

SOCIO-ECONOMY OF BAGO (1974-1988)

Ph.D. DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

The dissertation deals with the economic and social history of Bago Township during the years 1974-1988. Bago was well-known as the royal city in the times of Myanmar Kings. Bago was formerly known as Hanthawady (a) Oktha Bago. It is located in fertile part of Bago Division, in the south of Myanmar Bago, a fertile part of the Sittaung Basin, is near to Ayeyarwady basin, so it had prospects for economic growth and development. And being not far from the sea, it had a good commercial trade with foreign countries. The main economy of Bago Township is agriculture. It grows paddy as well as other crops. There are fifty items of crops growing in the township. Farmers have to sell crops produced from Bago Township to the Ministry of Trade. Bago Township was engaged in agriculture as well as livestock breeding. For the development of livestock breeding in the township, project tasks were implemented for manageable scale livestock breeding. Bago Division has favourable geographical condition and is blessed with natural resources. Therefore, the government built factories and workshops in it and launched production services. Forestry also played an important role in the economic sector of Bago Township. Marketable timber species such as teak and ironwood were extracted yearly from those forests. In the time of the Revolutionary Council Government, all people's import and export enterprises across the nation were nationalized. Then the Socialist Economy Building Committee was formed and two programmes were laid down-distribution of goods in Bago Township through Peoples' Goods Corporation and through

nationalized shops. In Bago Township the population of Bamars was larger than that of any other national race. Regarding religious faith, local people believed in Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, other religious faiths and animism. In the past, monastic education was the only mean for the youth of the region to pursue education. In the colonial period, there were only few government schools and several missionary schools and national schools in Bago Township. After independence an education policy was laid down that gave birth to a free education system. Due to the free education system, many schools were opened. New education policy was implemented during the regime of BSPP government. More primary, Middle, and high Schools were opened in Bago Township. Regional College was opened in Bago. During the regime of BSPP government more hospitals were opened in urban areas. Rural health centres were also opened in Bago Township. In Bago Township there are many famous pagodas, temples and Buddha images, so pagoda festivals were held annually. BSPP government also managed to raise the social standard of the people.

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