

The Impact of Foreign Control on The Economic Factor in Southern Arabia Before Islam

Malouk Ghazi Musaheb Jadie, Dr. Hanan Issa Jassim

Department of History, College of Education for Girls, Tikrit University

Corresponding Author: Ameen M Mohammad, Email: muluk.Ghazi23@st.tu.edu.iq

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ABSTRACT

Yemen's geographical location, which connects East to West, helped the recovery of its economy. Agriculture was one of the most important factors that characterized the economy of southern Arabia before Islam, as a result of its fertile soil and the availability of water in it, including rainwater, dams and valleys. The agricultural crops varied with Tayeb and incense were the top of Yemeni goods, so they called it the "land of Tayoub". Yemen was also called "Green Yemen" because of its abundance of goods. The commercial factor also played an important role in raising the Yemeni economy as it served as a link between the countries of the old world. Various trade routes branched out, including land roads, as the incense road is one of the most famous roads that gained wide fame before Islam, as well as sea routes for the transport of commercial caravans. The industrial sector was equally important, with Yemeni workers excelling in diverse industries, the availability of raw materials in the country led to flourishing industries. All these factors contributed to the development of the economy, making it vulnerable to foreign ambitions. Several foreign powers, including the Romans, sought to acquire its wealth. Later, other external powers such as the Al-Ahbash, supported by the Byzantine Empire, and the Sassanid Empire extended their influence over Yemen's riches, ultimately affecting and leading to the demise of the Yemeni civilization. Economic factors were the main drivers of foreign control over southern Arabia.

1. Introduction

The Arab countries, especially the south of the Arabian Peninsula (Yemen), have been the focus of the greedy since ancient times, and have been the subject of several attempts at foreign control, due to their wealth and geographical location. The economic factor played an effective role in increasing foreign ambitions for Yemen's wealth.

Which There is no doubt that there are several factors that helped the economy in the south of the Arabian Peninsula to recover, including the agricultural, commercial and industrial factors. These factors had a clear impact on foreign intervention and their greed in this country. As a result of Yemen's distinguished location that links the East and the West, the Yemeni economy was also distinguished by its diversity, as the crops grown there were among the best crops that were in demand from all over the world, including frankincense and myrrh, which were as important as gold in our time, because they used to consume incense in abundance in their rituals in burying the dead and they lost huge sums of money in order to obtain it, which made them follow various methods to seize the wealth of Yemen and seize its trade routes, and they wanted to prevent the Yemenis from monopolizing trade.

The foreign powers that fought Yemen were many, including the Roman control, as the Romans tried in several ways to reach the land of Yemen and seize its resources, including the campaign of Aelius Gallius (24 BC), which ultimately failed, and other powers appeared, as Yemen in ancient times did not finish with foreign competition except that another competition came, as the Abyssinians were able to enter Yemen in the hope of Yemen's resources, and with the incitement of the Byzantine Empire, and then the Sassanids took control of Yemen, and the Yemeni people fought valiantly in order to expel these forces, which exhausted the country economically and culturally.

The location and its importance

Yemen is distinguished by an important geographical location that gave it a distinct history in the Arab countries before Islam, as it is located in the south of the Arabian Peninsula (Mahran, p.98; Al-Hasan, 1990: p90). Yemen occupies the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula and overlooks the Gulf of Aden from the south, which is considered an entrance to the Indian Ocean (Al-Ash'ab, 1982: p20-21). It extended along the Indian Ocean, bordered to the west by the Red Sea, and to the north by the Hijaz. Yemen was a commercial center in the middle

of global trade between the East and West and the North and South (Saleem, 1997: p28). Yemen's distinguished location helped its people to practice several professions that helped revive the economic situation in it, as it was famous for its frankincense trees ⁽¹⁾ (Al-Abdali, 2019: p. 316; Al-Omari, 2003: p16). Incense and perfume, as well as coffee trees (Moati, 2003: 193).

However, the borders of Yemen in ancient times were not fixed, but rather changed according to the change in political circumstances, as well as the weakness and strength in the political entity of the Yemeni states. The Sarawat Mountains penetrate it from the north to the south (Mahran, p97). It was also distinguished by the fertility of its land and the abundance of water, as geographical characteristics such as climate and terrain must have had a strong influence on the emergence of civilization, which led to Yemen becoming a prosperous agricultural country, as people settled there and built cities there since ancient times (Abdullah, 1985).

The reason for naming the south of the Arabian Peninsula as Yemen is due to several reasons, including what was mentioned by Al-Hamdani that it was called Green Yemen because of the abundance of its trees, fruits and crops (Ibid: p 90), as the reason for naming it with this name is due to the abundance of its goodness, trees and crops. Some say that the reason for naming it with this name is due to the fact that it is located to the right of the Kaaba, and also because the Arabs dispersed, so those of them who were on the right were called Yemen (Al-Hamawi, 1995). It was also mentioned in ancient texts by the name Yamanet and Yamant, meaning goodness and blessing, so it was called Green Yemen. The Himyarite poet Dhu Al-Kila' said about it:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| It is green, so ask about its hills | Our informants tell you for sure |
| And the dominant one rains it in time | Through him all the wilderness thirsts for us In |
| its mountains there is a mighty glory | People remain short of him (Al-Akwa, 1982: p32). |

In these verses, the poet talks about the good things of Yemen, describing it as green due to its many trees, its good things, and its abundant rains that quench every thirst. He also describes its mountains and the beauty they contain.

