

## **A Study on the Colonial Administration in Myanmar (1886 - 1945)**

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### **Abstract**

This is a study of the colonial administration in Myanmar (1886-1945). The study is at examining the administrative machinery of the British colony. The study finds that the legacy of British colonial rule was a centralized government with bureaucratic machinery of administration. The pattern of British administration was vastly different from that of olden days of Myanmar kings. It begins with the British annexation of Upper Myanmar followed by the establishment of Dyarchy Administration and 91 Departments Administration, and finally CAS (B) military administration. In order to maintain the colonial rule, the British laid a great emphasis on establishing of law and order. Although the British practiced different administrative systems in Myanmar, all are, in essence, the same.

**Key words:** Bureaucratic machinery of administration, Dyarchy Administration, 91 Departments Administration, CAS (B)

### **Introduction**

The instability that marked Myanmar's pre-British history made it all the more easier for the British to establish the controlling of the region. The British after the Third Anglo-Myanmar War of 1886 occupied Upper Myanmar. At first Upper Myanmar was put under the military administration after abolishing *Hluttaw* and both Upper Myanmar and Lower Myanmar were jointly administered by the Chief Commissioner. In 1897 the transformation began in Myanmar with the promotion of the Chief Commissioner to the rank of Lieutenant Governor. Under the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909, the Legislative Council of Myanmar was increased to 30 members. According to the Government of Burma Act 1921, the Dyarchy administration was inaugurated in Myanmar. Under this system the Legislative Council was increased to 103 members and there were two kinds of subjects - Reserved subjects and Transferred subjects. Reserved subjects were controlled by the Governor and Transferred subjects were handed to Myanmar representatives.

In 1928 the Simon Commission came to review the working of the reforms. The 1921 Act was superseded in 1935, by an improved one, again to be known as the Government of Burma Act 1935. By the Act, 91 Departments administration began in Myanmar. During the 91 Departments administration Myanmar was under the direct control of the Great Britain. Under this system the Legislature expanded from a Legislative Council of 103 to a bi-cameral Legislature consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives.

After the War the British military administration began in Myanmar with the establishment of CAS (B). The main task of CAS (B) was for the restoration of law and order and rehabilitation of the economic life of Myanmar. But the pattern and structure of British government was directed towards keeping a firm hold on the subjects and to exploit the resources of the country.

### **Materials and Methods**

The hypothesis on this paper was conducted by the descriptive method. Related data were collected through some published data. Making use of material available in the library of the History Department, University of Yangon, the Central Library and the National

Archives Department, an attempt is made to study the factors responsible for the British colonial rule with bureaucratic machinery of administration.

### Discussion

Myanmar was colonized by British following three Anglo-Myanmar Wars in 1824, 1852 and 1885. British rule brought social, economic, cultural and administrative changes. After the Third Anglo-Myanmar War (1886), the British occupied Upper Myanmar. At first, Upper Myanmar was put under the military administration, and then under Kingun Mingyi U Kaung and *Hluttaw*. After abolishing *Hluttaw*, both the Upper Myanmar and Lower Myanmar were jointly administered by the Chief Commissioner who was appointed by the Governor General of India. At that time the Chief Commissioners were Sir Charles Bernard and Sir Charles Crosthwaite. The province of Myanmar, after 1885 was administered as follows:

#### 1. Ministerial Burma (Myanmar proper)

1. Tanintharyi Division (Toungoo, Thahton, Rakhine, Thanlwin, Dawei and Myeik Districts)
2. Rakhine Division (Sittwe, Northern Rakhine or Rakhine Hill Tracts, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe Districts)
3. Bago Division (Yangon, Bago, Tharyawady and Pyay Districts)
4. Ayarwady Division (Patheingyi, Hinthada, Thayetmyo, Maubin, Myaungmya and Pyawgon Districts)

#### 2. Scheduled Areas (Frontier Areas)

1. Shan States
2. Chin Hills
3. Kachin tracts

The "Frontier Areas", were also known as the "Excluded Areas" or the "Scheduled Areas". The Frontier Areas were inhabited by ethnic minorities such as the Chin, the Shan, the Kachin and the Kayinni. They were administered separately by the British.

