

HISTORY OF MERGUI (MYEIK) DISTRICT

(1886-1948)

Ph.D. (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation studies the history of Myeik District from 1886 to 1948. Tanintharyi Division including Myeik became British colony after the conclusion of First Anglo-Myanmar War by the Treaty of Yandabo. The British introduced new administration in Myeik District. Sub-divisional Commissioner and Township Officers played a key role. Under the British Colonial Administration there was also the Independence of the Judiciary and prisons were established. Crime decreased and law and order was thus restored in the District of Myeik. The British also introduced the Municipal Administration in Myeik. The economy of Myeik underwent a great change in the colonial period. After the annexation the British developed trade and economy by encouraging the Myeik farmers to grow rice and other crops. The mining industry also developed together with extraction of teak and timber from the Myeik dense forests. Rubber Plantations also developed in Myeik. Edible birds nests were the most expensive export commodity of Myeik. Another important business in Myeik was the pearl industry. Although the economy of the Myeik District developed in the colonial period the natives of Myeik District remained poor. The Colonial administration brought many changes in society of Myeik. Foreigners came to settle at the city of Myeik, which thus became a melting pot of many races and nationalities. The majority of people living in Myeik were Buddhist but the minorities believed in other religions such as Islam, Hinduism and Christianity. There were traditional festivals and seasonal festivals in Myeik. The British also changed the education system in Myeik. They encouraged western education and missionary schools and lay schools were established. New subjects were taught in those schools. The

British also encouraged western medicine and dispensaries and hospitals were built.

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