



The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea; Travel and Trade in the Indian Ocean

Wilfred Harvey Schoff

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1912 edition. Excerpt: ...Saka, fleeing before the Yueh-chi. They settled in the Cabul valley, Seistan (Sakastenej, and the lower Indus. By about 120 B. C. their leader Manes had established a kingdom at Cabul, subject to Parthia; his line was known as the 'Indo-Parthian,' but his race was, roughly speaking, Scythian." Gradually the Yueh-chi pursued the Saka, first conquering Greek Bactria (they are referred to in this text, § 47, as the "very warlike nation of the Bactrians," living in the interior). Their king, Kadphises I, conquered Cashmere and the upper Indus; his son, Kadphises II, who acceded about 85 A. D., after a disastrous defeat at Kuche by the pursuer of the Yueh-chi, the Chinese conquering general Pan-Chao--about 90 A. D.--directed his armies southward and rapidly overran the Panjab and the lower Indus, and then reached the upper Ganges and interior points like Indore. Both races were called by the Sanscrit Min" or Scyths; the Periplus shows the Indo-Parthians ruling in the metropolis of Scythia," then at the apex of the Indus delta; showing their power v in the Kabul valley to have been broken already by the Yueh-chi or "Kushan" dynasty, but their subsequent complete conquest by the Yueh-chi had not yet been consummated. The political conditions described in the Periplus were probably those that followed the death of Gondophares, the last powerful IndoParthian ruler in the Panjab. This is supposed to have occurred about 51 A. D. After some years of anarchy and civil war, the Saka power was again consolidated under two lines of rulers; the "Northern Satraps" from the Indus to the Jumna, and the "Western Satraps" in Kathiawar, Gujarat and Malwa. Both these dynasties were at first tributary, and later subject to the Kushan power. More distant...

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