The ancient Greeks called it by another name, which is the land of happy Arabs (Arabia Felix) Because of the abundance of its agricultural crops and its bounties, this is due to the abundance

(1) Frankincense: a type of incense, a gummy substance with an aromatic scent that grows on the slopes of mountains in several areas of Yemen. It is the most famous type of incense in Yemen and is known in Persian as (Frankincense).

of seasonal rains that fall in Yemen, and they used to irrigate their high lands (Mr. Abdul Aziz Salem: p 104). Yemen was also known for the trade in perfumes, incense, fragrant oil, myrrh ⁽¹⁾ (Shihab, 1977: p198), camphor ⁽²⁾ (Ibn Manzur,1993), and wormwood ⁽³⁾ (Ibid, 1993).

The most important factors that helped revive economic activity In the south of the Arabian Peninsula

Agricultural factor

Agriculture in language: With the opening of the letter (ra') and the emphasis on the letter ra', planting love, planting it, planting, meaning seed, and the plural is zorroa and the crops are plants, everything is plowed (Ibid, 1993).

Agriculture technically: Is considered one of the almost essential factors in all parts of the world. Agriculture is based on three main factors: the presence of land suitable for agriculture, the availability of water needed to irrigate crops, and the availability of labor, as it is considered the basic resource on which people live in the Arabian Peninsula (Al-Naeem, 1992: P 94-98).

Agriculture is the basis of Yemen's wealth due to the availability of water in the Arabian Peninsula, and it is basis and the most important thing in its life, and a source of livelihood that people live on. Agriculture is found in fertile areas, where rain, springs, eyes, and groundwater are concentrated. The people of Yemen have

precedence over others in agriculture from the people of the Arabian Peninsula, as well as diversity.

The climate in southern Arabia led to the diversity of crops, methods of cultivation, the abundance of water, and the fertility of its soil (Ali, Jawad, 1993: p 24-26). It emerged in Yemen in a major way that man has known since the most ancient times (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 92), as its people worked in agriculture due to the fertility of its soil and the availability of materials that helped in its revival, as well as due to its suitable climate (Al-Ash'ab, 1982: p 136; Brou, 1996: p 91). Before Islam, Yemen witnessed a civilized stability in the field of agriculture since the first millennium BC, and the remains of their dams still bear witness to the civilization of the Arabian Peninsula. All this progress in agriculture would not have been achieved unless there was sufficient water to irrigate their crops, which occupied vast areas (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 95).

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- (1) Myrrh: It is a shrub with thorny branches and small, oval-shaped leaves. Myrrh is extracted from trees that do not grow more than six feet. Myrrh is one of the valuable commercial commodities in Yemen.
 - (2) Camphor: Camphor: a plant that has a flower like the flower of the chrysanthemum. It is a pleasant-smelling plant.
 - (3) Al-Wars: A type of yellow plant that grows in Yemen and is used in dyeing. It grows on the raft between summer and winter.

Yemen's waters are limited to the following:

1. Rainwater: Water is one of the most important elements of life, and the first pillar in human stability and the development of economic activity, the regions of the Arabian Peninsula differ in the amount of water present in them from one region to another, as well as with regard to rainwater, which is the main source of all water resources in the Arabian Peninsula, as a result of rainfall, running (surface) flood waters are formed, and rain is generally concentrated in the southern highlands (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 60). It is clear from this that the main source of water in Yemen is the rain that falls in the spring and summer seasons, and this water collects in the form of torrents in the valleys to become rivers (Al-Hamad, 2003: p 305). Also, the rainfall in the south of the Arabian Peninsula in the summer was the result of the monsoon winds, and the seasons of rain distribution in the Arabian Peninsula vary according to the distribution of general atmospheric pressure (Abu Al-Ala, 1966).

Rain is considered a symbol of goodness and blessing, as it symbolizes the water that falls from the sky (Abdullah, 1985). The word "Dathan" was mentioned in ancient inscriptions to mean light rain, and some believe that it comes after a period of intense heat. The word "Kharfan" was mentioned in another inscription and is interpreted as meaning the god of heavy rain in the fall. The ancient Yemenis used to offer offerings of thanks to their god, and some inscriptions mention that they offered offerings to the god (Athtar) and performed certain hymns and supplications. Likewise, the inhabitants of the Saba' Kahlan tribe thanked their god (Al-Maqah) because he gave them rain after a drought that lasted a year and a half (Jassim, 2012: p 26-28).

The most abundant regions of Yemen are the central plateau, and the rainfall rate decreases as we head east towards the Empty Quarter. In general, the rainfall rate in Yemen is greater than all the regions of the Arabian Peninsula (Al-Jarou, 1996: p 15). It is clear to us from the above that Yemen depended primarily on rainwater and the rainfall rate was high, which led to the presence of fertile soil suitable for agriculture. It also ranked first in terms of the abundance and frequency of its rainfall.

In order to store rainwater and benefit from it when needed, it was necessary to build dams. This step indicates the ingenuity, knowledge and development of the Arabs, despite its simplicity at first. When the rains fall heavily, dams are built and wells are also dug and water is collected in them to irrigate the cultivated lands during drought. The water of these resources is of great importance to the people of Yemen, as they relied on it to a great extent in agriculture. These valleys and dams still have an evident importance to this day. Among the most important of these valleys and dams are (Nasser, 2003: p 56-58):

1. Valley (Adhna) or (Dhanna)

It is called the eastern gutter of Yemen, as it is considered the greatest valley in the East. This valley has a great status for the Sabaeans, as they built their capital (Ma'rib) on it, and they also built on it (the Great Ma'rib Dam),

in which there are valleys and branches that extend from several regions. These waters flow towards the east at a distance estimated at (60-70) kilometers from Ma'rib. (Al-Maqhafi, 2003).

2. Al-Jawf Valley

Al-Jawf is a valley and a region northeast of Sana'a, 145 km away, "on the edges of the Empty Quarter and on the western and northern borders of Ma'rib Governorate." Al-Jawf is a region of flat plains surrounded by mountainous heights. The name Al-Jawf probably comes from an expression of the torrents that come from the northeastern mountains of Sana'a, as well as the high Khawlan and Hamdan mountains, and also the slopes of the Najran mountains. This region is one of the most fertile lands in terms of crops in Yemen, and many agricultural crops are grown there, such as citrus fruits, grains and fruits. The climate of this valley is characterized by dryness and high temperatures that reach 42 degrees in the summer (Al-Hamd, 1998: P 313).

