

Geographical and Political Conditions of Myanmar (Upto Bagan)

Dr.Uphyu

Head of Department

Yangon University of Education

Abstract

Myanmar geography in the Stone Ages was common which was not confined to any spice. Depending upon food available and desirability of the spices could move wherever they wanted whenever in our ancient earthen geography. There are many evidences relating to species employed. As per our knowledge twenty sites where these spices moved were discovered. When these went out in the Neolithic era a new spice had come in this geography where those new species formed community which had changed into clans who had established a garrison near which grew up a city which was known as city-states of the Pyus people. The city was not constructed open space which was walled. After deterioration of these city-states a city – kingdom known popularly as Bagan was established. When population increased it was advanced scarcity of lands. At this condition people were no more inside the city they came out from the city and established economic zones that to agricultural zones which were very important. This paper aims to know geographical and political conditions and appearance of governing systems, origin, nature and attribution of Myanmar up to establishing city kingdom. We went through some theoretical historical literatures for our clarification. We investigated archaeological evidences too. It is indubitable that there governing systems not only in our common geography but also kings with body politics and ruled too in the city-states and city-kingdom too. Our main problem is how they learned transaction to operate their business. We

found Matriarchal and Patriarchal governing systems in the time of common geography, kings and ruled in city-states and then monarchs and his followers in the city-kingdom.

Introduction

People upto later Stone Ages did not have limited geography but politics at that existed which might be Matriarchal. After that era due to discovery of method of agriculture people had settled down in one area where they lived in operating works of agriculture that periods were known as Neolithic and Megalithic periods. During these eras as people had invented boats for travelling they lived through earthen and revering geography in which as volume of works became big those functions were tackled by father. So that era was known as Patriarchal. But in Megalithic era it commenced community .Next to these eras under this paper are city states and Bagan Period. Then, it established city states where political structure formed which was run by kings living in limited geography which was walled area. After that Bagan kingdom appeared in the ancient area which was though at the beginning within walls that became broad based on population increased. In Bagan geography political structure was clearly formed. The aims of this paper are to know political and geographical conditions and to ascertain how politics linked with arts in the geographies where people lived in those eras.

Space, geography of present Myanmar was different from the Stone Ages, Megalithic, city-states period leading to Bagan. Like this politics in Stone Ages, Megalithic, city-states era and Bagan was diverse compared with politics of Myanmar in the current era. Geography means nothing else but a space limited either for a group of people who were in the Megalithic period or Lesser people who were in the city states period and multi color peoples who had established multi pots of society, who lived in on eastern side of Tungabadara, on western side of Tugabadara and on the north of Tabaddesa and on the north of Tavalipta and on the northwest of Subanabhumi, the country of Mons. The space of stone Ages, spaces were common in which spices in those eras

were allowed free movement because at that time boundary system did not develop. They wherever wanted could travel whenever for either depending on climatic conditions or scarcity of foods or on their interest. Therefore burial in regard to species of those time were found rarely while burials of Megalithic people were discovered in bulk clearly because in that era people became gregarious lived in one specific place where grew plants, grains and hunted what they wished and fished at the pools and streams reached by them. The spices in this primitive era attached with their surroundings for their survival because they did not form political policy by which to structure and develop their economy. They when exhausted foods in their environment upto late Paleolithic period had travelled to another place which was water shadow and rain shadow. It was the good luck getting free movement in their need of time because as I also mentioned land at that time was commonly possessed by them because there was no boundary limited. Therefore they had to concentrate on earth and earthen materials that to silicific stuff,(fossil wood) boulders and stones for making tools for the use of food gathering and food was collecting as well as tool for protecting their enemies. When they got idea for cooking by discovering fire they made pots for carrying water, storing water and cooking which were led them to available owning to facilitate from their geography where they moved for their survival.

The following are the places in ancient Myanmar where they concentrated on-:

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Yenanchaung | 6.Nyaun 00 | 11. Salay | 14.Minbu | 15.Thayet | 16. Katha |
| 2. Chauk | 7.Taungyi | 12. Sinku | 17. Nyaungshwe | | |
| 3. Magwe | 8.Taungoo | 13. Pakkau | | | |
| 4. Moguot | 9.Mandalay | | 18. Taungop ¹ | | |
| 5. Bagan | 10.Myinkyin | | 19.Pyay ² | | |

¹ *Rakhine Pye Nay pet Sin Thamine*, Thamine Ganda, Volume, I, The State Council of Rakhine, Plate. 2

² M.R.Sahni, *Man in Evolution*, Calcutta, Orient Longman's Ltd, 1952, P.141, Fig.50 cited in

The regions mentioned above were the beneficial places which permitted the people of species who stayed by seeking food and hunting beats which were fostered by the geography which also present forests, streams, rivers, pools and mountain ranges. The geographical conditions in conformity with its climate created natural phenomenon which forced these species to make utensils like tools which were to be employed in hunting and defending animals as well as human beings who made them harm and mud which were available and created by those geography where they stayed led to think them to make pots for carrying water and storing foods. These species lived in groups aiming at safeguarding them from danger. In this group they selected those who were with intelligence and advising the means and way for their livelihood chose as their leader of the group. Little by little these leaders of groups were gathered into communities and then into society. In this society created by the geographical condition was in favour of women who were made intelligence by that ecology that to upto late Paleolithic era. But some women were so highly intelligent that they were chosen as the leaders of those societies. However, they did not establish their communities as a state, which was mere society popularly known as matriarchal society. The geography in which this society led by women originated common because we hold that in this common land these women with their communities could freely travelled for their livelihood and survival. The attribute of geography of the early stone age was amazing. The space was open one where anyone can inhabit seek foods which were just consumer flabour, seeds, roots eatable, leaves and fruits bearing naturally with any labour of any sector of natural science though which was existed no one could struck the idea of applying that natural science. The climate in which those species' inhabited had to adjust for their survival. When they were not in conformity with geography for their living they had to left shift to another space which was appropriate to them from all quarters especially for

