



THE ISLAND OF HORMUZ: ITS POLITICS AND
ECONOMY FROM THE 14TH TO 16TH CENTURIES

BY

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ABSTRACT

The Island of Hormuz, an important commercial center in the Persian Gulf, has facilitated international trade between three continents of the old world: Asia, Africa and Europe for many centuries. Before the arrival of the Portuguese at the end of the 15th century, local rulers had already achieved significant progress and development. It was known for its wealth, beauty, and luxury. The Cosmopolitan city of Hormuz was populated by thousands of people from different countries, races and beliefs. They were enjoying full justice and represented a good example of coexistence. However, following the Portuguese invasion in the 16th century, Hormuz suffered heavily. Since then, Hormuz and the Persian Gulf have witnessed many ups and down in history. This study examines the manifestations of economic development of the Island of Hormuz between the 14th to the 16th centuries, and analyses the different of socio-politic and economic factors of its rise and fall under the local and foreign rulers. The research follows the qualitative and analytical approaches, based on published and edited primary sources as well as the secondary sources available in English, Arabic and Persian. The study determines that the local Muslim rulers of Hormuz were very capable and successful in their administration and the development of their region. By providing of Justice, security, tolerance, and facilitating the trade activities between East and West, the local rulers succeeded in changing the barren Island to the developed and advanced commercial city which was visited by thousands of traders every year.

ملخص البحث

كانت جزيرة هرمز مركزا تجاريا مهما في الخليج الفارسي التي ساعدت على رواج ونشاط التجارة الدولية بين ثلاث قارات العالم القديم، آسيا وإفريقيا وأوروبا في قرون عديدة. قبل وصول البرتغاليين في نهاية القرن الخامس عشر، الحكام المحليين قد حققوا بالفعل تقدما كبيرا في المجال التجاري و الإقتصادي وقد حصلت على شهرة عالمية بسبب ثروتها وجمالها وفخامتها. هذه المدينة العالمية صارت مأهولة بآلاف من الناس من مختلف البلدان والأعراق والمعتقدات الذين تمتعوا بالعدالة والمساوات النامة في الحقوق والحريات و مثلوا نموذجا جيدا للتعایش. ومع ذلك، في أعقاب الغزو البرتغالي في القرن السادس عشر الميلادي، عانت هرمز بشكل كبير. منذ ذلك الحين شهدت هرمز والخليج الفارسي صعودا وهبوطا مرات عديدة. تبحث هذه الدراسة مظاهر التوسعة الاقتصادية في جزيرة هرمز و عوامل اجتماعية، سياسية و اقتصادية مختلفة لصعودها وسقوطها من القرن الرابع عشر الى القرن السادس عشر في ظل الحكام المحليين والأجانب. يتبع البحث المنهج الكيفي والتحليلي، استنادا إلى المصادر الأولية المنشورة و المحررة وكذلك المصادر الثانوية الموجودة باللغات الإنجليزية والعربية والفارسية. توصلت الدراسة إلى أن الحكام المسلمين المحليين لهرمز كانوا مدراء حاذقين ناجحين في إدارة وتطوير منطقتهم. من خلال توفير العدل والأمن والتسامح، وتسهيل حركة التجارة بين الشرق والغرب، نجح الحكام المحليين لتبديل و تحويل جزيرة قاحلة إلى مدينة تجارية متطورة و متقدمة التي كانت تزورها الآلاف من التجار كل عام.

APPROVAL PAGE

I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion; it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a dissertation for the degree of Master of Art in Islamic and Other Civilisations.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own investigation, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

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*To my parents, my wife and Āqā Mammad Āqā
who trusted and supported me in my life*

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In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent, the most merciful

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TRANSLITERATION TABLE

Consonants				
ب	b		ط	ṭ
ت	t		ظ	ẓ
ث	th		ع	ʿ
ج	j		غ	gh
ح	ḥ		ف	f
خ	kh		ق	q
د	d		ك	k
ذ	dh		ل	l
ر	r		م	m
ز	z		ن	n
س	s		هـ	h
ش	sh		و	w
ص	ṣ		ء	ʾ
ض	ḍ		ي	y

