

**THE HISTORY OF SITTWAY (AKYAB) DISTRICT DURING  
THE COLONIAL PERIOD (1826-1885)**

**Ph. D ( DISSERTATION )**

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## **Abstract**

Myanmar fought three wars against the British and lost Rakhine Taninthayi in 1826, Bago in 1852 and the whole of Myanmar in 1885. The British assumed the task of ruling Rakhine since 1826. At first Rakhine and Taninthayi were separately administered under direct supervision of the Governor General of India. Then Rakhine was transferred to the Government of Bengal and its superintendent subordinate to the Commissioner of Chittagong. In 1836, the British divided the Rakhine Division into four districts such as Sittway District, Yanbye District, Ann District and Thandwe District. But Yanbye District and Ann District were joined together in 1852. That joint District was known as Kyaukpyu District. Thus there were only three districts in Rakhine Division. Its capital was moved from Mrauk-U to Sittway by the British so that transportation, communication and trading would become convenient. Post and Telecommunications were modernized. For external trade light houses were erected for safety of ocean liners. Paddy cultivation and internal and external commerce improved in Sittway District. But the profit was not for the local people. In 1874, the Sittway Municipal Corporation was established to carry out the task of cleaning Sittway township so that the British people could live in hygienic environment. Hospitals were also built for the convenience of the British people. Before the British occupation monasteries were the only places where the students could get education. Such kind of education was known as Phonetawgyi Kyaung education (monastic education). In 1846, the Anglo Vernacular High

School was opened at Sittway. Since the British imperialist seized the administrative power from Myanmar monarchy, Myanmar feudal economy was being changed to the colonial capitalist economy. Thus Myanmar feudalistic society was transformed to the capitalist society. The transformation was due to the economic basic. There was a clash between British liberalism and Myanmar custom. In this dissertation main emphasis will be made on changes brought about by the British Colonialism in Sittway District and their impact on further political economic and social development.

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