their inhabitations with foods available in the new geography which gave way a governing system that was is valiantly called matriarchal society as we already mentioned in our Socio-economic chapter ,in which women decided everything because the geographical condition made them very powerful. The geographical conditions of that time superseded men by the women .In that specific geography and time there was no way for men who to make decision as to species inhabited because geography at that time stood on women side which can be simply structure just two stratum which were women employing a great deal of power on one structure and men lacking power on the other hand. This geographical condition might be similar we thought in every Conner of the world at that early Stone Age. The species in that time had especially chosen hilly regions that to high location for their security from both floods and enemies and also bulk of fruits, seeds ,leaves, grains grown in that natural geography. From that hilltops the woman leading descended to plains at the bottom of mountains for their mastery because of their long stay on the hilltops where matriarchal governing system at the plains were just pastoral one when space became wide matriarchal governing did not work as many as the pastoral geographical conditions necessary which was late Paleolithic period in that men seeked for mastery of the environment where they lived. In this pastoral life species realized value of manure which makes fertile the lands because they in this condition had to make attempt fertility of their environment. They had made competency in competition for getting manure for the development of agriculture by which to bear juice fruits and healthy vegetation. For accumulating manure even there was war waged between group and group. Little by little species turned into New one which was favorably called Neolithic era in which men seeked path for the mastery of the plain, geography. Fortunately they came to know how to grow plants and grains and also how to extract seeds from beans and fruits which changed them into agricultural life from pastoral one. In agricultural life

on their geography they with previous experiences in regard to fertility in their pastoral condition made valiant endeavor to make their present geography fertile. They with their groups had settled in a specific region where they employed agriculture and raised animals especially dogs and elephant which had helped them in hunting, travelling, dragging heavy things and breed fowls which were bulk in their geographical environment. They worked in group for high productivity to export their product to outside of their locality because they had already invented boats in carrying the commodities as we mentioned in our Socio-economic conditions. Little by little grains and fruits were promoted in the production based on their knowledge on their geographical condition which was fertile soil with suitable weather for those plants and grains going to be grown. That was late Stone Age and dawn of Neolithic era in which as functions of agriculture became broad and wide the governing system altered from matriarchal into Patriarchal system in which at the initial stage both women and men maintained the society with equal power. As works were functioned extensively management system production and distribution as well as trade and commerce which involved both external and internal heavy governing responsibilities were to be undertaken by men. In such condition they chose heads in each group. Later they even selected a legislator who had to make decision without predict if any case arose either within group or either in production or business especially in external trade which was exercised to some extent because goods carrier that to boats howling the logs by their intelligence . Gradually they had established civic. In this way those Stone Age species living on hilltops descended to the plains where they formed matriarchal governing system which was changed into system of government because functions of society became wide and broad. In this patriarchal system they elected heads in each group in making decision either for tools making technology of making house hood utensils either for carrying water from places where water

available or storing food and plates for putting and holding food and grains. In this geographical conditions these species had elected a legislator which indicates political norm came into existence in their geography, when this legislator could maintain works and practices in that society in that regions in conformity with the species he designed his species to be knowledgeable and create system and devices which would have made their lives fruitful he consulted with communities leaders each was elected by each group. With the agreements of leaders from communities legislator made them to form a civic looking forward for welfare of society by leading political norms which were combined ideas of legislator leaders of communities who were in the civic which was even could be mastery for both their geographical and political conditions vice vicer. Therefore from the early Stone Age species mastering geography established matriarchal political system which changed into patriarchal politics from which a head in group was chosen and with the consents of those communities' leaders it had elected a legislator which made political paradigm clearly in its geographical condition of Stone Age. Little by little in the needs of time and with the goodwill of the legislator combining with the suggestions and agreements of leaders in the communities a civic was formed and employed activities of the society with governing systems. Owing to growth of agriculture which has been depending by every being in every part of the world population promoted too. Previously up to Neolithic age species had to travel depending upon food available .So ratio of population was slow. After finding way how to grow plants and breed animals ratio of population increased because high birth rate and low death as species could produce ration by their labour.As population increased crossed over ten thousand either in a specific region or group or in a space that society was popularly named as Megalithic era in which there was different standpoint. Some scholars opined that due to migration happened species in Neolithic time migrated to the

place which was suitable for them, which caused all over the world. At that time species were gregarious in Myanmar migrated toward Atlantic region³. Nevertheless new era historically known as Megalithic came to appear in the time line not only in Myanmar history but also in world history because in this era population consisted of at least ten thousands in which leader became more influential than in the previous eras. In Here a problem rise based on scholars believe in monism whose concept is human being are creation but there were are scholars who assume that human beings are evolution. Whatever may be it is clear that human beings in our geography presented since Neolithic period. However, it is no doubt role leadership sharply started operated since Megalithic period in which leader became a dominant person in their community. Such domination of leader can be found on seeing situation of burial ground where their's and leaders body were buried in systematic manner. With the hard labour of followers a pillar of stone which was perhaps carried from far distance place was planted on front side of the dead leader as memorandum. For this special function which was not in previous time different craft was employed. Remarkably on the top of that pillar was shaped either a figure of lizard or other creature which are visible on earthen geography. This function was no doubt undertaken through arrangement of the political institution of that period. The art of making such figure was not implemented without guild where taught crafts and way manipulating trade and commerce and also management of communities activities, which was undoubtedly by political organization. It is clear that leader dead was satiable for his organization which was central hub for all performance in that geography and environment nearby, which he made hard attempt for not only his communities esteem but also geography for which he was responsible. Instruments

