

**BRITISH ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROVINCE OF
BURMA (MYANMAR) (1886-1897)**

Ph.D. (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation deals with Administration of Province of Burma (Myanmar). After the Third Anglo-Myanmar War of 1885, Myanmar was designated as a Province of India. On 1 January 1886 came the formal announcement from the Viceroy, Lord Dufferin, that King *Thibaw's* territories had become part of Her Majesty's dominions. On 1 March 1886 Upper Myanmar, excluding the Shan State was created a scheduled District. Thirty days later, the *Hluttaw* was dissolved. From now on Upper Myanmar was governed according to the provisional instructions issued from time to time. The new authorities established four administrative divisions. These four divisions were each headed by a Divisional Commissioner. Despite British energy and efforts law and order did not prevail immediately after the occupation of Upper Myanmar. Every district raised its hand against the imperialist might. In quelling the disturbances the colonial administrators utilised force, pressure, and diplomacy. It took than many more years after 1885 to pacify Upper Myanmar. During the British Colonial rule from 1886 to 1897, both Lower and Upper Myanmar had attached with the machinery for the judicial administration. As there were increase in criminal and civil cases in Myanmar, officers were appointed to work as judges and magistrates respectively. By vigorous efforts there was a gradual decrease in the number of cases, due to the more effective enforcement of British Rule. The formation of police force was also important for the restoration of law and order. In 1888, the police forces of Upper and Lower Myanmar were amalgamated under one Inspector-General. Under the Colonial Administration the first task of the administrators, alongside the suppression of resistance, was to find out how the new province

could be made to pay its way. For the revenue administration the headmen (*Thugyis* and *Kyedangyis*) were basically revenue officers. As the main source of the stable income, it was relied on land revenue. On the other hand, there was the public revenue.

