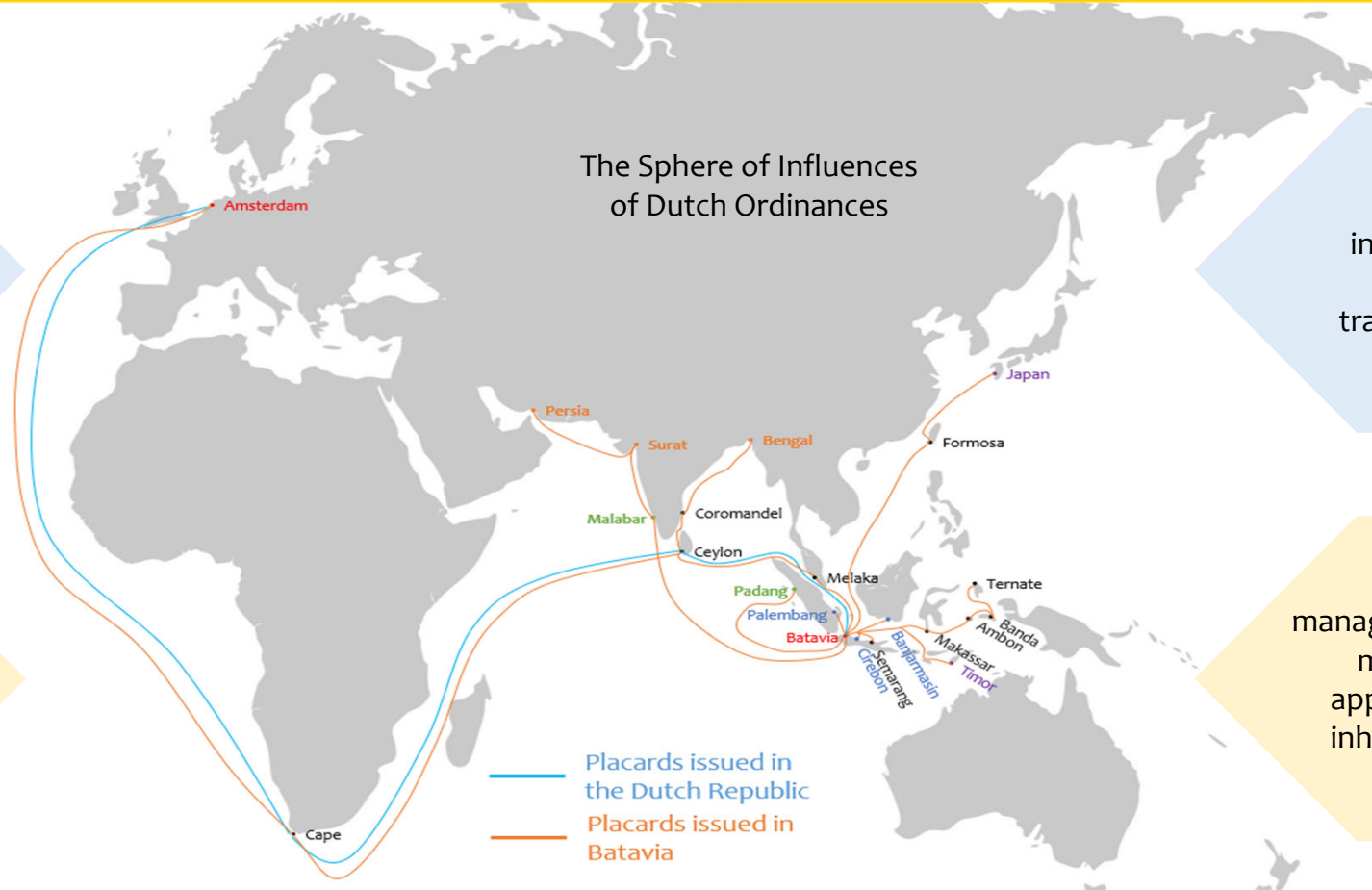


Early Modern Ordinances in the Dutch Republic and Dutch East India Company's territories

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Placards/ ordinances were precursors of administrative legislation, covering a wide array of topics.

This genre was introduced to Asia by the European trading companies.

The texts applied to *all* inhabitants, without regard of birth and wealth. Gradually replacing the initial feudal hierarchy.

Initially, it was implemented to manage the Company's men; but later also applied to the native inhabitants and local communities in Dutch Asia.

Ordinances in the Dutch Republic

Ordinances within Europe/ the Republic addressed topics ranging from social order, public order, infrastructure, education/ health and economic affairs. A current inventory of the rules in Holland and Gelderland—linking these to the German categorization—could be linked to the Asian Ordinances to provide insights into the overseas exchange of the norms.

Ordinances in the Dutch Asia

Initial study of the placards issued in Asia by the Dutch East India Company shows that the implementation was globalized, meaning that the ordinances were issued to respond to the local environments, were negotiated with the local communities, and were issued in local languages.