³ Quaritch Wales,H.G, *The Making of Greater India*, London, Bernard Quaritch, Ltd,1951

made of metals, various sizes of stone and earthen utensil baked employed in burial prove that the craft was instructed by public esteem guild which was a government board for the goodness and for smoothness of operation of the functions. The extraordinary example made by species of Megalithic era was Sargophigus, a sort of case made of stone for putting dead body of communities' leader in Megalithic period, which shows creative activities of craft manager who was either member of that specific guild or who taught artistic functions, of which Sarcophagus was new mechanical work produced with the management of political organization or civic institution that indicates administrative machinery was bureaucratic like Pharaoh in ancient Egypt. In this Megalithic era the leader buried with remarkable marks and grand manner was not an ordinary leader he was fostered in a strong political organization or in a institution. It is that in this era guild was occurred with the instruction of political organization which was already experienced it seems before they presented into this new geography or leader of Megalithic society was trained in political institution like Greece or Roman or Persia or England where the Greeks and Roman had invaded in this era or they got train in one of those countries political institution because as per our knowledge there was migration in this era. It is found with the references of scholars that wherever this burial customs in which Sarcophagus with various sizes of pots, plates with grains, pieces of bronze inside the pots and on the plates as well as weapons made of iron were common whenever this customs developed in this Megalithic period in which geographical conditions were in favor to those species living there. The species had produced urn, plates employed in the burial tradition and also from metal soil that to iron sands where deposited minerals produced iron tools which were trident, in its form that was commonly seen in one of the hands of Siva's Trinity of Hinduism. The geographical conditions at that time were fertile and beneficial to them in growing grains seen on the plates of burial ground. There were

two kinds of burials found in this era, which are pit burial and silt burial which were side by side which shows people in this era lived in collectively. Unlike previous eras it looks that this people established villages where leaders who were buried grandly it seems they ruled with the order of political authority existed at that period. Though with our experiences we found sole dead body or skeleton in a pit there were many dead found in silt burial mostly death of child which show in a time many children were died, which proves that in that period children died little by little affecting harmful diseases for which even their leaders or any one among the community did not find or make drug to cure the children diseases affected, which proves though political institution existed according to scholars at that time which did not concentrated on children health care affairs, which opined of that the geographical condition was appropriated for the production of utensils and metal instruments but which did not harmony with the children in their geographical conditions either may be climate or water population due to that bulk of dead were found in a single pit. Due to dangerous diseases the children who had died in one time and uninterruptly were buried in single pit which show the geographical condition which became unfavorable for children was helped by the political mechanism which might be lack of scientific progress that indicates that no medicine in curing child diseases developed.

From megaliths burial ground it found there things-: solidarity without it the huge stone planted on front side of its leader dead could not bring, which was not individual labour by which such big long stone could not bring and erected, another is art which was visible on the top surface of those megalithic stone and next is ritual performed on burial which are urn, and grains put on plates in the burial ground. All these three phenomenon found in megalithic ear relating to food and hunting though this period was transitional era the hunting for prey was not discard which attached continued in their livelihood and food were essential for every one in

every age. Attempt for these things led them to initiative with the solidarity with individual or group conscious. By both solidarity and initiative species could dominate their environment which for the goodness of agriculture and shaping their lives. Through these two themes agriculture was promoted which paved the paths for the urbanization in which political condition ascribed for the activities of the area in urbanizing. The species in this area were popular known as Pyus.

Now we will talk about the city-states of the Pyus emerged in Myanmar. Before we deal with city-state of Myanmar we turn our attention to originate of city-states .On this connection one can make quarry from where these city-states did introduce? In this consideration we had observed emergence of city-states all over hemispheres as we reached through Theatrical and historical Literature. From which we came to ascertain that the earliest of emergence of city-state was as early as 800 B.C which is in the Europe that to Greece. In this regards condition which favored for the development of city-states is investigated. In our investigation we came to understand that village communities formed in Megalithic era has changed into clans who had established city-states, was the introduction of political unit for the communities. Because of community in the Megalithic period according political theory was not correspond with geographical conditions. As which were inconvenient with the community that was forced to establish city-state. The geographical condition may not be come up to expectation of population who were either regressed or affected by diseases presented in that geography. In promotion of population was proved by burials. Even many deads in a pit or sit burial were found. It is indubitable that community recognized to build up city which would protect them from affection. When peace and security became important the communities built a garrison on a high land around which grew a city which was the most famous political society which took care and

operated activities of political organization in connection with the city-states which thus itself was political norm. In this concern we have to turn statement of Roland Benjamin who said a group of people entered into earthen geography of Myanmar in the 6th century B.C. If so who were they and where they and where they established city whether in Dhayawati or Vesali in lower Myanmar or Vishnu in Central Myanmar or Tagaung in Upper Myanmar. If we look at Theory on the establishment of city-states the first city-state found in Myanmar would be Vishnu in Central Myanmar because the clan who had chosen place in establishing city state was not the first place in Lower Myanmar it was on the higher land. Though this category of work were much similar between city states in Myanmar and Greece city states it would have differed from the geographical condition of Europe where in spite of wall city it established Manor which was owned by either nobility or land lord. Apart from Greece which city states like Athen, Spartan etc had been established in Europe. Many regions in Europe operated the function establishing manors which were paradigms of Feudalism. However, the earliest according to scholars lived in Myanmar were the Pyu.

The boundary of the Pyus was as broad as east was Kambawza, as wide as south was Sea, as long as southwest was Dwarawati or ancient Yodaya, as west as was East India, as far distance as north was Nancho⁴. Within this area there were 1,393 kings who administered the regions of which 800 kings in Hanlin Dynasty, 190 kings in Tarnpatipa Dynasty, 190 kings in Makkara Dynasty, 97 kings in Pinlay Dynasty, 30 kings in Kaingsin Dynasty, 26 kings in Allakapa Dynasty, 50 kings in Ywapugyi Dynasty, 40 kings in Laykaing Dynasty, all together 1,393 kings

⁴ G.H.Luce "The Ancient Pyu", BRSFAP, No.2, Yangon, 1960, p.318

before establishing Tagaung and Sriksetra⁵.The Pyus political domain consisted of 18 sovereign Unions especially Falanbin, Java,Sharavat(Sravasti),Champa etc.In the small city states were administrated by Chiefs while larger were by kings⁶.For jurisdiction courts were established, which direct strength of political power and fairness among the ruled⁷.Judicial system of Pyu was pervaded by Indian ideas in the earlier, Later which received employed Buddhist way. The presence of courts of walled city point kings' performances for peace for the population within the city⁸. The courts suggest existence of political power by which laws would be made and also dissolved. Though there was in some city states in the ancient world political power due to nature of superstructure law could not be made and also did not amend. Because of sharp division of central political body it so happened.

