



**THE MAKING OF A PRINCELY
STATE UNDER BRITISH
COLONIALISM:**

REALM, RULE AND SOCIETY
IN COCHIN, 1791-1947.

Omana J.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The advent of the Europeans for the trade was one of the most important historical milestones in the history of the Cochin State. The intervention of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English in local administration has influenced the socio-economic history of Cochin. Though the Europeans came to Cochin in search of commercial avenues, their commercial interest was only short lived and they started to interfere in the local governments' administration of the Cochin State. Gradually, their involvement in local administration influenced the socio-economic history of Cochin to a great extent.

The British impact could be seen in all the walks of life in Cochin. They effected changes in the fields of administration, agriculture, trade, industry, transport and communication, education, judiciary, health etc which influenced the socio-economic history of Cochin State. Socio-economic history of a state has a base on self-sustained growth of different regions. It depends upon both economic and non-economic factors. Cochin, the ancient land of the Perumals has developed into a modern state with her beautiful coast, plains, busy industries, dense population, attainment of full literacy, trade through Cochin port etc. The state has made remarkable progress in all directions during the British colonial period. It is interesting to trace how during the British period Cochin developed from a small feudal state with little resources to a modern and model state which was considered as one of the most progressive and well governed states in British India.

Socio-economic development of Cochin is associated with a structural change during the British colonial period in which there was a shift in economic activities from the primary sector

About the Author



Dr. OMANA J., daughter of Smt. Joyce and (Late) Mr. George J., was born on 23rd November 1956 at Poovachal, in Trivandrum District. Passed M.A Degree in History, Sociology and Economics, M.Phil. and B.Ed. from the University of Kerala and Ph.D. from Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. Joined as Teacher in St. Joseph's Girls' High School, Mundakkayam in 1981 and Lecturer in Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, in 1998. Visited U.K for the collection of research materials from the British Library with the help of Foreign Travel Grant from Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi.

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Publication Division
Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit
Kalady P. O., Ernakulam - 683 574
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Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Silver Jubilee Series

First Published : 2018

©Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady.

Published by :

Publication Division

Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady

Ernakulam Dist., Kerala - 683 574

Ph. 0484 - 2465470

Web : www.ssus.ac.in, Email : po@ssus.ac.in

Price : 432.00

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