The British set up the whole Myanmar with the establishment of civil administration as an attempt to "further economic and social development of the area". Upper Myanmar was divided into 14 districts each under a Deputy or Assistant Commissioner with a Police Assistant. As in Lower Myanmar, local administration was based on the circles with its hereditary headman who was called *taikthugyi* or *myothugyi*. But Sir Charles Crosthwaite broke up the circles into villages. The village was converted into an administrative unit by the Upper Burma Village Regulation of 1887 and the Burma Village Act of 1889. The maintenance of law and order and the collection of revenue became the duties of the headman of village.

From the earliest days of annexation the British recognized that Myanmar was par excellence a Buddhist State. No attempt was ever made to undermine the religion of the Myanmar people. For some years, ecclesiastical causes were left for decision by the Order of monks, but judicial decision gradually brought them within the jurisdiction of the civil courts. British law supplanted the Myanmar custom.

The transformation began in Myanmar in 1897 with the promotion of the Chief Commissioner to the rank of Lieutenant Governor. He was assisted by a Legislative Council of nine nominated members, including five non-officials. This Legislative Council had only an advisory power.

At the time, Myanmar was a part of India, whenever administration changes were made in India, administration of Myanmar also changed. Under the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909, the Legislative Council of Myanmar was increased in size to a membership of thirty with a non-official majority. But it had little real power. Resolutions could be moved, votes were taken and questions asked. But the principle of popular election was not introduced. No resolution had binding force on the government.

In 1917, the British Parliament agreed to give responsible self - government to India. But it would not give self-government to Myanmar as it thought that Myanmar people had no political experience and necessary education for working a democratic constitution on the western model. So the Montagu-Chelmsford Report proposed to set aside problem of Myanmar's political evolution for future consideration. The Myanmar nationalists were very angry. They protested the Montagu - Chelmsford Report vigorously. In 1919, the YMBA leaders, U Ba Pe, U Pu and U Htun Shein were sent to London to demand political reforms. But they were not successful. So U Ba Pe, U Pu and U Thein Maung were sent again to London. They returned when the British Government promised to give Dyarchical form of government to Myanmar.

The strength of Myanmar national feeling took everyone by surprise. The Government of Burma Act 1921 was passed to bring Myanmar into line with the other provinces of India. To work out the details of the new constitution a Burma Reforms Committee, presided over by Sir Frederick Whyte, visited Myanmar.

Dyarchy administration was inaugurated in 1923. Under this system, Myanmar became a Governor's Province of India. The new form of government was established. But the Shan States, Kayinni and the Tribal Hills were excluded from its operation. They were directly controlled by the Governor.

Dyarchy administration was a dual administration. The Legislative Council was increased to 103 members. Out of 103, seventy nine were to be elected on a democratic franchise, two were ex-officials and twenty two nominated. The Governor was helped by the executive Council. There were two kinds of Subject-Reserved Subjects and Transferred subjects. The Reserved Subjects comprised defense, law and order, finance and revenue. The transferred departments included education, public health, forests and agriculture. The Franchise was granted to householders without sex disqualifications and with eighteen as the minimum age limit.

In the new legislature, the opposition was solidly a nationalist. The procedure of the House was as closely as possible modeled on that of the British House of Commons. The Myanmar members learnt the new procedure speedily. The dominant party was the People's Party led by U Ba Pe. It was also called as the Twenty-one Party from the number of these numbers who signed its first programme. There was also a smaller Independent Party, led by Sir JA Maung Gyi. This party supported the government. A third party of extreme nationalists under U Chit Hlaing boycotted the Council.

U Ba Pe and his followers were moderates. They wanted to use the Council for forcing on the government by constitutional means of reforms which they wanted. They demanded better education to fit Myanmar for self-government, rapid Myanmarization of the public services, the promotion of indigenous economic development, and the restriction of

foreign exploitation, the provision of more money for the nation-building department and for agricultural credit.

The British government did not want to give self-government. So it changes the appearance of bureaucracy and called this changed bureaucracy as Dyarchy. In fact the real power was in the hands of the Governor and the English officials. The Governor also had the veto power. The British and Indian merchants got concessions. Dyarchy administration lasted until April 1937.

In 1928 the "Simon Commission" came to review the working of the reforms. Myanmar demanded the full responsible government and separation from India. The Simon Commission reported in favour of separation. At the general election held in November 1932, the Anti- Separation League won a complete victory. But the British Government advocated separation. The new constitution for Myanmar was embodied in the Government of Burma Act, 1935. It came into force on 1 April 1937. The Myanmar Government came directly under the British Parliament. The Secretary of State for India became the Secretary of State for India and Myanmar. A separate Myanmar Office was created under a Secretary for Myanmar.

