

DE GRUYTER

SLAVERY AND BONDAGE IN ASIA, 1550–1850

TOWARDS A GLOBAL HISTORY OF COERCED LABOUR

*Edited by Kate Ekama, Lisa Hellman
and Matthias van Rossum*

UNIVERSITÄT **BONN**



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The study of slavery and coerced labour is increasingly conducted from a global perspective, and yet a dual Eurocentric bias remains: slavery primarily brings to mind the images of Atlantic chattel slavery, and most studies continue to be based – either outright or implicitly – on a model of northern European wage labour. This book constitutes an attempt to re-centre that story to Asia.

With studies spanning the western Indian Ocean and the steppes of Central Asia to the islands of South East Asia and Japan, and ranging from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, this book tracks coercion in diverse forms, tracing both similarities and differences – as well as connections – between systems of coercion, from early sales regulations to post-abolition labour contracts.

Deep empirical case studies, as well as comparisons between the chapters, all show that while coercion was entrenched in a number of societies, it was so in different and shifting ways. This book thus not only shows the history of slavery and coercion in Asia as a connected story, but also lays the groundwork for global studies of a phenomenon as varying, manifold and contested as coercion.

THE SERIES: DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

The book series of the *Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies* publishes monographs and edited volumes that examine different phenomena of slavery and other forms of strong asymmetrical dependencies in societies. The series follows the BCDSS's research agenda in going beyond the dichotomy of slavery versus freedom by proposing a new key concept, strong asymmetrical dependency, which covers all forms of bondage across time and space. This includes debt bondage, convict labor, tributary labor, servitude, serfdom, and domestic work, as well as forms of wage labor and various types of patronage. Works published in this series will also investigate periods, regions and contexts in world history that have not been directly affected by Western colonization, such as the ancient Near East, pre-modern and modern societies in Asia, Africa, and the pre-colonial Americas.



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