There are many valleys in Yemen that are important in storing rainwater and using it when needed, and this indicates the prosperity of the Yemeni economy, especially in terms of agriculture. Hadhramaut Valley is one of the largest valleys in Yemen, as it is about (200) miles long and between three and ten miles wide, and it is the most suitable area in the Arabian Peninsula for settlement, and it was a deep valley in which several cities flourished (Ali, 2009). I previously talked about some valleys and their importance in Yemen, and I will talk about the famous Ma'rib Dam in terms of its importance, features and location.

3. Marib Dam (Aram Dam):

This dam is one of the great dams not only in Yemen but in all Arab countries and the most famous of them. It has been mentioned in many Arab news and in their poems (Al-Maqhafi, 2003). It was also mentioned in the Holy Quran, when God Almighty said " There was for [the tribe of] Saba' in their dwelling place a sign: two [fields of] gardens on the right and on the left. [They were told], "Eat from the provisions of your Lord and be grateful to Him. A good land [have you], and a forgiving Lord." (15) But they turned away [refusing], so We sent upon them the flood of the dam, and We replaced their two [fields of] gardens with gardens of bitter fruit, tamarisks and something of sparse lote trees (16)" (Surah Saba: Verse 15-16). The Ma'rib Dam was built in Wadi Adhanah, which lies between the mountains of Ablaq al-Qibli (right) and Ablaq al-Awsat (left), and several tributaries from Dhamar, Jahran, Khawlan, Bilad Murad, Radman, and others gather in it," as is clear to us in this text mentioned by Dr. Ali al-Mu'ti (1993: p 81). It is located on the Wadi Adhna valley, which was previously mentioned, and is distinguished by its location between the mountains, where the tributaries meet.

This dam was named after the city of Marib which is the capital of Saba, is many wonders, and the two heavens, about Yemeni. The dam and its left ⁽¹⁾ (al-Hamawi, 1995). They are today two great ones, and the meaning of two heavens is the bounties of Marib city and its crops, it was the dam it collects water from many places in Yemen. (Ibid, 1995)

The first to build this dam were the kings of Sheba, and the time of their construction of the dam dates back most likely to the beginning of the eighth century BC (Anan, 1996: p 124). It is a huge wall across the valley, and it was said that the dam was built for two purposes: the first purpose was to protect their areas from floods, as the floods would bring them more harm than good, and the flood would descend from the highlands and descend to the crops and destroy them. As for the second purpose, it was to conserve water, benefit from it, and distribute it according to the need for it to irrigate the fields adjacent to the city (Moati, 2003). The dam consists of three water outlets, two outlets to irrigate the farms on the south and north sides of the dam, as for the third outlet, it is "a safety valve and an outlet for the excess water if severe storms hit the area, to reduce the pressure on the dam" (Susa, 1977: p 227-228). In conclusion, it became clear to us that irrigation and dams are important in raising the economy of any country. They must be mentioned in any research related to the economy, as it is closely linked to agriculture. Also, the construction of dams and valleys in order to protect the country from dangers is a positive point and distinguishes it from the point of view of urbanization and engineering, especially the famous Ma'rib Dam, as it was the greatest engineering work in Yemen at that time, as it helped raise the level of the Yemeni economy and its prosperity.

The most important crops in Yemen before Islam

The people of Yemen were known for growing grains such as barley, corn, wheat, and others (Al-Naeem, 1992). The fertility of the soil and the regular distribution of irrigation in the south of the Arabian Peninsula helped in the presence of a number of agricultural crops and fruit trees (Al-Hamd, 1998: P 313).

I. Wheat is one of the types of grains in Yemen, as its name was mentioned in Al-Musnad and it was called (Baram). The people of Yemen have been interested in growing wheat for thousands of years, and this is due to the discovery of marble carved with the image _____

(1) Ma'rib: with a silent hamza, a kasra on the ra' and a unified ba', the name of the place al-arb, which means need, and it is the land of Azd in Yemen. It was said that it is the name of every king who ruled Saba.

of wheat spikes, and it was said that this piece is still present in the Marib Museum. It requires sufficient heat to germinate and needs light for its spikes and is planted in two stages in winter and summer (Al-Jarou, 1996). It was the basis of the food of the people of Yemen, and it was mentioned in the inscriptions that it was a basic food, and it is clear to us from this speech that grains in Yemen, and not only wheat, have reached a high level of production, and it was related to the formulas and directly in the rainy seasons (Ibid, 1996). There are many types of wheat, including a type called "al-Alas" ⁽¹⁾ (Ibn Manzur, 1993) .

II. Another crop that was grown in Yemen, which is very important, is vines (grapes). There are many places to grow it, where there is water and a climate suitable for its cultivation. Yemen is at the forefront of the countries where grapes are abundant. It was said that it was mentioned in Al-Musnad that the people of Yemen used to reap huge profits from grapes. One of the types of grapes is (Al-Jarshi), which is attributed to Jarash Mukhallaf in Yemen. It is said that it is the best grape, white to green in color, and has small seeds. There are several types of vines (grapes) (Ali, 1993 : p 43).

III. Palm trees occupy a distinguished position in terms of the importance of food products. Yemen has been famous since ancient times for dates, which have a high nutritional value. It was mentioned in the inscriptions that they are concentrated in the Hadhramaut region and other regions and require special soil for cultivation and special care from the farmer (Al-Jarou, 1996: p 29).

