

HISTORY OF AKYAB (SITWAY) DISTRICT

(1886-1939)

Ph.D. (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation attempts to study the History of Sittway from 1886 to 1939. Sittway which is included in the Rakhine State was annexed by the British after the First Anglo-Myanmar War. In the First Anglo-Myanmar War, Myanmar was defeated and by the Yandabo Treaty Myanmar had to cede two coastal provinces namely Arakan (Rakhine) and Tenasserim (Taninthayi) to the British. With the introduction of British colonial administration into Rakhine the province of Rakhine underwent many changes in administration, economy and society. Just after annexation of Rakhine it was placed under military administration. After incorporation with Bengal State civil administration was introduced. By the end of Second Anglo-Myanmar War Rakhine province was, then, placed as a division in British Burma. Sittway being capital of Rakhine Division became administrative and commercial centre of Rakhine Division. During the colonial period the British organized judiciary system, police force and municipal administration to maintain peace and order in Sittway District. There were also changes in economy of Sittway during the colonial period. Agriculture was the basic economy of Sittway. The economy was changed from sufficient economy to commercial economy. Apart from agriculture, forestry, fishery, salt industry, and cottage industries contributed to the development of economy of Sittway District. The economy of Sittway was monopolized by foreign capitalists and a few native capitals. The majority of the Rakhine became poorer under the capitalist system. There were also changes in social conditions of Sittway in the colonial period. During the colonial period many foreigners came to settle in Sittway. They brought with them new religion, different custom and tradition . Monastic education

was replaced by western education. The British neglected the health and wellbeing of the natives .Under these circumstances Sittway underwent great changes in all sectors due to the impact of colonial administration.

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