

## **Money, Mobility, and Citizenship in Coastal East Africa**

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This paper examines the history and politics of monetary circulation in the coastal East African cities, focusing largely on Dar es Salaam but also considering Mombasa and Zanzibar, from roughly 1920 to 1970s. It compares the role of formal lending institutions chartered in London with that of informal credit largely controlled by traders of Gujarati descent. The colonial legal categories of "native", "non-native", "British Subject", and "British Protected Persons" each had enormous significance in terms of differential material and political advantages enjoyed by debtors and creditors. A nationalist vision of citizenship in which money and mobility were severely restricted emerged in the 1950s, and became partially enacted over the 1960s and 1970s in Tanzania and, to a lesser extent, Kenya. The Indian Ocean provides both a metaphorical and literal context in which money and its owners moved to gain greater leverage and security over the "stationary bandits" of the colonial and post-colonial East African states. By examining institutional lending records, business history, and political history, this paper will demonstrate how citizenship became both a real resource as well as a contested category of belonging as historical actors vied to control the mobility of money and its owners.