

HISTORY OF PATHEIN DISTRICT (1886-1948)

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TIN TIN AUNG

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF YANGON

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ABSTRACT

After the British had occupied the Lower Myanmar, Patheingyi District fell under the British occupation since 1852. When the Ayeyawady Division was started to form in 1881, Hinthada became the location of the office of the Commissioner. Soon Patheingyi Township became more important than Hinthada Township and Patheingyi became the township where the Commissioner's office located and the administrative works were managed systematically. Then, the Chief Commissioner was appointed to administer in Patheingyi District. The system of Village Administration that existed traditionally during the British government in colonial period was shattered in Patheingyi District. Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner was also the Chairman of Town Municipal Board as well as the officer who had to supervise the functions of Municipal Administration. As the revenues were collected to cover the administrative expenses, the Municipal Administration was an important administrative system in Patheingyi District. A Police Force was also appointed for the restoration of law and order and it was divided as Military Police and Civil Police and the prisons were established. Agriculture was the fundamental economy of the District of Patheingyi. The farmers living in the District of Patheingyi also raised cattle, poultry, pigs, and other animals. Teak and other hard wood were exported from Patheingyi. In the period under survey, communication had developed and helped the economy the Patheingyi District to grow rapidly. Good communications by land and sea have always served the people of Patheingyi in exporting their agricultural products to foreign lands. Cottage industries had also developed. The majority of the national races residing in Patheingyi District were Barmans and Kayahs and other nationalities

also lived in small number. The increase in population at Pathein District in colonial period was due to the migration of foreigners from abroad. The migration of foreigners and the missionary works in Pathein District had increased and the number of people who converted from Buddhists to Christian were also increased. The combined movements of religion and education by the Christian Missionaries in Pathein District had assisted in the literacy works for the people. The standard of living of Pathein District had developed by promoting education. But it was not beneficial for all the classes but only for those who were converted to Christianity. During the rule of the British, the hospitals and the dispensaries were opened, anti-small pox and anti-malaria campaigns were carried out, vaccines were vaccinated and Village Dispensaries were opened. It could also be presumed that the health department's hospitals, doctors and nurses within the district were less if compared to the population of the district. Under the rule of the British, the economic conditions was achievement and effect of the capitalist, but local populace were received no great benefit for the effort and suffered economic conditions and social difficulties.

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