

**BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION OF
THE WA STATES (1885-1939)**

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Abstract

The basis of British Colonial Administration for the Wa States was the same policy they had laid down for the Indian rajahs and their princes in India. In its simplest form it was a British promise for non-interference in local affairs and continuation of the dynastic rights of the rulers in return for recognition of British supremacy and sovereignty. This paper traces the dual attempts of the various military expeditions undertaken by the British in the Wa region to propagate and spread this policy while at the same time to explore the frontiers of the newly acquired province with China. The British administration was purely military, and the encounters and experiences of the expeditions with the Was form the substance of the history of the Wa region for this particular time span of 1885 to World War II. The Boundary Commission of 1900 is laid down only in outline so far as it is relevant to the Wa region, its technical details and political negotiations before and after have been admitted for obvious reasons. All and the only primary sources of information about this period comes exclusively from government and military correspondence, reports, and Government compilation of events. There is no other literature written about the Wa States before this period simply for the reason that no one had ever been there before.

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