

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE OF  
THE SAWBWAS IN MYANMAR  
(1886 -1959)**

**Ph . D. DISSERTATION**

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## Abstract

When Upper Myanmar was formally annexed by the British early in January 1886, the Shan States that formed an integral part of Myanmar since the days of Myanmar kings also became part of the British Empire.

This dissertation is an attempt to give an analysis of British administrative policy and administrative system in the Shan States and the administrative role of the local Chiefs or Sawbwas (Saohpas) in the Shan States. There are three main Chapters. Chapter I - British annexation of Upper Myanmar and the Shan States (1886-1888) is more or less an introduction, giving a brief account of the annexation of Upper Myanmar, including the Shan States and the Frontier Hill Regions, British policy and plans to incorporate the Shan States (1886), the beginning of British rule in the Shan States (1887) and the first glimpse of the status and the role of the Sawbwas in the administration of the Shan States before the Shan States Act was passed in 1888. Chapter II - The Shan States under the British Suzerainty (1888 -1922) comprises two main sections. Section I gives a brief study of the administration of the Shan States and the Sawbwas (Saohpas)(1888-1920) concluding with a brief summery of how British authority was established in the Shan States and finally the status and the administrative role of the Sawbwas from 1888 to 1920, before the formation of the Shan States Federation. Section (2) deals mainly with the "Preliminary Measures" undertaken between 1920-22 for the constitution of the Federated Shan States.

Chapter III - relates the emergence of the Federated Shan States (1922-1941); a brief summery of the Federated Shan States during the Japanese regime (1942-45); British policy and plans concerning the administration of the Shan States after World War II and the united struggle of the Bamars, Shans and the rest of the national minorities for the Independence of the whole of Myanmar (1945-48). It concludes with the historic episode of the surrender of the Shan Saohpas' administrative powers in 1959 with a intention to give the final part of the Sawbwas' administration in the Shan State.

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