IV. There are many types of agricultural crops, including frankincense, myrrh and aloe vera, which are used in the production of incense. Incense is one of the most famous materials in Yemen because of its great importance and demand from all over the world. Yemen is known in ancient times as an area rich in perfumes and spices. Incense has a special importance in religious life, as it is used in temples and they used to burn it for the gods. The king himself supervised its trade (Ibid, p 29). It is clear to us from the above that Yemen has countless blessings. Among the agricultural crops, this is what distinguishes it from all other regions, and the reason for this is the abundance of fresh water, the fertility of its lands, and the ingenuity of the Yemeni people in the way of investing in the lands suitable for agriculture. The presence of these materials mentioned above is not limited to the presence of many other crops that we did not mention, including figs, pomegranates, walnuts, and others.

(1) Al-Alas: It is a type of wheat made of two grains. It is found in the regions of Yemen. It is said that it is the food of the people of Sana'a, and it is said that it is lentils

The commercial factor

Trade in Language: It is buying and selling, trading, commerce, selling, buying, and trading, and the Arabs call the seller of wine a merchant (Ibn Manzur, 1993).

Trade technically: It means increasing money by buying goods at low prices and selling them at high prices. This thing is called profit, meaning it means buying and selling goods (Ibn Khaldun, 1998).

Trade is considered one of the most important professions that had a distinguished position among the Arabs before Islam, especially among the inhabitants of southern Arabia (Yemen). It was practiced by the clergy, the chieftains, and the kings of Yemen (Al-Hamad, 2003). It was economic life in southern Arabia, the people based on international trade, as it becomes clear to us. The importance of Arab perfumes for all other countries that lack their presence, and Yemen occupied the main center for the exchange of goods "and was the Indian Ocean port for trade with the Red Sea" as well as for the Sabians who established trade conditions on the coasts of India and Somalia, and were able to monopolize the trade of goods such as gold and incense (Susa, 1977: p 219).

Yemenis monopolize the land and sea freight trade, they have a transportation network for transporting goods so the caravans initially set off from the main ports, which are (Aden) ⁽¹⁾ (Al-Maqhafim, 2003) and the port of

(Mozaa) (Ibid, 2003), as a result to contact their country with the countries of the ancient world, the Yemenis were active mediators, transferring the goods from India, the East Indies and China to the East Coast of Africa to Egypt and Assyria and countries all over the world East. There are some bays on the southern coast, which helped the Yemenis make them suitable ports to dock (Moscati, 1986: p 97). Also, Yemen before Islam was famous in the field of trade, and this resulted from the availability of primary components and resources in abundance, especially the trade of incense, as it is considered one of the oldest and most important commercial commodities, because incense was required by the ruling clergy, as they used it in their temples and religious rituals (Bro, 1996).

As for what Related in Ma'in those whose country controlled the only passage through a narrow road, were the first to start for Trade and they still practice it more than others. Even a type of

(1) Aden: with the opening of the 'ayn and the dāl, it is one of the cities of Yemen located east of Bab al-Mandab. It is important due to its strategic location overlooking the Red Sea. It was an ancient city since ancient times and was considered a commercial center between the East and the West on the sea route between India and Egypt and the trade caravan route between Yemen and the Levant.

(2) Mozaa: with a fatha followed by a sukoon followed by a fatha. It was named after Muzawi bin Al-Qafa'a. The city of Muzawi enjoys fertile soil, and it is an ancient city that is a point of contact between the ports of Yemen.

incense is known as Ma'ini after them (Al-Hamd, 1978: p 222-430). The same applies to the inhabitants of the State of Saba, as they excelled in trade due to its geographical location at the crossroads. The people of Sheba were the ones who conquered for In the South Sea, their knowledge of the courses and bends of its coasts and harbors and its dangerous seasonal winds (the poisons) gave them a monopoly on trade in the thirteenth century BC. The islands that Nei Rex, One of Alexander's generals It is theoretically possible, but it has become a reality for them.

The main trade route of the Red Sea was extends from Bab al-Mandab to the valley Al-Hamamaat ⁽¹⁾ (Mahmoud, 2021: p 41) located on the coast of central Egypt and it was forced Sheba, because Pests which destroyed navigation in the northern parts of this sea, to open a land line between Yemen and the Levant, bordering the western coast of the peninsula and leading to Mecca and Petra, and from there extending to Egypt, the Levant and Mesopotamia (Hitti, 1949). Treasure the Sabena's great wealth via the spice trade, which was reflected in their industry, art, social life and the wonderful artifacts that adorned their palaces, which were proudly decorated. Pliny also confirmed the most famous of these features that distinguished southern Arabia (Yemen), and considered Sabena One of the Arab tribes exported frankincense and incense (Abdul Aziz: p 107). It is noted that the trade movement nourished the Arab mind and made it look at the experiences of neighboring countries; and respond to their civilizational data. Naturally, Yemen has activated its trade and monopolized the trade in some goods (Al-Shammari, 2014: p 362).

As for the Qataban state, it played a major role in the prosperity of the economy of southern Arabia (Yemen) to name that trade played an important role in the prosperity achieved by the Qtbanyon, this is largely because their country was located in the middle of the rest of the country, with Hadhramaut to the east, Mayeen to the North, and Saba to the west, then they controlled the southern region overlooking the sea. For trade, the Qatabanians build roads and naturally laws, they concentrated their trade in a place called (Shammar)⁽²⁾ (Taiman, 2018: p29-30), where buying and selling took place. They collected taxes from the trade caravans, and stipulated that the merchants should be from the sons of Qataban itself, and they imposed taxes on non-Qatabanians. (Bafaqih: p 36-37)

(1) Valley al-Hamamat: It is one of the valleys of Egypt, and it was a passage for commercial caravans in the Roman era.

(2) Shammar: It is a commercial market that is one of the most important markets in ancient times, which gained a high position among the Arabs before Islam. It is located in the city of Tamna, the capital of the Kingdom of Qataban. This market is considered one of the most important factors that helped in the development of cities, as commercial exchange of goods took place there. It had a large area that included a huge number of commercial caravans.