Short Vowels		Long Vowels	
اَ	a	اِ	ā
اِ	i	اِي	ī
اُ	u	اِي	ū

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 RESEARCH BACKGROUND

The unique geographical location of the island of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf has attracted the attention of travellers and traders throughout history. Located adjacent to the Arabian Peninsula, historical Persia and India, Hormuz has played a significant role in Portuguese and other European expansion strategies in the region. Hormuz is identified as a commercial centre between the East and the West. The marine route from the Persian Gulf to India and China has long been an important trade route. Many of the leading trading ports such as Sīrāf, Baḥrain and Qais (Kish Island) in the Middle Ages and Dubai at present are located on the Gulf coasts and its islands. One of the important ports which founded and flourished in the Persian Gulf was the new city of Hormuz where the universal proverb at the time was: If the whole world was a ring, the Hormuz deserve to be its diamond.¹

The first city of Hormuz was located in the eastern part of the Persian Gulf along the coast of Persia.² By the beginning of the fourteenth century, when the risk of the Mongol invasion against the Hormuz increased, the capital of Hormuz transferred to the Island of Jarūn. The popularity of the old city led the inhabitants to change the name of the island to Hormuz.³

¹ If all the World were but a ring, Ormuz the Diamond should bring, Arnold Wilson, *The Persian Gulf: A Historical sketch from the earliest times to the beginning of the twentieth century* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991), 101.

² Over time and after the transfer of the capital to the Island of Jarūn, the name of the city changed, and today it known in the name of Mīnāb.

³ Ibrāhīm Bishmī, *Mamlakat Hormuz al-Fiqā'at Az-Zahabyyah* [The Kingdom of Hormuz The Golden bubble] (Al-Manāmah: Al-Ayyām institution, 1994), 29.

Although the new city of Hormuz was limited to the small island with barren soil and a lack of drinking water, its development did not stop; rather it advanced significantly. The domination of Hormuz extended to most islands along the northern and southern coasts of the Persian Gulf.⁴ The strategic location of the island, expert population, expansion of trade, accumulated wealth, the tolerant ruler, unprejudiced people, and facile trade for foreign traders made Hormuz an important commercial centre between the East and West. In its new location, Hormuz had commercial activities with neighbouring lands and beyond. It was known as an advanced free trade zone and a harbour of hundreds of huge ships from different parts of the world including China, Malacca, Bengal, India, Africa and Europe. The commercial caravans from Central Asia, Persia, the Levant and Anatolia carried their merchandise to the coasts of Hormuz overland. Goods such as spices, precious stones, gold, horses, silk, pearls, rice, and other merchandise were being exchanged in Hormuz.⁵ Pedro Teixeira, the Portuguese traveller who visited the Hormuz explained:

And Hormuz, from having been a sterile and desert island, and a mountain of salt, is, among all the wealthy countries of India, one of the wealthiest, through the many and rich goods that come thither from all parts of India, and from the whole of Arabia and of Persia, as far as the territories of the Mogores (Mongols), and even from Russia in Europe I saw merchants there, and from Venice.⁶

The growth and expansion of commercial activities in Hormuz attracted the attention of Portuguese colonists. The decline of its economy started with their occupation of the Hormuz. Finally, the Safawīd' military with the collaboration of the British navy plundered and destroyed the entire city of Hormuz on the pretext of

⁴ Marco Polo, *The Book of ser Marco Polo*, ed. & trans. Colonel Henry Yule (London: John Murray, 1871), 1:101.

⁵ Mohammad Bagher Vosoughi, "The king of Hormuz from the beginning until the arrival of Portuguese," in *The Persian Gulf in history*, edited by Lawrence G. Potter (United States: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), 89.

⁶ Pedro Teixeira, *The travels of Pedro Teixeira*, Trans. William F. Sinclair (London: Hakluyt Society – via Internet Archive, 1902), 265-266.

expelling the Portuguese. After approximately five centuries of development, Hormuz was ruined and was unable to regain its lost position and establish itself as a prominent port.⁷

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Through the historical study of the Persian Gulf and the kingdom of Hormuz, this study examines its socio-political and economic life and highlights different events and changes that occurred in the history of Hormuz between the 14th to 16th century. It analyses influential factors for the rise and fall of Hormuz's fortunes and attempts to provide answers to the following questions:

1. What was the role of Hormuz in international commerce between the East and West?
2. How did international commerce help the economic growth of Hormuz?
3. What were the impacts of European colonisers on Hormuz and the neighbouring countries?

