

**HISTORY OF MYANMAR TIMBER INDUSTRY DURING
THE COLONIAL PERIOD**

Ph.D. (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

Myanmar timber industry during the rule of the British Government (colonial period) was worked mainly by five foreign timber companies namely Bombay Burma, Steel Brothers, Mac-Gregor, Foucar and T.D. Findlay which carried out the extraction and sale of timber on a large scale by long-term lease. Furthermore some of the Myanmar timber merchants worked the timber industry on their own capacity in accordance with their financial situation. After the First Anglo-Myanmar War, the British knew the importance of Myanmar teak and Dr. Wallich was given the task by the Indian Government to submit a report on teak forest at the Taninthayi Division. Dr. Wallich urged to protect and preserve the forests strictly from deforestation. The British had laid down the standing policy officially for the first time to preserve the forests after the occupation of the whole of Lower Myanmar. In 1856, Dr. D. Brandis was appointed as the Forest Conservator of Bago Division. Myanmar Forest Department was established since the time of appointing Brandis to administer the Myanmar forests. He arranged and implemented the forest management and administrative system in details. He made the forest circles under the control of the Forest Department in order to extract the valuable forests and the forests that could be extracted by the companies and Forest Department systematically. The policies were laid down in implementing the preservation, protection and nurturing the forest plantations. The forests were administered by forming the whole country into forest divisions. The Forest Acts were also promulgated and put into effect in the whole country. The modern saw mills were established at the port cities from ordinary saw mills to mill the teak logs and other hardwoods and not only sold in local market but also exported to foreign countries. The Government also obtained a large amount of revenue from the vast and abundant Myanmar's forests.

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