The Legislature had been greatly changed; a legislature with two Houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. It was expanded from a Legislative Council of 103 to a bi-cameral legislature consisting of a Senate, the Upper House of thirty-six members, half elected by propositional representation, by the members of the Lower House which was called the House of Representatives and half nominated by the Governor in his discretion, and of the House of Representatives of 132 elected members, 91 from general constituencies and 41 from communal, University, commercial and labour constituencies. The franchise was extended to about one third of the male population and one tenth of the females.

Myanmar always held seventy- two percent of the seats in the Lower House and the ministries were almost exclusively Myanmar. The tenure of the House of Representatives was five years whereas that of the Senate was seven years. The Legislature had to be summoned at least once a year and in practice there were to be at least two sessions, one in February and March to pass the Budget, and the second one in August or September. Both Chambers had the right to choose and to remove their own Chairman, who was called the President of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives. The new administration was called 91 departments administration. Because the new constitution turned over, in theory, 91 Departments in Government to the Cabinet which was responsible to the House of Representatives but in practice there were only 54 Departments by the list of Minister's Budget. Under this system, the administration of British Government in Myanmar had been changed. Formerly Myanmar was governed by King, but now it was under the direct control of the Crown of Great Britain. A new post of Secretary of State for Myanmar was established but it was still held by the Secretary of State for India. Myanmar under the rule of India Office was devolved to under that of Myanmar Office. Furthermore, it was in the past ruled by the Governor of Myanmar through the Governor- General of India but now it was ruled only by the Governor of Myanmar.

The Government of Myanmar under the 91 Departments administration consisted of a Governor, appointed by the Crown; a Council of Ministers (Cabinet), restricted to ten members, responsible to the Legislature for all matters within the scope of its authority. The Governor was the most important person in the new scheme.

The Governor had complete liberty of action in all matters concerning which he was required to exercise his individual discretion. He had special responsibilities for the

administration of the Scheduled Areas (the Shan States, and other peripheral hill tracts) as well as jurisdiction over defense, foreign relations, monetary policy, currency, coinage, revenue and Christian ecclesiastical affairs. In these affairs, Myanmar had no voice.

There was also a council of Ministers (Cabinet) in the Government of Myanmar. Its members were limited not exceeding ten in number. Their duty was to assist and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions. In practice, the ministers were persons who were supported by a majority of the Parliament. The new government began with six ministers, later increased to seven. Aside from the special functions and responsibilities of the Governor, the executive government of the country was vested in the Council of Ministers. Ministers were chosen from either Chamber and had the right to speak in both Chambers, but only had a vote in the Chamber of which they were members. The relation between the Governor and ministers was unique. The Governor appointed ministers and determined their conditions of service while the Council of Ministers had a constitutional right to tender advice to the governor in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Act.

There was a Secretariat under the Governor and the Council of Ministers. The Secretaries played an important role in the administrative system. The new administration in 1937 led to a great increase in the number of secretaries to a new conception of Secretarial works and to a further complexity in Secretariat procedure. In 1930, there were seven Secretaries, seven Under - Secretaries, two Assistant Secretaries and four Registrars under the Chief Secretary. By 1940, under the 91 Departments Administration, there were ten Secretaries, three Joint Secretaries, five Deputy Secretaries, nine Under -Secretaries, five Assistant Secretaries and seven Registrars. They were recruited from the administrative civil service. In the past, the Secretaries had taken the orders of the head of the government, who was himself a professional administrator and knew what could and could not be done. Under the 91 Departments Administration, the secretary was the adviser to a Minister, who should have ideas as to what was desirable but, for lack of experience concerning administration, could not know what was feasible or how it should be done. This led too much greater power for the secretaries.

The whole system was kept closely under the Secretariat in Yangon. The Secretariat Departments at that time were ten in number. They were as follows: -

- (1) The Home Department,
- (2) The Judicial Department,
- (3) The Finance Department,
- (4) The Revenue Department,
- (5) The Commerce Department,
- (6) The Forest Department,
- (7) The Education Department,
- (8) The Health and Public Works Department,
- (9) The Labour Department, and
- (10) The Agriculture Department

The Home Department was in charge of general administration and others had various specialist functions.

In the sphere of administration, the new administration did not bring any significant change. No change was contemplated in the territorial organization. The local administration of Myanmar was conducted through a hierarchy of officials: Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Sub-divisional officers, Township officers, and Village Headmen. These officers were responsible for executive and magisterial as well as revenue collection.