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

Since the Kingdom of Hormuz was living alongside great empires, its history and its role in the Islamic world is diminished in the shadow of these powerful civilisations. This research is important because it sheds light on the history of Hormuz while focusing on economic aspects. Secondly, due to the similarity in the situation between Hormuz and the current Persian Gulf countries, this research can help Gulf

⁷ Mohammad Bagher Vosoughi, "jā bi jāyie Qudrathāyi siyasī wa Ejtima'ī dar Khalīje Fārs az suqūte Hormuz tā suqūte Işfihān," [Substitution of the political and social powers in the Persian Gulf from the fall of Hormuz to the fall Isfahan] *Farhang*, 56 (1383 H.SH), 185-188.

governments benefit from the experiences of Hormuz in the development of their economies.

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the nature of economic activities in Hormuz and its role in international trade.
2. To identify the main factors which led Hormuz to achieve significant economic development.
3. To establish the role of foreign colonisers in shaping the social and economic life in Hormuz and the region as a whole.

1.5 LITERATURE REVIEW

This study involves two categories of literature. Primary sources are comprised of chronicles, reports, records and annals from the region and represent the basis of this work. Secondary sources comprise research, books and articles discussing the political, social and economic history of Hormuz.

The travel books written by Muslim and non-Muslim travellers provide valuable information about the social, political and economic situation of the Kingdom of Hormuz. Most of these travellers visited the city of Hormuz while it was a booming commercial market. The written reports by Muslims are a descriptive summary. They concentrated on political issues but did not elaborate on the events in a comprehensive manner. Al-Bilādhirī in his book *Futūḥ al-Buldān* narrated how Muslims conquered the Hormuz (old city) and began to improve its development.⁸

⁸ Ahmad bin Yahya Al-Bilādhirī, *Futūḥ al-Buldān* [Conquests of the Lands], ed. Abdullah and Omar Anīs at-Tabba‘ (Beirut, Mu’assisat al-Ma’āf lit-Tiba’at van-Nashr,1987).

Many Muslim historians such as Al-Īṣṭakhrī⁹ (346 AH, 957 AD), Abul Qāsīm Mohammad ibn Ḥawqal¹⁰ (367 AH), Abū Abullāh Mohammad al-Idrīsī al-Qurtubī¹¹ (1099–1165 or 1166 AD), and others have also mentioned the old city of Hormuz and identified its location. Ibn Baṭūṭah¹² (1304 – 1368 or 1369 AD) is a Muslim traveller who visited Hormuz in 1331 and 1347AD and recorded more details about the Kingdom of Hormuz in both of its old and new capitals. He introduced the king and his policy, people, and their social and economic life, the trading and navigation, and what was produced in Hormuz. One of the most important documents written about the political and economic relations of Hormuz is *Shāhnāmeḥ Tūrānshāhī* [The book of King Tūrānshāh]. The book is written by Tūrānshāh I, the King of Hormuz from 1347 and 1377. The original version of the book is lost. Nevertheless, the most important chapter that related to the history of Hormuz is translated by Pedro Teixeira (died 1641) and Gaspar da Cruz (1520-1570). Tūrānshāh in this part of the book has explained the history of Hormuz since the establishment of the kingdom until the era of the author and his ruling. This work is considered an important primary source on the history of Hormuz and its marine activities.¹³

The European travellers who visited Hormuz provided more details. Apart from political issues, they indicated also religious, social, cultural and commercial issues. Marco Polo (1254-1324) is among the firsts Europeans who visited the old city of Hormuz. His work about the city and its activities is a comprehensive and exclusive

⁹ Al Īṣṭakhrī, *Almasalik wa al-Mamālik* [Traditions of Countries] (Beirut: Dār ṣadir, 2004), 163-169.

¹⁰ Ibn Ḥawqal, *Ṣūrat al-Arḍ* (Beirut: Dār Ṣadir, 1938), 2: 307-315.

