

0. MUMBAI - FORMERLY KNOWN AS BOMBAY - Story
Preface

1. MUMBAI - FORMERLY KNOWN AS BOMBAY

2. DHARAVI and the SLUMS of MUMBAI

3. ANTI-MUSLIM RIOTS in DHARAVI

4. THE TAJ MAHAL

5. JAI HO!

6. JAI HO! - AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION



Mumbai, the financial capital of India, was once known as Bombay. This image depicts the Bandra-Worli Sealink bridge which connects the western suburbs with the central part of the city. In the background, we see the skyline of Mumbai. The photo, by Jeet221990, depicts how Mumbai appeared on the 11th of January in 2012. License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

The story told in the novel *Q & A*, transformed for the screen as *Slumdog Millionaire*, has various settings in the beautiful country of India. One such place is Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay.

Before Mumbai (Bombay) became a city, it was a cluster of seven islands. Those islands were not connected until the second half of the nineteenth century.

Historically, Kolis (predominantly fishermen and their families) lived and worked on the islands (from ancient times to the present). Today their communities, located in various areas, are called Koliwadās.

Like other countries throughout the world, India was once dominated by foreign powers. Portugal was the first European colonial power to occupy the current area of Mumbai, and remnants of Portuguese influence can still be seen in the city. Although Portugal ruled for about 125 years, a wedding (in 1662) changed everything.

After Charles I (King of Britain) lost his head (on January 30, 1649), an heir to the British throne was no longer needed ... at least for awhile. But after Oliver Cromwell died, the people once again wanted a King. The British monarchy was restored, and Charles II (son of the beheaded sovereign) was crowned in London during 1660.

Consistent with the way kings and queens married in those days, Charles II wanted to marry someone who could strengthen his kingdom and enhance his political alliances. He chose Catherine of Braganza, the Infanta (Princess) of Portugal.

A marriage treaty, between Britain and Portugal, was arranged in June of 1661. The couple married a year later. Catherine, who was still in her own city of Lisbon, was represented (at her wedding) by proxy.

All of this matters because Catherine brought a significant dowry to her marriage. The seven islands of Bombay (as the Mumbai area was then called) were part of that dowry. Great Britain, in other words, became the dominant colonial power in that part of India because of a wedding gift (even though Portugal retained control of some places, like the island of Salsette).

As Catherine "introduced tea" to her new country, Britain introduced significant development (and ideas) to the cluster of islands now known as Mumbai.

Things, in that part of the world, would be forever changed as a direct result.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MUMBAI-FORMERLY-KNOWN-AS-BOMBAY-Slumdog-Millionaire>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MUMBAI-FORMERLY-KNOWN-AS-BOMBAY-Slumdog-Millionaire>



Portuguese Fort in Mumbai - Castella de Aguada

Photo by Nicholas (Nichalp), online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 3.0 License. In short: You are free to share and make derivative works of the file under the conditions that you appropriately attribute it, and that you distribute it only under a license identical to this one.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Portuguese-Fort-in-Mumbai-Castella-de-Aguada>



Mumbai - Portuguese Influence Seen Today

Photo by Nicholas (Nichalp), online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

This image is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 3.0 License. In short: You are free to share and make derivative works of the file under the conditions that you appropriately attribute it, and that you distribute it only under a license identical to this one.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mumbai-Portuguese-Influence-Seen-Today>



Charles II - Receives Bombay as Marriage Dowry

Image, online courtesy U.K. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Charles-II-Receives-Bombay-as-Marriage-Dowry>



Catherine of Braganza - Dowry Gave Bombay to Britain

The artist Dirk Stoop (c. 1610-c. 1685) painted this work between 1660-1661 - before the Infanta married Charles II.

The painting is at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Catherine-of-Braganza-Dowry-Gave-Bombay-to-Britain>



Mumbai - Night Scene of the City

Photo by Jasvipul Chawla, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

This photo is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 2.0 License. In short: You are free to share and make derivative works of the file under the conditions that you appropriately attribute it, and that you distribute it only under a license identical to this one.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mumbai-Night-Scene-of-the-City>



MUMBAI - FORMERLY KNOWN AS BOMBAY

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>