The importance of the Hadhramaut Kingdom in ancient times was due to its unique geographical location, which made it an active trading point since the second millennium BC. Camel caravans were used in trade with neighboring regions, and its capital, Shabwa, was one of the most important trading centers for frankincense. In Shabwa, frankincense crops from all the production areas located east of the Hadhramaut Valley are gathered (Al-Naeem, 1992: p 212; Bafaqih: p 42-175). The King of Hadhramaut was called the King of Perfume or Incense, whose influence extended, his influence extended to Socotra Island⁽¹⁾ (Al-Hamawi, 1995), and the port of Qena, the city of Qena was the port from which incense, perfumes and frankincense came, and the city of Shabwa was a passage for the incense trade route (Abdul Hamid, 1976: p 186-187), but trade in Yemen was not as it was as in northern Arabia, trade in Yemen is more than just transit and depends on the survival of trade routes, which can be disrupted if there are any changes or modifications to the routes of these routes. It is a real trade, most of whose components or primary resources are actually located in the country. Its location at the intersection of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean gives it a double advantage in the field of routes. Trade. Land and sea routes pass through it, and if the power of one of them increases at the expense of the other, this does not diminish the importance of Yemen's trade, as Yemen will continue to benefit from it no matter what. (Yahya, p 355)

Trade routes in southern Arabia

The Arabs were since ancient times they work in the field of trade and are distinguished by their skill in this field due to the strategic location of their island on global trade routes especially the incense route extending from Yemen to Countries Mesopotamia, the Levant, and the Nile Valley, in addition to the Silk Road that comes from East Asia and passes through northern Mesopotamia and the Levant (Amin, 1933: p 21-22). Commercial terms were mentioned in the archaeological inscriptions related to buying and selling, including the regulation of taxes ⁽²⁾ (Ibn Manzur, 1894) on goods sold in the markets. The most important of these methods in southern Arabia are:

1- Land routes: It was Yemen certified on the trade of aromatic materials and lost imported from East Asia and Africa. And It's engaged roads a close connection between these two sources extends from Frankincense and myrrh production areas closely, so they ended up in centers for storing and preparing these materials for export outside the island. As for the imported goods, they arrived via the land routes in the south of the Arabian

(1) Socotra: It is a large island with several villages and cities. Anyone going to the Zanj lands passes through it. Most of its inhabitants were Arab Christians. It is adjacent to the coasts of Yemen and Socotra aloes are attributed to it.

(2) Excise: taxes, taxes, he taxes him, and taxes are dirhams that were taken from the seller of goods in the pre-Islamic markets.

Peninsula, so it formed an interconnected, interconnected network that converged on one main road heading north (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 212). The Shabwa region was also one of the most important centres where the frankincense crop was gathered from all the regions located to the east of it, and it was considered a commercial centre for the myrrh commodity, where the crops located to the south of it gathered (Ibid, p212). The most important of these roads are:

I. Dhofar and Qena Road: This road extends from Dhofar, the main frankincense production area, to the port of Qena. It is carried out in two directions: the first is by land, which is rugged and difficult for heavy caravans to cross, except rarely. The second direction is by sea, which is easy, as frankincense is shipped by boat until it reaches the port of Qena (Al-Jarou, 2003). The port of Qena is an important commercial center for exporting frankincense, which is grown in the highlands of Hadhramaut and was transported to the port on camels. This port flourished since the beginning of the first century AD, and the port of Qena was one of the most important main roads in the Kingdom of Hadhramaut (Ibid: p 244).

II. Qena and Shabwa Road: There are many roads that connect Qena on the Arabian Sea coast with Shabwa. One of these roads extends from Wadi Mayfa'a, passing through the city of Mayfa'a, the capital of Hadhramaut, then continues on to the northern side of the Al-Joul Heights towards Shabwa. This road is considered one of the most important roads suitable for exploring trade caravans, as a result of its passage through fertile lands and the availability of water (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 213). This road is considered one of the safest roads because it is

under the control of the Kings of Hadhramaut, who took great care of it and maintained and constructed the roads (Al-Jarou, 2003: p 24).

III. The Shabwa and Najran Road: There were many roads extending from the city of Shabwa to Najran, and the changing political conditions of the region imposed this multiplicity in roads. During the period in which the relationship was friendly between the Hadhramaut and Qataban Kingdoms, the commercial caravans would travel from Tamna to Marib until they reached Najran, and from Shabwa to the south of the Najran Valley. Najran was one of the most important commercial centers that extended on the commercial transportation routes through which these caravans traveled to the Levant (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 214; Ali, 1993: p 221). This road passes through the Dawasir Valley⁽¹⁾ (Al-Bakr, 1993: p 214). The merchants preferred to travel in another direction, even if the distance was long for them, due to the availability of water and the small

(1) Al-Dawasir Valley: It is one of the great valleys in Najd, touching the edges of the Empty Quarter, which is about fifty miles southeast of As-Sulayyil.

amount of sand there, which was more suitable for them for the travel of commercial caravans (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 214).

IV. The Shabwa and Jarha Road: It is the road through which you reach the cities of the Arabian Gulf, especially the commercial areas (Jarha). The caravans travel an eastern road until they reach the valley of Mesopotamia, and their crossing of the road takes approximately forty days. There is another road, which is the sea road, which runs parallel to the coast until the entrance of the Euphrates River, where the process of packing the goods into river ships takes place. (Al-Jarou, 2003: p 26)

2. Maritime routes: Maritime navigation has flourished in Yemen for a long time, due to the abundance of important ports in it, and they are considered primary centers for import and export, as goods and commodities are transported and reach them by land and sea (Ibid: p 26). The activity of the Arabs has expanded since ancient times in their maritime activity, especially in the waters surrounding their country. Also, many commercial cities and seaports began to appear on their coasts since the beginning of the third millennium BC (Bafaqih: p 175).