¹¹ Al-Idrīsī al-Qurtubī, *Nuḏḥat al-muṣḥāq fi 'khtirāq al-āfāq* [the book of pleasant journeys into faraway lands] (Beirut: alam al-kotob, 1st edn., 1409AH).

¹² Ibn Baṭūṭah, *al-Riḥla: Tuḥfat al-Nazzār fi Gharāyib al-Amsār wa 'Ajāyib al-Asfār*, [Journey: A Gift to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Travelling] (Al-Ribat: Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, 1417A.H.).

¹³ Mohammad Bagher Vosoughi, "Shāhnāme Tūrānshāhī," [The king book of Tūrānshāh] *Ketābe Māhe Tarīkh wa Gughrāfiya*, 50 (1380 H.SH.), Pedro Teixeira, *The travels of Pedro Teixeira*, 153-195, 256,267.

report. He identified Hormuz as an international commercial centre wherein merchants from different countries come to exchange a variety of goods such as spices, pearls, precious stones, silk, and so on. He also reported the social life in Hormuz and identified the prevalent religion of people, their features, food, culture, migration in summers, environment, and agriculture.¹⁴

The travel literature which is mostly are written by traders, travellers and European officers in the sixteenth and seventeenth century is the best source for the social, political and economic situation of Hormuz. These travel books which are the authors' reports about the events and situation of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf at that era are the starting points of most later studies in this field.

One of the best examples of this type of source, is the book of *A description of the coasts of East Africa and Malabar, in the beginning of the sixteenth century*. Duarte Barbosa (1480-1521), a Portuguese officer in India, recorded the events of his travel from Portugal to India and described many cities and neighbouring countries of the coasts. In his travel book, he describes his personal observations from the city of Hormuz, its architecture and beauty, traits, customs, culture and religion of the inhabitants, commercial activities, and other social, political and economic conditions of the island.¹⁵

The travel book of Garcia de Silva Figueroa (1550-1624) is another important source which includes good information about Hormuz at the beginning of the seventeenth century. This book is formulated by one of his companions based on the diary and statements of Garcia de Silva in his journey to Hormuz and Persia. Figueroa was a Spanish diplomat who arrived Hormuz a few years before the fall of the island

¹⁴ Marco Polo, *The Book of sir Marco Polo*.

¹⁵ Duarte Barbosa, *A description of the coasts of East Africa and Malabar, in the beginning of the sixteenth century*, Trance. The Hon. Henry E. J. Stanley (London: Hakluyt Society, 1866).

to Safavid and British powers. He indicated a geographical location, geological, environmental condition of the island, and briefly described its climate, planning and architecture of the city, population statistic, ethnic and religious diversity, culture and industry. The internal and international policy of Portuguese governors and the social, religious, economic and military situation in the island are also discussed.¹⁶

Commentaries of Ruy Freyre de Andrada represents the situation and events of Hormuz in the last years of its life. This book is composed based on different trustworthy documents elaborated the operations that led to the fall of Hormuz to the hand of Anglo-Persian forces in 1622. It is also noted the looting of the property and wealth of Hormuz by Iranian forces and the English.¹⁷

The stored manuscripts and documents in the National Archives of Portugal are another important primary source beneficial to the study of the history of Hormuz and its social, political and economic conditions in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Most of these documents which are written in different languages particularly Portuguese language are not translated into English, and many have not been printed. Jahāngīr Qā'im MaQāmī (1297-1360 H.SM) translated or revised seventy of these documents which are mostly official letters in Arabic, Persian and Turkish written by Portuguese, Hormuz, Persian, Ottoman and other local authorities. These letters indicate different issues including political relations of Hormuz with the regional powers such as the Portuguese, Safavids and Ottomans as well as the internal administrative situation and social and economic conditions of Hormuz during that period. Jahāngīr first published these translated and revised documents in the form of

¹⁶ Garcia de silva figueroa, *Safarnāme Garcia de silva figueroa* [Comentarios de d. Garcia de Silva y Figueroa de la embajada que de parte del rey de España don Felipe 3 hizo al rey Xa Abas de Persia], Trans. Ghulāmrđā samī'ī (Tehran: Nashri Naw, 1363 SH)

