

Publication

Interweaving threads of credit and debt: Trading (through) textiles in colonial Dar es Salaam

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 3848003

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Year 2018

Title Interweaving threads of credit and debt: Trading (through) textiles in colonial Dar es Salaam

Journal Business history

Volume 60

Number 4

Pages / Article-Number 474-491

Keywords History, Africa, East Africa, Dar es Salaam, economy, business, credit, debt, twentieth century, entrepreneurship

Tracing the modus operandi of textile traders in colonial Dar es Salaam, this article makes a case for viewing the availability and extension of credit in the form of textiles as a central aspect of traders' lives. The versatility of textiles in the local context of Dar es Salaam not only contributed to their high demand, their use as the main medium of exchange and the basis on which credit was extended; it also shaped the local conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. For textile traders in colonial Dar es Salaam, it was of economic, social and cultural importance to always be both in debt and have others in debt to them.

Publisher Routledge

ISSN/ISBN 0007-6791 ; 1743-7938

URL <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00076791.2017.1325466>

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/56463/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1080/00076791.2017.1325466

ISI-Number WOS:000428291500003

Document type (ISI) Article