Under the 91 Departments Administration, there were in Myanmar proper seven divisions: Bago, Ayarwady, Tanintharyi, Rakhine, Magwe, Sagaing and Mandalay, each under a Commissioner and then in turn were divided into districts. Myanmar exclusive of the Shan States was divided into 37 districts, of which three, the Rakhine Hills, Thanlwin and the Chin Hills, were excluded areas. In the districts, the new constitution brought little change to the organization of administrative machinery. The district was the hub of the administration under British rule. The British Government desired to retain the District as an administrative unit. In the normal District, the Deputy Commissioner performed administrative tracks under three titles; District magistrate, collector and Deputy Commissioner. As District magistrate, he worked as head of the magistracy and police. As collector, he was responsible for the revenue administration, the most important branch of which was Land Revenue. As Deputy Commissioner he controlled the village administration and performed other miscellaneous functions.

The administration of a district was vested in the Deputy Commissioner (DC) whose office was divided into six departments, namely:

- (1) Judicial Department,
- (2) General Department,
- (3) Revenue Department,
- (4) Land Records Department,
- (5) Treasury Department,
- (6) Registration Department

The Deputy Commissioner was also responsible for the Police and Forest Departments, but the District Superintendent of Police and the Divisional Forest Officer each had a separate office and carried on part of his correspondence direct with the head of his department without the intervention of the Deputy Commissioner.

During the period of 91 Departments administration (1937-42), the premiership changed for four times. On 1 April 1937 Dr Ba Maw could manage to form a coalition cabinet. Myanmar's first government under the new 1935 constitution included Dr Ba Maw as the Premier, two *Sinyetha* followers, Dr. Thein Maung (commerce and industry) and Thayarwady U Maung Maung (education), U Pu of *Ngabwint Saing* (lands and revenue), U Paw Tun of *Hling Myat Paw* (home), Saw Pe Tha (agriculture and forest), and U Htoon Aung Gyaw (finance).

Dr. Ba Maw's cabinet tackled such serious problems as agrarian distress, corruption and village administration. Some Myanmar felt that 91 Departments administration was a ploy to exclude them from any further Indian reforms whereas other Myanmar saw any action that removed Myanmar from the control of India to be a positive step. In 1938 there began demonstrations against the government through Myanmar. A wave of strikes and protests that started from the oilfields of central Myanmar in 1938 became a general strike with far-reaching consequences. In Yangon student protesters, the seat of the colonial government, were charged by the British mounted police wielding batons and killing a Yangon University student called Aung Kyaw. In Mandalay, the police shot into a crowd of protesters led by Buddhist monks killing 17 people. The movement became known as *Htaung thoun ya byei ayeidawbon* (the '1300 Revolution' named after the Myanmar calendar year). Therefore the government of Prime Minister Dr. Ba Maw fell in 1939. He resigned from the Legislative Assembly and was arrested for sedition.

In 1939, the new Coalition Government headed by U Pu came into office. His Cabinet consisted of U Pu (Premier), Saw Po Chit (education), Galon U Saw (agriculture and forest),

U Htoon Aung Gyaw (finance), U Tun of *Ngaburint Saing* (Commerce and industry), U Paw Tun (lands and revenue), U Aye (judicial) and U Ba Pe (home). U Pu's Government was found to be in a very difficult position to give satisfaction to the citizens of Myanmar and the British Government as well. U Saw found that it was a ripe time and great opportunity to realize his ambition to become a Prime Minister. Although he was Minister of Forest and Agriculture in U Pu's Cabinet he visited U Ba Pe and discussed to overthrow U Pu. U Ba Pe stated if U Saw's Government agreed to act in accordance with his instruction, he would support to overthrow U Pu's Cabinet. At the Budget Session of the Legislature, on 7 September 1940, a non-confidence motion against the Government was sponsored principally by U Ba Pe. Thereby, U Saw, in co-operation with U Ba Pe, was able to bring down U Pu's Cabinet and on 9 September, 1940 U Saw took office as Prime Minister. U Saw's cabinet in 1940 composed of U Saw (Prime Minister and Minister of forest and agriculture), Sir Paw Tun (lands and revenue), U Aye (home), Saw Pe Thar (Judicial), U Ba Thi (finance), U Ba Than (commerce and industry), Thayarwaddy Maung Maung (health), U Ba Yin (education), and U Ba Ohn (Labour).

