

# “On the Punishment of Death”

*An analysis of the VOC assault on the island of Rameshvaram  
in the year 1746*



MA Thesis

Colonial and Global History

Name:

M.P. Rood

Student-number:

0900249

E-mail:

[maarten.p.rood@gmail.com](mailto:maarten.p.rood@gmail.com)

Supervisor:

Prof. dr. J.J.L. Gommans

Date:

22-08-2019

The image on the title page depicts the colonnade which upholds the grand corridor of the Ramanathaswamy Temple located on Rameshvaram. According to the *Ramayana* epic, avatar Rama established the temple and dedicated it to the god Shiva after he defeated Ravana, the demon king of Sri Lanka who had kidnapped Rama's wife Sita. During the VOC attack in 1746 the temple played a pivotal role as it was one of the main reasons why the opposition against the Dutch was so intense. The *Setupati* (ruler) of the nearby Ramanathapuram kingdom was responsible for protecting the holy place, which meant that he could not let the unbelievers have control of it in order to keep his respectability.

Rajaraman Sundaram took the picture on 8 September 2013 and put it on Wikimedia Commons for free usage. After I found his photo, I took the liberty to edit it to give the row of columns more impact. The changes are: a little cropping, a recolouring in sepia tones and the applying of the Microsoft Word artistic effect of paint strokes. Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grand\\_corridor,rameshvaram\\_temple,tamilnadu\\_-\\_panoramio.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grand_corridor,rameshvaram_temple,tamilnadu_-_panoramio.jpg), visited on 10-6-2019.