

**ADMINISTRATION IN BRITISH BURMA
(1852-1885)**

Ph.D. (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

After the conclusion of the Second Anglo-Myanmar War in 1852, the Regions of Bago, Mottama, Rakhine and Taninthayi in Lower Myanmar were annexed by the British East India Company. Burma or Myanmar was regarded as a Province of Bengal and up to 1862, three District Commissioners administered Lower British-Burma (Myanmar). Since the British Government believed in Liberalism and a capitalist economy, it was mainly concerned with the maintenance of peace and security and the Administration of the Public Revenue. For the sake of thriftiness and the smooth running of the judicial system, the British at first conformed to the traditional Civil Law Code and the collection of taxes that had prevailed under the Myanmar monarchy. But gradually the British introduced their colonial system of government by appointing a Chief Commissioner to administer the newly established Lower British-Burma (Myanmar). The Chief Commissioner could not pass laws, but was invested only with executive and judicial powers. However, he could put up draft laws to be approved and passed by the Viceroy of India. The Administration of the British Lower Myanmar was modelled upon that of the Indian Government. From 1852 to 1885, the British introduced their hierarchical bureaucratic form of colonial administration into Lower British-Burma (Myanmar). The system of administration which had been introduced from India during this colonial period continued to prevail throughout the British Regime. The traditional system of Myanmar administration, culture and way of life was gradually replaced by the liberal, capitalistic form of British Colonial Rule.

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