¹⁷ Ruy Freyre De Andrada, *Commentaries of Ruy Freyre De Andrada*, Translated by C.R. Boxer (London: George Routledge & Sons, Ltd. Broadway House, Carter Lane, 2005).

successive articles entitled *Mas'aleye Hormuz dar Rawābete Iran, Portegāl* [The issue of Hormuz in relations between Iran and Portugal] published in the Journal of Historical Studies and then published a series of these articles separately as a second volume of the book entitled *Asnāde Farsī, 'arabī, wa Turkey dar Ārshīve Mellyye Portugal darbareye Hormuz wa Khalīge Fars* [documents in Persian, Arabic and Turkish in Portuguese national archive about Hormuz and the Persian Gulf].

Beside these classical documents, there are a number of books, research and articles written in the contemporary era that covers different aspects of the history of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. Arnold Wilson (1884-1940), the civil agent of Britain in Baghdad is among the firsts writers who started to write the history of the Persian Gulf. *The Persian Gulf*¹⁸ is his great work that covers the history of the Persian Gulf from ancient times until the lifetime of the author. The book that is often quoted by later writings on this field contains the history of Hormuz from the beginning to its destruction by the English and Persian powers.

Tijārat al-Moḥīt al-Hindī fil 'asr as-Siyādat al-Islamiyyah [Indian Ocean trade in the era of the Islamic sovereignty] is the general history of trade activities in the Indian Ocean. Dr. Showqī Abdolqawī 'Uthmān, the author of the book, has introduced different marine powers in the Indian Ocean before the arrival of Western imperialist powers including Arabs, Persians, Chinese, Indians and Africans and their various ships in size and style, and the routes and methods of shipping. However, chapters four to six are the most closely related to our subject. In these two chapters, the writer has presented a number of ports and commercial centres in the Indian Ocean, various

¹⁸ Arnold Wilson, *The Persian Gulf*.

commodities that were produced or exchanged in these regions, as well as their trade system and different denominations of the merchants.¹⁹

Probably the best collection about the history of Hormuz and its economic studies is *The Persian Gulf in History*²⁰ edited by Lawrence G. Potter. In this work, several authors in fifteen articles have contributed to describing the general history of the Persian Gulf from the ancient period to the end of the twentieth century. The most relevant parts of our subject are the fourth and eleventh chapters. The fourth article written by Mohammad Bāghir Vusughī narrated the history of the King of Hormuz from the beginning until the arrival of Portuguese. It discusses the old city of Hormuz on the Persian coast and migration to the new capital in the Island of Jarūn. He also explained the political framework, religious and ethnic structure and commercial prosperity of Hormuz during this period. João Telese Cunha in the eleventh chapter discusses the presence of the Portuguese in Hormuz and the Persian Gulf from 1507 to 1750. This article analyses the rise and fall of the Portuguese and their political relation with other regional powers such as the Ottomans and Safavids. The distinguishing point of this article is that the political, social, religious and economic conditions of Hormuz during the domination of the Portuguese have been described with numbers and statistics.

There is a series of studies that cover the history of the Kingdom of Hormuz from the late fifteenth century up until it was destroyed in 1622. These articles have been collected in one volume under the name *Revisiting Hormuz*.²¹ The articles are not simple narrations of the events, but analysis of the incidents. The chapters of the book

¹⁹ D. Showqī Abdolqawī ‘uthmān, *Tijārat al-Moḥīt al-Hindi fil ‘asr as-Siyādat al-Islamyyah* [Indian Ocean trade in the era of the sovereignty of the Islamic] (al-Kuwait: al-Majlis al-watani li al-theqāfat wal Funūn wal Ādāb, 1990).

²⁰ Lawrence G. Potter, *The Persian Gulf in history* (United States: Palgrave Macmillan, 1st edn. 2009).

²¹ Dejanirah Couto and Rui Manuel Loureiro, *Revisiting Hormuz* (Lisbon: calouste gulbenkian foundation, 2008).

have been written in both English and Portuguese and listed chronologically. The first chapter started with the explanation and analysis of the policies of the Kingdom of Hormuz and its power system to deal with powers changes in mainland Iran. The following chapters discuss the arrival of the foreign military to the Persian Gulf and end with the fall of Hormuz.

