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## Locating the State in Conflicts and Resolution: Leaves from Syrian Christian History

Dr. Susan Thomas

The Syrian Christian Community of Kerala in the colonial period was one that had undergone lot of changes in allegiances. The community was subjected to many splits and many factions emerged during this period. These splits had caused much tensions and discords among the members of the community. The first split occurred in the 17th century with the Oath of Connan Cross when the community got split into Pazhayakuru and the Puthankuru or the Catholic faction and the Antiochian faction.

This paper tries to look at two documents relating to the split found in two of the older churches of Kerala dating to 1770 and 1824. It also looks at a reference in the Kerala Society papers to a manuscript which talks of how a conflict was resolved in the Pre-Modern period. The attempt is to understand the changing roles of the community leaders and the state. This analysis is vital as one can see how after the 17th century the state assumes a role of mediator in these conflicts as one who is impartial or neutral. The state also has an interest in seeing that these conflicts are peacefully resolved as by this period the functions and role of these native states has undergone a change. They are no longer Swaroopams of the older days but see themselves as kingdoms in the modern context responsible for regulating communities and citizens who were to live peacefully within their boundaries.

### Conflict Resolution within the Community in the Pre-Modern Period

The Syrian Christian Community in the pre-modern period was one that regulated its own internal affairs while being part of the wider sociocultural frame of Kerala. Though much is not known about the



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