In these circumstances the leader had to cater for the development of the functions in every sector in respect to flourishing role of urbanization that to contributing the administrators whose management was crucial for its rule. With the leadership of the leaders and solidarity by initiative of leaders and labour with both consciousness and awareness to protect from flood and enemies coming from outside their living environment were walled which led the condition for safeguard and reliefs. Therefore this work with solidarity by the leadership of group leaders those groups who wanted peace and security took shelter inside the city states not only in Myanmar but also in many parts of the world. In this situation species in walled city has had

⁵ San Tun ,U,"Introduction of Historical Research" Glass Palace Chronicle Vol.I

,P.iii(“ရာဇဝင်သုတေသနမဟာနိဂါန်: ” မှ နိန်းနန်း(ဝ)၊စာ(ကိ) cited in

⁶ Htin Aung, Maung , *A History of Burma*. New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 1967,pp.15-16

⁷Stagardt, *Ancient Pyu*, pp.346-347

⁸ Aung-Thwin, Michael. *The mists of Rāmañña: The Legend that was Lower Burma (illustrated ed.)*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press,2005,P.40

inhabited within limited geography which was sovereign state. The kings, monarch settled in the center of the city state. The officers and staff were placed not far from a central in the walled place. As regards city it was undoubtedly ruling class and ruled in which were craftsmen, cultivators and slaves as citizens who had to be kept loyal spirit for the administration of the city states. The ecology in this city states enclosed by walls was harmony for those species living there especially for cultivation and productions for the promotion of its economy which supported the welfare of both ruling and ruled societies. This sort of limited geographical condition made them for creation by which their status could be upgraded. The function of Iron, bronze, copper, lead, zinc sheets, gold and silver testify that geographical conditions of Pyu were prosperous.

Like Greece city states were established in Myanmar, which were Dhanyawadi, Vesali, Thuwanabhumi, Sriksetra in Lower Myanmar while Halin, Maimaw and Takaung in Upper Myanmar and there some city states in Chindwin in the juncture of Myanmar and India. All the city states were located in better geographical position. Dhanyawati, Vesali and Thaton exist beside the river and which soils are wet on which cultivation flourished without any obstacles. Visnu, Sriksetra, Maimaw and Halin have better water body of which Sriksetra was located on the bank of Ayeyawwady River.

The area of Vishnu is square slightly oblique on its west and east side while Halin is rectangular and Sri Ksetra is oval in its shape. Visnu falls between east longitudes 95 22" 46" and north latitude 20 0 14" while Halin was on East Longitude 20 0 14 and North Latitudes 22 28 12. These city-states locate on Ayeyawaddy valley, where flourished agriculture well due to fertile alluvial soil and water available properly. In other word geographical conditions of these

city-states were better in positions which contributed for agrarian activities and other productivities. Political conditions were run in proper manner which was shown by existing ruling class with kings, aristocrats and ruled, merchants, craftsmen, cultivators and slaves. The pots discovered in Vishnu confirm existence of two layers of people. It is attested that those who were in upper layer (kings and his relatives, nobility) were burnt and those as rules were buried⁹. In respect to establishment of Vishnu city in accordance with archaeological evidence ruler in Vishnu was not king but queen known as Princess Panhtwar¹⁰. This princess was greatly helped by Vishnu in the founding of her city as Vishnu has been helper, who also helps those who were in danger¹¹. The residential, religious buildings and warehouses were obvious examples of better management system and policy makers which prove that political conditions in those city-states were strong. The archaeological attempts explored palace site in Vishnu. The city was also constructed with proper plans. The biggest horse on the north of the palace suggests that the kings with their families lived in respectively¹². The warehouses testify how ruler as queen had done welfare of the people of state as the mission of the state, which symbolized that there had already existed political community in Vishnu¹³. The religious buildings are evidences of the queen who gave liberty and freedom to the state's people. Works of gold, silver, iron advices that the earthen geography came up to benefit its citizens and supported to the administration¹⁴. Because of proper geographical conditions the administration could manipulate foreign relations

⁹ Than Tun, *The Story of Burma (Myanmar) Told in Pictures*, Yangon Working Peoples, 1965, P.12 (Hereafter cite as Than Tun, *The Story of Burma*)

From Racial view it has to see the pots from different standpoints.

¹⁰ Aung Thaw, *Report on The Excavation At Beikthano*, Yangon, Ministry of Culture, 1968, p. 3 (Henceforth cite as Aung Thaw, *Beikthano*)

¹¹ Phyu, *Depiction of Nature in the Sculptural Art of Early Deccan (upto 10 Century AD)*, A Ph.D Thesis published in Hyderabad University, Hyderabad, India, 2004

¹² Than Tun, *The Story of Burma*, p.11

¹³ Bashin, U, "Ancity of Beikthano and scenery of history" *University General Phamlet*, Yangon, Yangon University Press, 1966, Vol.I, Part.III, p.215

¹⁴ Bashin, *Ancient Beikthano*, Vol.I, Part.II, p.299

with Srilanka, India on the west and Southwest, with China¹⁵ on the north and with Asia like Chanlla, Majapahit, Matram whatever might be it is noteworthy species lived in walled city states though its latitude and Longitude were known accurately length and width of were merely aware of that areas of each city state were a day walk able distance by a Man who could establish contacts with foreign nations which was polemical that political conditions of that era made preference to do so or geographical conditions gave way of political consciousness to interact different people in different geographical sphere in both neighboring and far distance localities which made them to emphasis for trade and commerce and them to be harmony with its different species outside their living places. At very early beginning that to just transformed to city states from Megalithic geography which dragged the species to devote natural phenomenon were powerful, which could help them or their survival or make harm, based on which geographical conditions led them to make mother goddess for its worship. Therefore just after transformation to city state statues of Mother Goddess came into being on the new geography that to earthen geography. Nevertheless concentration on natural geography was differed from city state city state. Species of Beikthano emphasized on garden where bearing flowers in beautiful manner which was indicating clusters of flowers in browning form on shreds and on slab collected from that city states¹⁶.

