

**RICE TRADE IN THE AYEYAWADY DELTA**

**(1900-1932)**

**Ph.D. (DISSERTATION)**

**KHIN PYONE CHO**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**UNIVERSITY OF YANGON**

**MYANMAR**

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## ABSTRACT

This dissertation studies the development of the rice trade in the Ayeyawady Delta during the period of British colonial administration from 1900 to 1932. The British laid down and implemented a policy of developing the Ayeyawady Delta for rice cultivation and of exporting the rice to external markets. This dissertation studies the conditions of rice cultivation in the Ayeyawady Delta; the production and external trade in rice; and the question of agricultural labour and tendencies. The study finds that jungle-brokers played a significant role in the rice trade and that cultivators had no opportunity of selling their rice and paddy directly to the companies. The sale of rice and paddy flowed through a network which was controlled by millers, brokers and traders which ensured that the cultivator sold their paddy at minimum prices for those in control of the network to enjoy greater margins of profit. The result was that in the Ayeyawady Delta cultivators received no great benefit for their effort but fell into debt and suffered economic and social difficulties.

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