

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF RAKHINE DIVISION
DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD (1862 – 1885)**

Ph.D DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

The Rakhine (Arakan) Division fell under the British in 1826. And then in 1852, Lower Myanmar fell into the hands of the British. In 1862, Lower Myanmar was re-established as British Burma and a Chief Commissioner was appointed for its administration. A Commissioner was appointed to administer the Rakhine Division. The Rakhine (Arakan) Division was divided into Sittwe (Akyab) District, Kyaukphyu (Kyaukpyu) District, Thandwe (Sandoway) District and the Northern Rakhine (Arakan) Hill District and an A-ye-baing (Deputy Commissioner) was appointed to administer each district. Each district was in turn divided into townships and circles or villages to be administered by tiers of authorities appointed under the A-ye-baing. They were, in hierarchical order, the Wun-daut (Assistant Commissioner), the Assistant Wun-daut (1st class-Extra Assistant Commissioner), the Tsekay (2nd class-Extra Assistant Commissioner), the Myo-ôk (3rd class-Extra Assistant Commissioner), Thugyi or Kyun-ôk, Ywa-gaung or Razawut-gaung (Circle Police Office), Kyedangyi (Village Police Officer) and Ywa-saye, etc. Police forces were formed. The administration of justice was classified as criminal cases and civil suit cases. The types of violation of law and of civil cases and the types of penalties were also

classified. Appeals can be motioned on dissatisfaction of the verdict. Prisons were built. Taxes of varying kinds were levied for the government revenue. Tax rates were fixed but not consistent, varying from time to time and from district to district. There were Local Funds for the development of the local region. Municipal committees were formed. And thus, the British abolished the traditional system of administration and established the colonial administrative system.

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