Padagogogically the geography fostered knowledgeable intellectual human resources for the maintenance and foreign relation of these city states because political norms with ruling system undoubtedly had already shaped and formed in this geography of city state. People in city states of Greece who were Aegean had struggle with the problems of business of transaction because they did not existed written Languages by which operating their business though people

¹⁵ Bashin, *Ancient Beikthano & Historical scenery*, Vol. I, Part. III

¹⁶ Aung Thaw, *Beikthano*, p. 209, Plate. LIV

of Mesopotamia developed language which were as everyone already known were cuneiform writing by which they could run their business in easy manners. As far as pedagogy concern to function business in the city state of ancient Myanmar that to Beikthano city, first city state of Myanmar operated through pictorial sign because pictorial art was found on the potsherd¹⁷ in the Beikthano(Vishnu) city state. The followings on sheds from Vishnu are a kind of example proving presentation of figurative writing though still we did not any writing of alphabets from Vishnu, which notes business were employed in Vishnu either by transaction and bills with pictorial writing or in kind. It knew business in Sriksetra was employed by written transaction and bills bearing Kadamba script¹⁸ which was the earliest art of writing found in Sriksetra. In the heyday of Buddhism people had learned Gupta scripts¹⁹ which were applied in preparing transactions and bills exercised in the business of Sriksetra in that period. These figures of fishes symbolized that the people in Vishnu were forced to turn fishing which was embodied as figurative art on the stucco of architecture existed on the geography of that ruined city state.

Like Beikthano Halin and Sriksetra, Tagaung, a city state with bulk of cargoes loading and unloading through its ports became one of the important places for its political role at that time. The city lies East Longitude 96° 12 and North Longitude 43 29. In earthen geography Sriksetra was the biggest city state among the Pyu city states²⁰. Its total area is five and half miles²¹. As to the ruling class of Sriksetra there are different opinions. Both Myanmar Chronicle and local scholars said that kings of Dutabbaung lines administered the Sriksetra while archaeological evidences show Vikrama lines rules the city state of Sriksetra. This city state was

¹⁷ Aung Thaw, *Beikthano*, p.138, Figs. 74, 75, 77

¹⁸ Than Tun, *The Story of Burma*, p.13 This Kadamba Scripts were applied in South India

¹⁹ This Scripts were commonly found in North India

²⁰ Aung Myint, U, *Kaungkin Datponmyar Hma Myanmar Myodaw Myar*, Yangon, Yaung Sin Hlaing Press (The Ministry of Culture), 1988, P-72 (Hereafter cited Aung Myint, *Myanmar Myodaw Myar* 1988)

²¹ San Ni Nyin, *Pyu Thoughts told by Pyu Design*, Yangon, Sikku Cho Cho Press, 2016, P.59 (Henceforth cite San Ni Nyin *Pyu Thoughts*)

founded by a hermit named Vishnu accompanying Gawanpatimater, Deva (Thakya), Nat, Naga. This reality was mentioned Kyantha Inscription dated to 1084-1113²². According to *Zatatawphonyazawin*, Srikhestra was established in 407 BC and the first king was King Maha Thambawa. Apart from chronicles, Mon stone inscription, inscribed during the reign of king Hteehlaingmin (AD 1084-1113), states that Srikhestra would be created by Beikthano hermit together with Thera Gavampati, Sakka, Visukamma Deva and Katakamma Naga in the year when the lord Buddha entered Parinivana²³. Dr.Than Tun claimed that Srikhestra came into existence from 2nd century BC to 9th century AD²⁴. Besides, on the basis of Ptolemy's record, the kingdom of Srikhestra had already been founded before 2nd century AD²⁵. In accordance with above mentioned facts, it is undoubtedly assumed that the Srikhestra city came into existence before the Christian Era with the first king Dwuttabaung [Buddhist Era 101-171 (443-373 BC)] or Maha Thambawa [Buddhist Era 60-66 (407-713 BC)].

Yazawinkyaw²⁶, Mahayazawin²⁷, Hmananyazawin²⁸ mention a long dynasty with 25 kings had ruled the Srikhestra kingdom starting from king Dwuttabaung [Buddhist Era 101-171 (443-373 BC)] to Supannanagara China [The Short Era²⁹ 5th -16th (AD 83-94)]³⁰. **Zatatawphonyazawin** describes about the long dynasty of Srikhestra, 27 kings, starting from

²² ပုဂံကျန်စစ်သားမင်းကြီးအတိအကျအသွယ်အဆောင်အယောင်အကျဉ်းချုပ်ရေးစာတမ်း၊
သုတေသနဌာနခွဲ နိုင်ငံရေး

²³ Chit Thein, 1965, P-84

²⁴ Than Tun, Dr, *Buddhist Art and Architecture with special Reference to Myanmar*, Yangon, Phowa Press, 2002, P-18 (Henceforth Than Tun, 2002)

²⁵ Gerini, G.E, *Researches of Ptolemy's Geography of Eastern Asia*, London, Stephen Austin and Sons, Ltd, 1909, PP-66-7 (Henceforth Gerini, 1909)

²⁶ Thilawuntha, Ashin Maha, *Yazawinkyaw*, Yangon, Hanthawaddy Press, 1965, P-123 (Henceforth *Yazawinkyaw*)

²⁷ Kala, U, *Mahayazawindawgyi*, Yangon, Yarpay Offset, 2006, PP-119-30 (Henceforth *Mahayazawin*)

²⁸ *Hmananmahayazawindawgyi*, Yangon, Pitaka Press, 1936, PP-170-85 (Henceforth *Hmanan*)

²⁹ At the yeare AD80, when king Thumondari [Buddhist Era 617-624 (AD 73-80)] passed away, 622 years Dodorasa were abolished from Buddhist Era 624 and the remaining year 2 is Short Era. Dodo means 22 and rasa means 6, and so, Dodorasa become 622, counting from the back.

