wrath of his rivals and enemies. It is under these circumstances Haider and Tipu Sultan begun to contemplate the exercise of the Geo political aspect in their foreign policy.

Historians have failed to notice significance attached by Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan to the Geo-political factor in their policies and particularly Haider’s contribution in this field has not been properly appreciated. It is true that Haider did not evolve an administrative system of his own. He followed old administrative in Mysore. Haider’s main concern was to safeguard the borders of his kingdom from the invaders. But when he entered into a career of conquest and annexation he realised the significance of Geo political factor. It is the conquest of Bedanore in 1763 that provided with the opportunity to witness the vital role of Geography and Geopolitics. The conquest of this Malnad capital gave
him control over a vast area of fertile malnad land. Besides he carried over away a huge amount from the treasury of Bedanore. Haider could see the advantage enjoyed by the Bedanore chiefs. He found that, that is the external trade which enriched the malnad kingdom. When he met the Arab merchants in Bedanore, he learnt from them the details of Arab trade with the west coast. This trade details awakened him to the enormous economic opportunity waiting in the realm of foreign trade. Haider decided to take full advantage of the foreign trade. But he was disturbed by the presence of a large number of European traders in the western coast including Malabar. Haider came across the true of colonial exploitation in Malabar and adjoining areas. The British and the French who had tasted rich profits from spice trade in this area had entrenched themselves throughout the west coast. Haider had maintained a good standing army, but as he advanced towards the north, he came across very powerful adversaries and the indomitable power of the Marathas. Heroic people of Kodagu and rebellious Nairs of Malabar posed serious threat to Haider. But Haider finance and military resources were extremely limited. Most of the state income came from land revenues. Haider’s ambitious plans require enormous amounts of money and a huge standing army.

This time Haider Ali gathers sufficient information about the political and economic conditions prevailing in the neighbouring regions of India, particularly in the Gulf region. The Ottoman Empire where has its hegemony over the Middle East had strong both in size and strength. The Safavid rulers had also lost their vigour and vision in the administration of the area, on the other hand the Arabs had exhibited stiff opposition to the European colonial adversaries. They had enjoyed a continuous trade relation with South India and legist the European taking over the
prosperous Indian trade. Haider had a good opportunity to establish diplomatic contact with the Gulf region. His aim was to strengthen his possession as a ruler as well as to strengthen his army. He first sent his embassies to Kareem Khan the ruler of Persia who had also seized the Persian thrown and ruled the country. Haider sent his officers Shah Nurullah as an ambassador to Kareem Khan the Persian king he sent costly gifts like silver palanquin, elephant and others. Kareem Khan share many of the features of foreign policy of Haider. He was trying to reduce the power and trading activities of Europeans; Kareem Khan received Haider’s ambassadors and treated him with great honour. He agreed to sanction trade centres of Mysore to be establish at Gambroon. He also sent one thousand well trained Persian soldiers along with the costly gifts later Kareem Khan also sent him ambassadors to Mysore to have mutual trade relations.

Haider decided to strengthen diplomatic relation with the Persian king when Persians attacking Basra in 1776, at that time Basra was under the soverainty of Ottoman Empire. Haider Ali sent his soldiers in five ships from Calicut to Persian Gulf. But Persian King and Basha of Baghdad had entered into a treaty of peace, as a result Haider’s army returned to Mangalore. It is significant to note that Haider had sent military help to Persia to fight against a mighty empire in Middle East.

After a brief political intercourse Haider Ali realised that the Sultan of Oman would be a more useful ally from the point of view of his economic relationship. This contact with the Persian Gulf paved the way for more intimate relationship with Mysore and the Persian Gulf. Haider at this time was seriously engaged in the local skirmishes with the Marathas and his traditional enemy English. Before he could enjoy the
fruit of his Gulf contacts Haider died in 1782 leaving the rest of the world to his illustrious son Tipu Sultan.

One of the prominent achievement of Haider was the establishment of Mysore mission at Bandar Abbas with the permission of Kareem Khan, the ruler of Persia. This was known for its international trade. Though Haider had not been any gulf country any foreign land he had understood the political and economic benefit which the Mysore kingdom can access with the possession of the centre at Bandar Abbas. This is clear indication of Haider’s clever awareness of the geopolitical significance of the gulf region and his belief that the mission at this place would be beneficial commercially and politically.

Haider now turned his attention to strengthen the security in the coastal region of Mangalore and Karwar. He had learned many complaints about piracy in Malabar as well as Mangalore. The first important step taken by Haider were to eliminate piracies along the coastal region. Thus he paved the way for a new era of political and economic relationship between south India and the Persian Gulf.