3. The maritime navigation lines that the Arabs followed for trade in the water bodies in the Arab countries from ancient times, and it is surrounded on the west by the Red Sea, on the east by the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and on the south by the Arabian Sea.

4. The people of Yemen used large boats to export their goods and used leather boats to bring aromatic materials from the African coast (Ziyada, 1975: p 71-89). There are a number of ports in ancient Yemen, including the port of Aden, which is located on the coast of the city of Aden in the southwestern side of Yemen, in a distinguished location on the global navigation route, and is considered one of the first ports on the way of ships coming from the Red Sea after crossing the Bab al-Mandab Strait. It was also the first port on the way of ships entering the Red Sea. This port flourished since the second century BC (Abu Al-Ala, 1996; Al-Naim . 2000). Also, the port of Muza, known as Moza, is located on the eastern coast of the Red Sea. It was established during the time of the Awsan Kingdom and has maintained its commercial activity throughout the ages. It is considered one of the most important commercial ports on the Red Sea coast and is the most crowded port, as it exports by way of marsh and some other goods (Antar, 2013: p 68-69). There are other ports, including the port of Mocha, which is located north of Muza. This port was the preferred port for the docking of Greco-Roman ships and is more like a crowded market with ship owners and sailors (Al-Hamad, 2003: p 461). The port of Qena, which is located on the southern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, is distinguished by its fame in the ancient world and is the main port of the Hadhramaut Kingdom, and it continues trade with India, East Asia and Africa, since ancient times this port has received the most important goods from land and sea that are carried across the Mediterranean Sea (Al-Jarou, 2003: P 73; Shihab, 1977: p 244) and it is called (Al-Gharab fortress)⁽¹⁾ (Ibid, p 251).

Animals played a prominent role in the field of transporting goods and merchandise, which is a branch of land trade. Camels are one of the most important means of transportation that transported goods through the trade of southern Arabia including frankincense and myrrh to the commercial markets and ports of the eastern Mediterranean, where Yemen witnessed great economic wealth in the shadow of Domesticating camels and the huge profits they generate through transporting goods. (Baalian, 2012: p 45)

Al-Omari also emphasized the importance of the camel's position in transporting goods in happy Yemen. He mentioned that these were places where camels were tamed and used to transport goods and luggage in trade caravans to other regions. (2003: p 26)

The industrial and mining factor

Industry in language: He made it, he made it, he made it, he made something, he made it, meaning he did it, so the industry is the craft of the maker and his work is the craft, and the plural is craftsmen, made. (Ibn Manzur, 1993: p 208-209)

Industry technically: It is an activity for everything that a person needs in the rest of life, such as tools, machines, and clothing. It ranges from simple primitive industries in Bedouin societies, as they exploited the materials available in their environment and from their animals what was compatible with their livelihood, to advanced industries with the utmost precision and mastery in civilized cities. (Al-Hamad, 2003: p 461)

Yemen is an industrial country since ancient times and its products surpassed all other countries, as it was famous for the manufacture of copper, gold and silver utensils and the manufacture of some weapons such as swords and daggers. The people of Yemen were also famous for the manufacture of statues of various types and played a prominent role in the field of manufacturing brocades and aprons embroidered with gold and types of fabrics such as silk and wool. The Yemenis excelled in the manufacture of jewelry from gold and silver. (Annan, 1996: p 101)

Raw materials: Industry is closely linked to agriculture, as industry provides tools for agriculture; and agriculture also provides industry with raw materials that are of utmost importance.

(1) Al-Gharab Fort: It was named after one of the Himyarite tribes that inhabited it. In that place, and the location of this fort is on a huge, very rugged rock on an island on the road to Qena.

The development of industry and its work indicates the progress of the countries that work in this great profession. Yemen is a country full of agricultural goods and products, and the people of southern Arabia tried to benefit from these goods and develop them in the field of agriculture and mining. One of the most important reasons that led to the revival of industry is the increasing demand for industrial goods (Moati, 2003: p 141). There are also many minerals in this region, including iron, gold, copper, silver, emerald, lead, and stones (Ibid, p 141). Yemen was at the forefront of the Arabian Peninsula in the field of industry; it occupied the first place in terms of production.

The Yemeni industry was not limited to a specific product, but rather it emerged in all its types in the days of the Arabs before Islam (Ali, 1993: p 512). The meaning of the concept of industry indicates everything that an individual needs in his livelihood, from tools, machines, and clothing. Industry moved from primitive industries that depended on the Arabs in their desert exploiting their animals in manufacturing what suited their daily lives to an advanced industry distinguished by precision and mastery that appeared in stable societies in cities (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 214).

Many industries were famous in Yemen, including textile industries that were carried out in places dedicated to spinning and weaving, whether in a royal or private house in the regions of Madhhij, Hadhramaut, the central regions, and Ma'afir. This industry includes clothing and fabrics that the ancient people of Yemen excelled in during that period, as in the field of textile industry it surpassed its counterparts, the Byzantine and Sassanid states, including the Socotri shawls, and they also wove the cloth for the covering of the Holy Kaaba, the weaving of brocades, carpets, furnishings, and ship sails (Antar, 2013: p 63). Yemen excelled in weaving colorful clothes and garments, including the "khal" which is a soft garment and a kind of brod. Aden was also distinguished by the manufacture of brods (an open-fronted garment worn over clothes), weaving was not limited to clothes, as there are many things that go into the weaving industry, including rugs, covers, tents, and many others. (Moati, 2003: p 160-162)