Mohammad Baghir Vusughi who is a renowned writer in the history of the Persian Gulf has published different books and articles in the history of Hormuz in both Persian and English. *Ilal wa 'awamil Jābijāiye Kānūnhāye Tijārī dar Khaliḡe Fars* [the causes of displacement of the trade centres in the Persian Gulf] is one of his celebrated works that defines the social developments and major changes in the Persian Gulf's commercial centres. The author indicates the most important commercial centres of the Persian Gulf such as Basra, Sīrāf, and Hormuz in chronological order and mentions the main causes of the rise and fall of each.

Saltanat Hormuz al-'arabyyah [The Sultanate of Arabian Hormuz]²² is a unique and comprehensive study on the history of the Persian Gulf, particularly the Kingdom of Hormuz. It is written by Ibrāhām Khūrī and D. Aḡmad Jalāl Al-Tidmerī in two volumes. The first volume contains a general history of the Persian Gulf from 4000 BC to the rise of Hormuz. It indicates the geography of the Persian Gulf, its cities and its beaches, sea trade and the most important commercial goods, the ancient civilisations and business centres in Persian. The second volume introduces Hormuz in both of its old and new locations, with a focus on the new capital city in the Island of Jarūn. It narrates political events in the Kingdom of Hormuz from the early third century AD to the Portuguese hegemony over the Island of Hormuz in the early

²² Ibrāhīm Khūrī and D. Ahmad Jalāl al- tedmerī, *ṣaltanat Hormuz al-'arabyyah* [Arab Sultanate of Hormuz] (Ra's al- Khaimah: Markaz Al-Derāsāt wal wathā'iq, 1999).

sixteenth century. Also, it describes the commerce and governance system and presents different reasons for the growth of power and economy in Hormuz.

Kauz Ralph and Roderich Ptak have published an article entitled *Hormuz in Yuan and Ming Sources*.²³ In this article, the authors indicate the political and commercial relations between China and Hormuz mostly in the fifteenth century. They concentrate on Chinese texts to reflect the status of Hormuz and its people among Chinese writers in the Middle Ages. *'Awamil Mo'athir bar Tigarate Khalige Fars dar 'asre Moghul* [affecting factors on Persian Gulf trade in the era of the Mughal]²⁴ is an article written by Mohammad Ja'far Chamankār. In this study, the writer attempted to explore the positive and negative factors on the Persian Gulf trade during this specific period. In this context, the author considers the domination of the Kings of Hormuz on the northern and southern coasts of the Persian Gulf and their economic and administrative policies as a positive factor that affected the economic development of this region in the Middle Ages.

The analytical study on the commercial system of Muslims in Hormuz and discussing the different factors of its development can offer insight into the economic system of Islamic civilisation. Current studies on the Island of Hormuz are mostly general narrations about the history of Hormuz and does not concentrate on the causes of its growth and decay, particularly in the economic field.

What distinguishes this study from previous writings is that the researcher, unlike most of other writers in this area, grew up in what was once the dominion of the Hormuz dynasty. Therefore, he is familiar with the location, conditions,

²³ Kauz Ralph and Roderich Ptak, "Hormuz in Yuan and Ming sources," *Bulletin de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient*, 88 (2001): 27-75.

²⁴ Mohammad Ja'far Chamankār, "'awamil Athar Guzār bar Bāzargānī Khalīge Fārs dar 'asre Moghul," [affecting factors on Persian Gulf trade in the era of the Mughal] *Tārīkhe Rawābete Khāregī*, 24-25 (1384 H.SH).

environment, and opportunities for economic activities of the area which are not restricted to a given period. The researcher also inherited the culture and industry from Hormuz.

1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is a qualitative research which follows the analytical approach. In this study, information is extracted from the primary sources which are divided into two sections. First, books, travel literature and historical reports written by travellers and government officials between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries. Second, documents and official letters of Hormuz which are preserved in the National Archives of Portugal. To know the economic position of Hormuz and the reasons for its rise and fall, the researcher surveys the analyses and comments of contemporary writers in the secondary sources.