

**ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF MYANMAR KINGS
DURING EARLY KONBAUNG PERIOD (1752-1819)**

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ABSTRACT

When Nyaungyan dynasty collapsed, a dynamic and militaristic dynasty known as Konbaung dynasty was founded by Alaungmintaya, a person of high calibre who possessed both moral and physical courage. Early Konbaung Kings such as Alaungmintaya, Sinbyushin and Badon Min had achieved the consolidation of the country, repulsed the enemies and had extended Myanmar's territory and had influence over the neighboring countries. The main focus in this dissertation is made on Central Administration and Provincial Administration, Judicial and Defense system under early Konbaung Kings. The main institutions of Central Administration was *Hlutyone Ngayat*, which consisted of *Hluttaw*, *Byedaik*, *Sheyone*, *Naukyone* and *Tayayone*. The Kings exercised their power through these institutions and all duties and functions of the officials of these institutions were clearly defined. From the highest officials *Wungyis* to the most junior official, they were assigned specific duties and responsibilities. Provincial Administration was not as clear cut as the Central Administration because there were overlapping of duties between hereditary chiefs and the officials directly appointed by the King. Provincial Administration in Myanmar as well as in other countries was a paradigm, which depended much on the local officials, who had to take the real responsibility of the far off places. There were hereditary chiefs like Shan *Sawbwas* and *Myosas* "eaters of the towns" who mostly belonged to the Royal households such as queen, princes, princesses who were related to the King. Bureaucratic mechanism laid down by Myanmar Kings for the provinces was not very strong or systematic as the provinces consisted of many districts of varied population and areas. Actual

administration was carried out by *Myowuns*, with the assistance of *Akhunwun*, *Akaukwun*, *Kyiwun* and *Sitkes*. At the village level, there were *Thugyis* and *Seiain-gaungs*. Provincial Administration was good if the officials and staffs from towns to village level served the King loyally and if they were efficient. Judicial system was firmly established during the early Konbaung period, and the judiciary was clearly divided between civil and criminal cases and responsible officials were entrusted to try the cases according to *Dhammathat* and *Razāthat*. The theme of Myanmar's judicial system was to lessen or mitigate the big word and forget the small one. The traditional Myanmar army consisted of elephantry, cavalry, infantry and chariots called four aspects of military strategy "*Sit Inga Leyat*". Enabling recruitment of armed forces were important for defense and security of state. When recruitment of the soldiers, formation of the army, military discipline, and training of Myanmar army was observed it can be said that Myanmar army in early Konbaung period was formed strongly and systematically.

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