³⁰ *Mahayazawin*, PP-119-32

king Maha Thambawa [Buddhist Era 60-66 (407-713 BC)] to Supannanagara Ching [Buddhist Era 612-24 (AD 68-72)]³¹. Apart from Myanmar Chronicles, epigraphic evidences found at Srikhestra have revealed some kings of Srikhestra dynasty evidently. These evidences are Payagyi urn Pyu inscription (fig-1) found from Payagyi Pagoda in 1911-12³², Hpyahtaung urn Pyu inscription (fig-2) found from Hpyahtaung Pagoda in 1993³³, Buddha's throne Sanskrit inscription found from Kanwetgaungkankon (fig-3) in 1927-28³⁴, and silver reliquary Pyu inscription (fig-4) found from Khinbakon trove mound in 1926-27³⁵. Payagyi inscription revealed list of the rulers of Srikhestra, King Hari Vikrama, King Siha Vikrama, and King Suriya Vikrama³⁶. Hpyahtaung inscription could reveal more kings such as King Hari Vikrama, King Siha Vikrama, King Suriya Vikrama, King Brithu Vikrama, and King Aditaya Vikrama³⁷. Buddha's throne inscription revealed Hari Vikrama and Jeyachandra Varman³⁸. And King Sri Prabhu Varman was revealed by silver reliquary inscription³⁹. There is controversial problem concerning with the date of the death of kings of Srikhestra among the Scholars. Some were in favour of using Saka Era starting with AD 78⁴⁰. Some were in favour of using Pyu Era using Gupta Era starting with AD 319-10⁴¹, and the others in favour of using Myanmar Era starting

³¹ *Zatatawphon*, PP-35-6

³² *ASI*, 1911-12, P-147, PL LXIX

³³ San Win, U, "Dating the Hpyahataung Pyu Stone Urn Inscription", *MHRJ No 11*, P-15 (Henceforth San Win, 2003)

³⁴ *ASI*, 1927-28, PP-127-8, PI LIV, g, h,

³⁵ *ASI*, 1926-27, PP-174 -6, PI XXXVII, d, and XXXVIII, c,

³⁶ Bladen, C.O, "The Pyu Inscription", *JBRS Vol VII, Pt i*, PP-37-44

Tha Myat, U, (Thiriphanchi), *Pyu Reader, A History of Pyu Alphabet*, Yangon, The National Press, 1963, P-41 (Henceforth Tha Myat, 1963)

³⁷ San Win, 2003, P-16

³⁸ Luce, *JBBR Vol XXVII, Pt iii*, PP-243-4

³⁹ *ASI*, 1926-27, P-176

⁴⁰ *Achaypya*, PP-244-5

⁴¹ *Ibid*, P-244

with AD 638⁴². On the basis of Myanmar Era, the list of date of death of kings from Payagyi urn inscription would be as follows,

- 1 king Suriya Vikrama died in AD 668
- 2 king Hari Vikrama died in AD 695
- 3 king Siha Vikrama died in AD 718⁴³

In according with Saka Era, the dates of death of kings from Payagyi inscription are as follows:-

- (1) King Hari Vikrama died in AD 120
- (2) Siha Vikrama died in AD 123
- (3) Suriya Vikrama died in AD 143⁴⁴

In accordance with Pyu Era, the dates of death of kings from Hpyahtaung inscription are as follows:-

- (1) King Hri Vikrama died in AD 360
- (2) King Siha Vikrama died in AD 363
- (3) King Suriya Vikrama died in AD 383
- (4) King Brithu Vikrama died in AD
- (5) King Aditaya Vikrama died in AD 403⁴⁵

⁴² Ibid, P-245

⁴³ (a) Luce, *JBRS Vol XXVII, Pt iii*, PP-243-4

(b) Hall, D.G.E, *A History of Southeast Asia*, London, Macmillan & Co. Ltd, 1995, P-120 (Henceforth Hall, 1955)

(c) Coedes, G, "Burma", *Spetrum Vol I, No 8*, Yangon, Sarpay Beikman, 1968, P-141

⁴⁴ Htin Aung, Maung, *Burmese History Before 1287; A Defence of the Chronicles*, London, the Asoka Society Oxford, 1970, P-9

Dr Than Tun was in favor of using Saka Era and suggested the date of death of kings from Hpayahaung inscription as follows;

- (1) King Hri Vikrama died in AD 120
- (2) King Siha Vikrama died in AD 123
- (3) King Suriya Vikrama died in AD 173
- (4) King Brithu Vikrama died in AD (?)
- (5) King Aditaya Vikrama died in AD 163⁴⁶

According to Hpayahaung inscription, Hri Vikrama was the first king of Vikrama dynasty. He was not only the founder of Srikestra city but also the founder of Vikrama dynasty. The Vikrama dynasty ruled Srikhestra from 4th century AD to the beginning of the 5th century AD.⁴⁷ However, Myanmar chronicles⁴⁸ and Mon inscriptions⁴⁹ of Hteeblaingmin (AD1084-1113) claim the first king of Srikhestra is Dwuttabaung.⁵⁰ According to Dr Than Tun, the Vikrama dynasty ruled over Srikhestra during the 1st century AD.⁵¹ It can assume that, the dynasty of Srikhestra might have been established before the Christian Era. In other words, Srikhestra had already been established before the Christian and about the 1st century AD onward, Vikrama dynasty ruled the kingdom of Srikhestra. The kingdom of Srikhestra was a prosperous kingdom because it had favorable geographical conditions for cultivation. Internal trade as well as trade with other foreign countries developed in those days.

⁴⁵ San Win, 2003, P-19

⁴⁶ Than Tun, 2004, P-119

⁴⁷ San Win, 2003, P-21

⁴⁸ *Mahayazawin*, P-119

⁴⁹ *Hmanan*, P-171

⁵⁰ Chit Thein, 1965, P-84

⁵¹ Than Tun, 2004, P-119

In other Myanmar version expressed that this city was founded by Mahathanbawa from Tagaung⁵². The Mahayazawin⁵³ and Glass Palace Chronicle⁵⁴ mention that Sriksetra was founded by King Duttabaung in AD 739(101CE) with help of hermits Deva(Thakya)Naga,Ogre(Bilu)etc.But archaeological evidence point out the date of founding of Sriksetra was 3 Century AD⁵⁵. Another Myanmar source directs the existence of Dynasty in Sriksetra that to Pyu Dynasty⁵⁶.Codes said that Sriksetra was turned to be kingdom as its geographical entity⁵⁷. The King Duttabaung with his javalines and attendances had politically influenced the kings in its environments⁵⁸. As this king Duttabaun with desirability of extending his entity of state ordered to collect tax from the citizens. His system of collection of revenue was elaborately explained in Myanmar Chronicle⁵⁹.Meanwhile Kan Yazagyi and Kan Yaza new were dominant rulers in Tagaung. Even they had power of making king when Dhanyawati was in interregnum Kanrazagyi with the consent of Kanyaza new went administered region of Dhanwati with law and order restoration and peace. With the generosity of ruling class and provision of geography public made figures either sculpture or votive tablets relating to their believe and worshipped them initially. Later Buddhism overshadow these city states where with the patronage of ruling class especially kings and his follower on the surfaces of urns in the cemetery of Sriksetra were domination of Indian politics that to influence of Hindu politics which indicates there was relationships established politically between Indian subcontinent and administration body of Sriksetra in ancient Myanmar. The Gadamba scripts first discovered in the space of