On 8 October 1941 U Saw flew to London and had a talk with British Premier Churchill. U Saw insisted to him to declare freedom of Myanmar by the end of World War II. Mr. Churchill promised orally that if Britain won the War the issue of Myanmar's constitution would be settled within a liberal manner.

U Saw's efforts to achieve Dominion status of Myanmar at London proved to end in failure. U Saw decided to return to Myanmar. Since there was nothing he could do, U Saw and his Secretary went to America. He decided to return to Europe and then to Myanmar. He turned to Japanese to get assistance for his cause. However the British intelligence received the information that U Saw contacted the Japanese Consulate in Portugal. Therefore, when U Saw reached Haifa in Palestine he was arrested and detained in Uganda in 1942, when Yangon received the news of U Saw, Sir Paw Tun was appointed Prime Minister.

The conquest of Yangon and much of Myanmar was soon under Japanese control in 1942. A Myanmar Executive Administration headed by Dr. Ba Maw was established by the Japanese in August 1942. Beginning in late 1944, allied troops launched a series of offensives that led to the end of Japanese rule in July 1945.

When the Japanese occupied Myanmar the British Government retreated to Simla, India. The British Government established the exiled Burma government in India in Simla. Because it wanted the whole world to know that the Japanese occupation was only for a time being. While in Simla, the exiled governor, Sir Dorman Smith prepared the Simla Scheme for reconstruction of Myanmar.

On 15 February 1943, the Civil Affairs Service, Burma (CAS (B)) was established under the command of the Commander - in - Chief - India. The CAS (B) came into being on 15 February 1943 with the appointment of the senior Myanmar Government official, the Chief Civil Affairs Officer, Myanmar with the rank of Major General. Hence Myanmar fell under the dual control of the Government of Myanmar and Commander - in Chief, India. But during 1943, the CAS (B) had neither the organization nor equipment to discharge the onerous duties and functions laid on it. Due to the necessity, a considerable amount of the routine work of administration had to be done by the Government of Myanmar. Military necessity and security required the work of civil administration during and at least immediately after the re-occupation of Myanmar, to be done by an administration directed and controlled solely by a military administration.

The promulgation of proclamation No.1 dated 1 January 1944 imposed on the Chief Civil Affairs Officer (Burma) Major- General C.F.B. Pearce delegated duties, functions and powers up to 31 December 1943 had been shared by the Government of Myanmar and the CCAO (B) as the Civil Affairs Staff Officer of general headquarter (GHA), India. The primary functions of the CAS (B) Military administration were to maintain law and order, to maintain the security of military operations, to prevent disease and unrest among the civil population, and to provide labour and local resources in furtherance of military operations. Subsidiary to and contributing towards the fulfillment of and without detriment to the primary functions, the CAS (B) had to take all possible steps towards the rehabilitation of normal life in all spheres of activity.

CAS (B) was organized into the headquarters (HQ) and Field Units. Headquarters had two main tasks: to direct and control the activities of Field Units in accordance with the policies prescribed by the Supreme Allied Commander, Southeast Asia Command; and to prepare plans for the administration of areas to be re-occupied and to assemble the necessary personnel, equipment and supplies. However, many of its officers lacked experience in administration and its numbers were quite inadequate for the tasks ahead. Moreover, CAS (B), under the Supreme Allied Commander, was responsible for the immediate tasks - restoration of law and order and rehabilitation of the economic life of Myanmar.

Field Units consisted of Formation Civil Affairs Officers (CAOs) and Territorial CAOs and their subordinate staff. Formation CAOs were attached to military formations down to divisions and sometimes brigades. Their duties were to assist the military commanded in his relations with the people and to take such measures of military Government, as he required.

Territorial CAOs were assigned to the administration of the civil population in Military Areas and the implementation of military administration in re-occupied areas. In the early stage, the functions of the Civil Affairs Unit were to assist military commander's plans in the forward battle area by connecting with the civil authorities and by controlling the activities of the local inhabitants in such a way that prevent disorganization, disease and unrest hampering the activities of the fighting troops; and to exercise administrative control and supervision in such areas so directed by the competent authority and to ensure the preservation of law and order.