It was also famous for the manufacture of metals and precious stones, especially since archaeologists who found in some sites mining and conversion of metals from raw metal materials to manufactured metals, such as the gold smiting industry, which is the manufacture of jewelry such as crowns, necklaces, earrings, and gold and silver rings. There is no doubt that the factor that pushed this industry to creativity and sophistication is the

availability of gold and silver in some areas of Yemen, as well as the skill of the Yemeni goldsmith in this field. The Sabaeans were famous for obtaining gold that was in the form of blocks or balls (Al-Hamd, 1998: p 407-408), and the manufacture of precious stones, whose types and shapes varied, and the most important of them is agate, which Yemen produced, and Yemeni agate occupied great fame in all countries and has several colors such as blue, white, and yellow. (Al-Hamdani, 1978: p 377)

There are other diverse industries such as the perfume and incense industry. Aden was one of the most important regions in the incense industry, as traders from all over the world, from India, Sindh, the Sassanids and the Romans, would come to it in order to obtain its incense. The types of incense varied, and the most expensive and best incense were those made of oil; ambergris, musk, civet and frankincense. Some medicines were also made from myrrh and added to wines to give them a fragrant smell (Moati, 2003: p 169). Wood industries occupied an important position in Yemen, as wood was called (Ezz), and the carpentry craft was included in the field of industry and this craft appeared since ancient times, wood was also used in shipbuilding (Al-Hamd, 1998: p 415-416), and Yemen contained many trees that were used in wood industries and were included in building houses such as home furniture and doors, and the Arabs also imported the finest types of wood from China in addition to local wood, and teak wood is considered one of the finest types of wood in the manufacture of ships and boats (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 184; Moati, 2003: p 174), as for the food industries, they varied from the manufacture of wines and fruit juices and meat preservation, dairy products and gum arabic (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 176-179). Also regarding the weapons industry, Yemen was famous for the manufacture of the finest types of weapons, as the Arabs were keen to acquire them, and weapons were divided into two types: the first type is offensive weapons represented by the sword, stick, spear and bow, and defensive weapons including the helmet (which is a cover to protect the head) the helmet and the shield (Jassim, 2013: p 191).

Yemen has enjoyed a great reputation in the field of arms manufacturing, which continued for a long period of time, as shields were made from pieces of iron and lined with leather, as well as swords that were made from the iron of Mount Nuqum. (Al-Naeem, 2000: p 174; Al-Hamdani, 1978: p 154)

The impact of foreign control on the economy of southern Arabia

Many foreign powers have invaded Yemen, including the Roman campaign on southern Arabia (Yemen), which took place in (24 BC) (Hamdan, 2017: p 278-279). The real motive behind this is that the Roman leader (Augustus) was able to annex Egypt in (30 BC) to the Roman Empire and took control of the Red Sea coasts. Therefore, he wanted to subjugate the Yemenis and seize their ports. They could not do this without controlling the roads, because Yemen was a crossroads between the continents. They wanted to monopolize their wealth and precious goods at that time, such as (frankincense and myrrh), which were sacred to the Romans and cost them huge sums of money. Therefore, it formed a line of defense against their Sassanid enemies (Bowers, 2008: p 236-237). This campaign was led by the Roman leader in Egypt (Aelius Gallius), who prepared an army of about ten thousand fighters, the purpose of which was to try to control the transportation routes (Hitti, 1949). This campaign set off from the port of (Cleopatra) on the Gulf of Suez (Jassim, 2013: p 332). The campaign reached Najran and some events took place there, but the campaign ultimately failed and was confronted by the Yemenis. However, this campaign affected the economy of Yemen and learned about its trade routes and tried to establish friendly relations for the sake of its economic interests, as it abolished the Arab monopoly on trade (Al- Jarou, 1996: p 198-202). (Strabon) pointed to a significant increase in the volume of Roman Egypt's trade with the East, including the Arabs, after the number of ships did not exceed twenty ships before the arrival of the Romans. This indicates that the Romans gained from the Arab economy and learned from the Arabs' experiences in trade and learned from them. There was a boom in their trade and they began to manage the naval fleet on the eastern route to India (Hamdan, 1978: p 296). Many of them wrote about Yemen, its trade and its kingdoms. Although the Greeks never occupied the southern Arabs, they controlled some of the ports of Yemen, including Aden, which came under the control of Roman trade (Fakhri, 1957: p 70). It is clear to us from the above that even if the Romans did not achieve a military victory, they influenced the economy of Yemen and knew the secrets of its trade and profits from foreign trade and controlled some of its sea routes towards the eastern route to India and transferred its profits to it.

The Romans sought long ago to lay their hands on the land of Yemen, as they wanted to seize frankincense in particular and the wealth of the south of the peninsula in general, and from this came their attempt to occupy Yemen (Bafaqih, p82), and in the fourth century AD (340 AD) the Abyssinians succeeded in controlling Yemen for the first time, and their most important motive was the economic factor for the purpose of fighting the Himyarite state, and preventing them from attacking their commercial caravans (Al-Sayyid, 2013: p 120). They

also exploited the conflicts and seditions at that time between Saba and Himyar and the disintegration that occurred between them. This conflict ended in the year (370 AD) when the Himyarite kings defeated them. “the motive behind this conflict was to secure the maritime trade route between India and the Mediterranean via the Red Sea.” It is worth mentioning that the Romans and Abyssinians were always behind this conflict for their economic interests (Jassim, 2019: p 126). Byzantine Empire tried to go to the direction of the Red Sea basin through control of trade routes to Yemen, and cooperated with Abyssinia to break the monopoly the State Sassanian silk trade in China; therefore, Byzantium sent many missions to Himyaritic and the Ethiopians, which continued until the sixth century AD. (Begulovskaya, 1964: p 199-202)