⁵² Hla Tin U,(ed), *ZataponYazawin*,Yangon,Archeaological Department,1960,p.35

⁵³U Kala,*Mahayazinttawgyi*(ed)SayaPwa,Vol.I,Myanmar Historical Society,Yangon,Hanthawaddy Press,1960,pp.116-117

⁵⁴ *Glass Palace Chronicle*,Vol.I,Mandalay,Mya Zaw Press,1955,p.170

⁵⁵ Sein Maung U,*Ancient Sriksetra*,Vol.III,Part.I,p.203

⁵⁶ Thilawuntha, Ashin Maha, *Yazawinkyaw*, Yangon, Hanthawaddy Press, 1965, P-123 (Henceforth *Yazawinkyaw*)

⁵⁷ GCoedes, *The Making of South East Asia*,London,Routtedge&Kegan Paul,1970,P.68

⁵⁸ Figure

⁵⁹ U Kala,*Mahayazawin*,Vol.I,pp.118-119

Sriksetra, sculpture of Brahma whose nave coming out a scroll where were born Vishnu, Siva and Brahma, symbol of creation of Universe, carved on a slab, Brahma with his console Sarasvati, and Parvati were the living Hindu advisors in political circle of Sriksetra. The architecture with decoration in Sriksetra was the work showing concentration of ruling class on secularism with spiritualism. It is undoubtedly the rule class took care of both lower layers who were crucial in productivity of Sriksetra that to kings' services with royal household services, economic sector, agricultural fields, mining where engaged in by Merchants, peasants, mining prove how political conditions were in conformity with geographical conditions of Sriksetra. About 15 miles distance from southeast is a small town commonly known as Thegone, whose area is 770 square miles where appeared a long lake called Inma by which one crossing the Myintmaka river and Hlaing river can travel to Yangon. This riverine geography was exploited by colonialists which it seems contributed political community upto Bagan period too⁶⁰ internal and external especially with China and India⁶¹. Moreover, SriKsetra had contact Vesali that is proved by similar alphabets which discovered and Vesali, nomenclature on both coins found in Vesali and Sri Ksetra⁶². Case in Halin was as I described above differed because the archaeological excavation uncovered statue of Mother goddess than other natural phenomenon which were yielded by archaeological departments with the hard labour of experts and workers who were employed by modern political authority. Fishing and fisheries facilities were provided by geography of not only in Vishnu but also in Halin and Sreksetra where geographical conditions created water body:- tank, pool and stream where fishes could be raising caught for eatable purpose as a mission of its people. The water of those tank, pool and stream encouraged

⁶⁰ *Burma Gazetteer, Tharawaddy District Vol A*, P-6

⁶¹ Stargardt, Janice, "Burma's Economic and Diplomatic Relations with India and China from Early Medieval Sources" *Essays on Burmese Archaeology 1967-1995*, University of Cambridge, 1995, P-41.

⁶² Sein Many Oo, *Ancient Sriksetra*, P.203

people in those three city states for agriculture and also to undertake trade and commerce as citizens' mission.

Coins⁶³ made of not only silver but also gold as well as bronze discovered in these three city states with skilled workers for coinage system. The golden Yasnopavita (Salwey) unearthed by archaeological department by its search in Sriksetra was strong documentary facts existence of gold soils or having technicians who could changed bronze into gold and qualified miners and workers with high knowledge as to golden utensils in Sriksetra. It testifies that those metal minerals were explored with the help of political community and employed them in political way⁶⁴.

The evidences documented continuity of women leading political body in Vishnu where a powerful Beikthano woman commanded every function in regard to political sector. In her guidance stratum in both ruling class and ruled who were obedient to her leadership and had to take permission for those who were incoming, were especially Roman and Greek according to Stargardt.⁶⁵ However, the figurative art in Vishnu city also indicates presence of Mesopotamians and their contribution in the writing of art which was earlier writing in Mesopotamia but we still does not find their writings with sixty one scripts⁶⁶.



⁶³ Aung Thaw, *Beikthano*, p.155, Figure.1-3

⁶⁴ Sein Maung U, *Ancient city of Sriksetra*, University General Phamlet V.III, Part.I, p.166

⁶⁵ Janice Stargardt, *The Ancient Pyu of Burma*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1991

⁶⁶ Breasted, James Henry, *Ancient Times, A History of the Early World*, Boston, Ginn and Company, 1944

Now we will turn our attention to Bagan. Many concepts linking with emergence are to be studied. One concept is lack of king with competence⁶⁷ after deterioration of Sriksetra. Another is that placing of Myanmar waves from north, which is now known as China or Tagaung. However, Bagan originates from the debris of Pyu settlement⁶⁸. At the presence of Myanmar elsewhere the Pyu communities' influence reduced to lower and Myanmar's dominance. In the domain of Myanmar earthen geography two communities came into the picture of physical geography. Myanmar with powerful force as attribution of Kingdom held the stake of politics which differentiated two communities-: Old community, Pyus and current community, Myanmar which divided the communities ruling and ruled communities. The stake held by the Anawrath's was central community that decided king making and other political affairs in the Kingdom of Bagan.

