

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910639979503321
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Titolo	History of Indians in Zanzibar from the 1870s to 1963 / / Saada Wahab
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Gottingen : , : Universitätsverlag Gottingen, , 2022
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (198 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Gottingen series in social and cultural anthropology
Disciplina	970.1
Soggetti	Indians
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	<p>List of Abbreviations 11 -- Acknowledgements. 13 -- 1 Introduction 17 -- 1.1 Historical Background of the Present Research 20 -- 1.2 Statement of the Problem and Justification of the Research Topic. 30 -- 1.3 Research Objectives 31 -- 1.4 Literature Review. 32 -- 1.4.1 Contributing Factors for Indian Migration 32 -- 1.4.2 The Diversity of the Indian Communities in Zanzibar 33 -- 1.4.3 Indian Education in Zanzibar 34 -- 1.4.4 Indian Economic Status under British Colonial Rule in Zanzibar 34 -- 1.4.5 The Role of Indians in the Political History of Zanzibar. 36 -- 1.5 Theoretical Framework 37 -- 1.6 Research Methodology. 38 -- 1.6.1 Archival Research. 40 -- 1.6.2 The Interview Method. 41 -- 1.7 The Structure of the Dissertation 43 -- 2 The Historical Background: Diversity of the Indian Diaspora in Zanzibar. 45 -- 2.1 Introduction. 45 -- 2.2 The Indian Communities in Zanzibar. 46 -- 2.2.1 The Hindu Communities. 46 -- 2.2.2 The Muslim Communities. 51 -- 2.2.3 The Christian Community. 58 -- 2.3 The Diversity of Indian Migration Narratives in Zanzibar 60 -- 2.3.2 The Muslims' Migration Narratives. 63 -- 2.3.3 The Goans' Migration Narratives 65 -- 2.4 Conclusion 67 -- 3 The Development of the Indian Communities in Zanzibar, 1800-1963. 69 -- 3.1 Introduction. 69 -- 3.2 Push and Pull Factors. 71 -- 3.2.1 Physical (Environmental) Conditions. 71 -- 3.2.2 Economic Conditions 73 -- 3.2.3 Political Factors 83 -- 3.3 Conclusion. 90 -- 4 Indian Education in Zanzibar, 1870-1963 91 -- 4.1 Introduction. 91 -- 4.2 Historical Background to the Development of Educational Activities -- in Zanzibar 93 -- 4.2.1 The Development of Non-Secular Education in Zanzibar. 94 -- 4.2.2 History</p>

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Sommario/riassunto

This research examines the social, political and economic history of Indians in Zanzibar in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, specifically between 1870s and 1963. Based on evidence collected from oral interviews and written archival documents, this research work argues that, the Indian migration history in Zanzibar, during this period, was impacted by their religious diversity, economic factors and social factors, as well as the British colonial interest. This research analysis yielded a number of the following key findings: First, there were heterogeneous migration patterns among the Indian migrants in East Africa, influenced by various factors including religion, caste, and the historical contexts in which particular migrants arrived. Second, numerous different social, physical, economic and political processes in India and East Africa motivated Indians to leave their homeland and form a migration community in Zanzibar from 1800 to 1963. Third, the desire to pass on their religion, traditions and customs to their descendants was a significant motivation for Indians to open their own private schools in Zanzibar. Fourth, the change of administration in 1890 had a major impact on the Indians in Zanzibar, especially investors who had already invested heavily in the local economy. Finally, despite their minority status compared to other communities such as Africans and Arabs, Indians participated in the politics of Zanzibar that led towards independence.