

**HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CHIN SOCIETY IN THE
COLONIAL PERIOD (1885-1948)**

Ph.D. (DISSERTATION)

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MARCH 2011

ABSTRACT

This dissertation attempts to bring out the administration, education and social conditions of Southern Chin society in the years between 1885-1948. The term, "Southern Chins" refer to the peoples of Kanpletet, Paletwa, Matupi and Mindat areas. They constitute a distinct social type. After the Third Anglo-Myanmar War with the deportation of King Thibaw, the Chins started their resistance against the British. The British began the Chin Hills expedition in 1888. Due to the disparity of arms and manpower Chin Hills fell into the hands of the British. However the Chins never surrendered to the British. Traditionally, the Southern Chins had no chieftainship. The Chins in each village had an influential elder guarding the interests of the villagers. The British Government practised the indirect rule in the Chins Hills. The British passed the Chin Hills Regulation based on the customs of the Chins. When Myanmar Proper was given the Dyarchy administration in 1923, the Chin Hills including the frontiers areas were declared as Backward Tracts and excluded from the sphere of Legislation of Myanmar Proper. Under the British colonial rule education, health, agriculture, transportation and communication were neglected. The British always looked to the benefits of their cause. There were very few schools opened by the British. In the public health sector also the colonial government built civil hospitals at the military bases. These hospitals were meant only for the government servants and military servicemen. Thus frequent epidemic diseases broke out in rural areas.

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