There are various names for Bagan which descended from Pyugama means Pyu village. Bagan is Pyu town, pyu village and king of Bagan is Pyu king by this way it stated 13 names on Bagan⁶⁹. The classical name is Arimaddanapura that means that their enemies were completed deteriorated. The kingdom of Bagan was bounded on the west by the Kala country called Pateikkara (India), on the north by Tarop country called Gandhala, on the south by Salankray; on the northwest by Kadu naga Gyi-Ye dwi mi, on the northeast by the Panthe country called Kavanti; on the Southeast by the Gywans country called Arawsa; on the northwest by Ngasaungkyan and on the Southwest by Yakhine⁷⁰. The city locates on Latitude 9452 North and Longitude 21 11 East, which stands on the left bank of the Ayeyawaddy where the river makes big bend to the south between Nyaung-U and Chaukp⁷¹. Like Pyu's cities Bagan was

⁶⁷ Ba Pe, U, A Short History of Burma (Myanmar) for Middle Schools, Yangon, Sapay Bikman Press, 1956, P. 18

⁶⁸ "Epigraphia Birmanica Being Lithic and Other Inscriptions of Burma" *Archaeological Survey of Burma* (ed) Taw Sein Ko, Volume. I, Part. I, Yangon, Government Printing reprint, 1972

⁶⁹ Ba Than, U, History of Myanmar, School Text, Mandalay, Mandalawadi Press, 1930, pp. 49-50

⁷⁰ Pe Maung Tin and Luce, 1960, p. 99

⁷¹ Daw Thin Kyi, "The Old Pagan, p. 179

walled on quarterly:-the west wall, East wall, South wall and North wall. Of 55 kings who had ruled the entity of Bagan the seventh king Teylay Kyung Min established a city known as Thiripisaya at the region of Lokananda. In 1198 Bagan kingdom was administered by Sawrahan. After him King Pyin Pya had founded Bagan in 649 .After Pyin Pya Min the king Thin KO Min popularly known as Sawyahan became king. After Thawka Htay in 1017 Anawratha ruled the Bagan. Under him entity of Bagan was extended coming out from city walled with the reason on population increased. Myanmar geography in the reign of Anawratha comprised of Malayu Island on the extreme south, Thai on the east, Cambodia and Maykaung valley on the northeast, Nanchaung and China on the north⁷². The capital of the kingdom situates on east of the river what is called Irrawaddy, one of the longest river now in Myanmar. The dynasty was divided into five- the first dynasty which was since the ruins of Sriksetra, the second was ascending the king Aniruddha, Awaratha (1044-1077AD), in the third there were three kings who were Colu Sawlu (1077-1084), Kalancacsa Kyansitha (1084-1111) and Aloncansu Alaungsithu (111-1167), the fourth composed of three kings who were Narasu Narathu (1167-1170), Narasinkha Minyanarathinkha (1170-1173) and Narapathisithu (1173-1210) and in the fifth dynasty consisted of seven kings who were Natonmya Zeya Thein kha (1210-1234), Klacwa Kyaswa (1234-1249), Uccana UZana (1249-1254), Narapathe (1254-1287) Klwecwa, Kyawswa (1287-1300)⁷³, Saneith and Sawmonneith. Bagan was not existing state reorganized but which was a new state established immediately after the ruin of Pyu state. The country was administered by Aniruddha at the dawn of founding with individual will but latter as sovereignty of country was so large in was changed into collective will by which to manage large fertile land by importing manpower from outside or human resources within his suzerainty

⁷² Pyu, Dr, "Socio-economic Conditions of Myanmar (Upto Bagan)" Third Japan-Myanmar International Symposium, 2017, p.28

⁷³ Michael Aung-Thwin, Pagan, p.22

extended as Empire. The court, central hub of the administration was offered attached at the palace in the capital. For the safeguard of country from both external and internal armed forces such as Cavalieri⁷⁴, Elephantry and also naval boat forces were established. Knowing the importance of armed forces by succeeding king popularly Narapatisithu even standing army and frontier forces apart from garrisons⁷⁵ as the attribution of the state were formed. In this political condition it is evidence earthen geography of Myanmar had existed golden sand by which skillful person respected made gold utensils like plates, pot and even golden Buddha images of one which was offered to Kyansitha by His grandson, Yazakumara expecting his granfater to be in the Nivana through merit of those golden Buddha image donated for religious ceremony.

Findings

From Eolithic to Mesolithic periods the Matriarchal governing system appeared in the common geography of Myanmar where flaked, edge-ground tools and orchards are found. The Patriarchal administrative form existed from Neolithic to Megalithic was dominated by Male known as Patriarchal. However community was gave birth in Megalithic Period. In these eras it found polished stone tools and Bronze assemblages, bronze axes. From Neolithic to Megalithic eras both incipient and developed agricultures flourished. What is extraordinary in Megalithic is Sarcophagus as we explained in our discussion. Bronze bracelet, glass bracelets, bronze spears and arrowheads, iron implements, iron and bronze implements, red and black pottery and different beads like agate and carnelian were investigated. Upto these except cave monuments it did not find any other monuments which are either repose or energetic style. Nevertheless from Eolithic to Megalithic arts were developed in ancient geography of Myanmar by not only

⁷⁴Nat Mauk Bon Kyaw, *Notes on Ancient Myanmar armed forces*, Yangon, Sar Pebeikman Presss, 1967, P.13 (Hereafter cite as Bon Kyaw Ancient Myanmar armed forces)

⁷⁵ Bon Kyaw Ancient Myanmar armed forces Pp.18-19

Matriarchal and Patriarchal politics and community politics. In city-states period both monuments and mechanical arts made of bronzes and silver as well as silver were germinated in their geography walled. In the geography of Bagan dynastic politics that monarchical politics flowered where over thousand monuments and various arts made of gold, bronze, wood and stones were have been existing are evidences for richness of gold and bronzes in Bagan earthen geography.

Conclusion

This study considered geographical and political conditions of ancient Myanmar from commencing very early stone ages to Bagan emphasizing materials explored in each geography and in each period by the mechanism of politics flourished in each time. The data shows Myanmar was is rich of materials which were employed in respected role by people concerned with their political mechanism. The perspectives of this study are Geography and politics. It is historical context employed in this research and the approach is both artistic and materialistic.