The second Abyssinian occupation of Yemen (525-575 AD) represented in the sixth century AD, when the Negus of Abyssinia, Caleb (Ala Asbaha)⁽¹⁾ as mentioned by Ali (1993) was able with the help of Byzantium during the reign of Emperor Justinian, and it is worth mentioning that Byzantium sought to seek help from Abyssinia in order to establish its authority in the Arab countries, and Al-Tabari narrates that the factor that prompted them was what happened in the _____

(1) Kaleb Al-Subha: He is the king of Abyssinia who is called the Negus of Abyssinia, and (Al-Subha) means “one who has”, while Subha is the name of his ancestors or the tribe from which he descended.

days of the Himyarite King Dhu Nuwas (Yusuf Asar) and his persecution of Christians in Yemen, and the religion of Abyssinia was Christianity, the same religion that Byzantium followed, and they took religion as a pretext to enter Yemen under the pretext of defending them, but the main factor was the economic factor, so they fought Yemen and the Negus prepared (70 thousand) from the army and appointed two leaders over them, (Abraha Al-Ashram)⁽¹⁾ (Al-Tabari: p 127-128) and (Aryat)⁽³⁾ (Ibn Kathir: p 169), and the fighting took place between them and ended with the death of Dhu Nuwas, it is said that he could not bear them, he threw himself and his horse into the sea. This matter affected the economy of Yemen, because it is natural in every fight between two parties that there must be losses on the battlefield, including the retreat of the people and their preoccupation with agriculture and lack of interest in industries and trade due to the hardship they were going through, as the Abyssinians and Byzantines entered Yemen under the pretext of religious motives, but it becomes clear to us that they had economic ambitions and interests that were not only religious, but the Abyssinian occupation led to the weakening of the Himyarites after the glory they were in from unparalleled fortresses and palaces; Aryat destroyed them, including the palace of (Salhin and Ghamdan), this matter led to the decline and dissolution of such a great civilization (Yemen). (Al-Himyari, 1978: p 149)

However, one of the Himyarite kings, called (Saif bin Dhi Yazan), went to the Sassanid Persians asking for their help in confronting the Abyssinians. He met Khosrow (Anushirvan) and sent with him a military force and some ships (Abaza, 1978: p 84-85). It is worth mentioning that this force sent by the Sassanids was of a limited number and participated with the Yemeni tribes in defending their land and stood against the Abyssinians and was able to expel them around the year (575 AD). After the expulsion of the Abyssinians, the way was opened for another foreign occupation in Yemen. (Hatii, 1949)

Thus, the Yemeni civilization collapsed. The weakness of the state and the lack of central stability were one of the most important factors in the collapse of the Yemeni civilization, as a result of its preoccupation with maintaining dams and irrigation canals and stopping production, and the state's preoccupation with wars and neglect of the lands. Several matters were combined during the period between the fourth and seventh centuries AD, which gradually led to the decline of the ancient Yemeni civilization. The first of these reasons is the economic situation, as a result of Yemen losing its position. There is no doubt that Yemen's loss of trade routes as a result of the occupation cut off its source of wealth, and its sources of livelihood became scarce and nonexistent. The Yemeni individual had no choice but to search for a source of livelihood externally (Al-Shaiba, 2009: p 35-38). The Yemeni countries were primarily agricultural countries, and due to the neglect of irrigation projects, which led to the destruction and deterioration of agricultural lands (Al-Naeem, 2003: p 278-279). The collapse of Yemeni civilization is often attributed to the cracking of the Ma'rib Dam (Al-Sail Al-Arim)⁽¹⁾ (Abdullah, 1985: p 90; Annan, 1996: p 93).

The consequences and effects of the collapse of the Ma'rib Dam (the Great Flood) included: The destruction of the Ma'rib Dam had a great impact and resulted in the dispersal of the Himyarite state. The Great Flood incident had an impact on the migration of the Arab Azd tribes to other Arab countries, the Levant and Mesopotamia, as the Ghassanids migrated to the Levant, and the Lakhmids to Mesopotamia, and the state moved from Ma'rib to Dhofar. Another result of the Great Flood was the loss of Yemen's agricultural greatness and the abundance of

its exports abroad (Ibid, 1996).

(1) Al-Sail Al-Arim: The collapse of the Ma'rib Dam is called Al-Sail Al-Arim, and Al-Arim, which is mentioned in the Holy Quran, is the dam that means barrier, and in ancient Yemeni inscriptions, the word Al-Arim is used for the Ma'rib Dam. The Ma'rib Dam cracked many times and was repaired, and Al-Arim was leaning against the wall, and the reason for the cracking of the dam was the result of the pressure of sediments in the belly of the dam, and the cracking of the dam occurred after the year 542 and before the year 570 AD.

2. Conclusion

At the end of the research, I have reached several results, including:

1. Arabs were victims of wars and conflicts, and with foreign intervention, they suffered a lot from that bitter conflict.
2. Foreign control over southern Arabia aims to seize strategic areas, and the same important location and obtaining privileges from the lands of Yemen.
3. The economy of ancient Yemen was affected by the political events and conflicts that were taking place, as the people's preoccupation with wars led to the neglect of agricultural lands and the maintenance of dams, which in turn led to a decline in the Yemeni economy.
4. Since ancient times, the Romans have sought to acquire Yemen's wealth, particularly frankincense.
5. These conflicts led to a lack of livelihood and scarcity of provisions, and the Yemeni people had no choice but to search for a new homeland to settle in, which led to the migration of Yemeni tribes to other Arab countries, including the migration of the Azd tribes to the Levant and the Tigris and Euphrates Valley.
6. Yemen was subjected to several foreign interventions, including Roman control and then Abyssinian control for some time. The main motive for Abyssinian intervention in Yemen was the economic factor because Yemen monopolized the trade routes between them and Abyssinia. After that, a new foreign control appeared, represented by Sassanian control.
7. These interventions in Yemen caused a state of chaos and disintegration that led to the decline and end of its ancient civilization.

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