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**Topic of Research: Trade, Traders and Trading Communities in Rajasthan, 18th and 19th
Centuries**

Keywords: Trade, trading communities, western Rajasthan, business, commodities.

Findings

The thesis on trade and traders in western Rajasthan during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries yields several key findings. Firstly, it highlights the significance of the region's geographical and ecological features in shaping its history, including the impact on the temperament and migration patterns of its people. It effectively locates western Rajasthan within the broader context of global history and geography. The study delves into the dynamics of trade in the region, including the commodities traded, trade routes, and trading instruments. It emphasizes the role of successful entrepreneurs like Seth Mirzamal Poddar in expanding their business empires across the Indian subcontinent during this period.

Another crucial finding pertains to the social composition of trading communities. The thesis elucidates the definition of a Marwari trader and explores the relationships between different trading groups, shedding light on the financial networks and transactions that emerged. Furthermore, the study uncovers the pivotal role of itinerant trading groups in facilitating trade and transportation, especially before the advent of modern communication systems. These groups played a crucial role in the economy and were highly sought after by both Rajput polities and traditional trading communities.

The thesis also delves into the intricate relationship between the state and trading communities, highlighting how the state's assistance and incentives fuelled the activities of merchants and influenced the agrarian policy. Lastly, the thesis examines the family, household, and gender dynamics among traders, revealing the evolution of Marwari business houses,

changing caste identities, and the importance of extended kinship networks in supporting economic ventures.

Overall, this research provides a comprehensive understanding of how western Rajasthan's trade evolved, the adaptive strategies of trading communities, and the multifaceted interactions between trade, politics, and society during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.