In early 1945, because the recruited number of competent Myanmar-trained persons had to be shared between the CAS (B) and the Simla government. General Pearce recruited many of his military officers from former employees of British firms operating in Myanmar, who were unfamiliar not only with political realities in Myanmar but also with governmental administrative procedures. They attempted the re-establishment of capitalist economy in Myanmar and neglected the civil administration. They were therefore extreme imperialists. The British military administration in Myanmar began with the establishment of CAS (B). On 17 May 1945, the policy of British Government for Myanmar after the re-establishment of civil government was declared in a White Paper. On 16 October 1945, the former Governor who had taken refuge in Simla during the war came back to reintroduce civil administration. So the military administration of Myanmar came to an end on 15 October 1945.

### **Conclusion**

After a series of Anglo- Myanmar wars in the early to mid-19th Century, British finally managed to seize control of Myanmar in 1886. Immediately following this victory; the British annexed Myanmar as a province of British India. British rule brought social,

economic, cultural and administrative changes. After the Third Anglo-Myanmar War, the English occupied Upper Myanmar. At first, Upper Myanmar was put under the military administration, and then under Kingwun Min gyi U Kaung and *Hluttaw*. After abolishing *Hluttaw*, both the Upper Myanmar and the Lower Myanmar were jointly administrated by the Chief Commissioner who was appointed by the Governor General of India.

Until the 20th century, Myanmar was allowed no self-government. Until 1923, the administration of Myanmar was headed by a Lieutenant Governor; in 1923 the post was elevated to governor. In 1923 a system of "Dyarchy," already in effect in the rest of British India, was introduced, whereby a partially elected legislature was established and some ministers were made responsible to it. But Dyarchy was a political trick of the imperialistic capitalists. It changed the appearance of bureaucracy.

The Government of India Act 1935 came into effect on April 1937. On 1 April 1937, the British separated Burma Province from British India and granted the colony. Myanmar becomes a semi-autonomous country. The country was given political autonomy, a constitution, providing a representative assembly and self-government. A new constitution called for a fully elected assembly, with many powers given to Myanmar, but this proved to be a divisive issue as some Myanmar felt that this was a ploy to exclude them from any further Indian reforms whereas other Myanmar saw any action that removed Myanmar from the control of India to be a positive step.

After the British retreated from Myanmar in May 1942, the Exile Governor Sir Reginald Dorman Smith moved to Simla. The Simla government headed by Sir Dorman Smith had drawn up a plan for the reconstruction of Myanmar after reoccupation. The surrender of the Japanese brought a British military administration to Myanmar. In May 1942, Governor Sir Dorman Smith discussed on Myanmar's rehabilitation and his plans were accepted. He was also asked that His Majesty's Government (HMG) should be making a statement in form of White Paper to declare its future policy towards Myanmar. After the war ended, the British Governor, Sir Dorman-Smith returned. The restored government established a political programme that focused on physical reconstruction of the country and delayed discussion of independence. On 17 May 1945, the White Paper was published. On 15 October 1945; the British military administration was withdrawn. The terms of White Paper were completely unacceptable to the AFPFL. Because Myanmar people knew that the White Paper intended to exploit Myanmar and the Governor would put into practice the divide and rule policy, they did not want to accept the White Paper Scheme at all. The British wanted a return to the pre-war political structure for Myanmar for a period of several years before a new constitution was drawn up and elections held. Since June 1945, AFPFL had demanded the inauguration of a representative provisional government led by the AFPFL. Therefore, the confrontations between the Governor and AFPFL became intensified.

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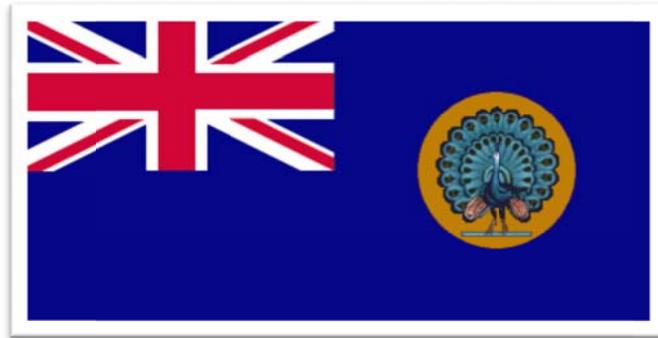
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### **Flags of Myanmar(1886-1948)**



1 Jan 1886 - 6 Feb 1939

Upper Myanmar annexed to British Burma (within British India)



6 Feb 1939 - 30 Mar 1941(1st April 1937- a separate British colony)

3 May 1945 - 3 Jan 1948