

PREFACE

leader Gharib Nawaz attempted to invade Myanmar and carried everything for them and almost reached the walls of Ava. King Dhammayazadipati's weakness to repulse the Manipuris invasion further weakened the power of Ava. The chapter two of this book mentioned about Manipur wars with Ava using the primary sources.

In chapter three and chapter four the author described about the affairs with Hanthawady in detail. The inefficiency of King Mahadhammayazadipiti encouraged the rise of Hanthawady. Hanthawady made a distinct separate state. As time passed by Hanthawady forces reached the neighbourhood of Ava. The incessant wars with Ava finally led to the downfall of Nyaungyan dynasty. In this book the author give footnotes in relevant pages and appendices are attached at the end of the book with the purpose of further research work. It is my senior hope that the publication of this book would be some benefits to the students of history, local and foreign researchers.

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Especially during the reign of King Mahadamayazadipati, Ava faced with the Manipur Wars. Manipur was conquered by the Myanmar since the time of King Bayinnaung. Seizing the opportunity of the weakness of the last two kings of Nyaungyan dynasty the Manipur had grown stronger. Their

Foreword

It is obvious that the production of a treatise rests primarily on data collection, its examination and collation. The same procedures are followed in the writing of Myanmar history. This department fundamentally rummage around and collect new data bearing on Myanmar history. It is an unceasing endless process. It is distinctly apparent that old records, palm leaf manuscripts and parabaiks bearing on Myanmar history keep emerging all the time.

Nevertheless we should under the prevailing circumstances, endeavour to produce a fairly adequate Myanmar history, written in Myanmar language, based upon the new data we have collected and studied so far. One of the earliest Myanmar historical treatise was U Kala's Mahayazawingyi. It may be stated that Mahayazawingyi was a fairly comprehensive Myanmar historical account which, under the prevailing circumstances, came out in the early years of the 18th century. Being a primary product other historical writings such as the Glass Palace Chronicle, etc., which came out later used Mahayazawingyi as a fundamental bedrock.

In the present age we have come to consider not only regal history but to explore a country's national identity as well. By national identity we mean in essence, a country's toil and exertions, her rise and fall, vis-à-vis her economy, politics, social and cultural events. These aspects will need to be given more emphasis when one attempts to portray the history of Myanmar.

In any historical treatise of any country, the political events have always been the spine of its narrative. Therefore in probing towards the compilation of Myanmar history, one should take her political events as its spine. From this basis one should, as a free and independent critic, scrutinise her economic, political, social and cultural events. The writing begins with the termination of her investigation process. By clarifying her bygone eras she would objectively come to understand her present status. This in turn would propel her forward and enable her to gauge the distant future.

In order to accomplish a history of Myanmar as complete as possible, this department had under the prevailing circumstances, studied Myanmar history under four periodical headings. They are the Ancient, the Middle, the Konbaung and the Colonial periods. By the Ancient period is meant from time immemorial to the fall of the Bagan dynasty. By the Middle period is meant from the Bagan dynasty to the fall of the Nyaungyan dynasty. By the Konbaung period is meant from the fall of the Nyaungyan dynasty to fall of the Konbaung dynasty. By the Colonial period is meant from the fall of the Konbaung dynasty to the attainment of independence in 1948.

These four periods would be placed in the hands of three senior research officers who would write them as they seem fit, giving relevant specific sub-headings wherever they seem appropriate. The researchers would consider and appraise the events as they occurred from year to year in successive order. The completed manuscripts would then be published as they come along.

Among the department's Myanmar history text series this treatise stands as number one for the Konbaung period. It portrays in an introductory manner, the preliminary changes which occurred when the country moves from the Nyaungyan phase to that of Konbaung. It relates the circumstances and the various affairs which cropped up during the nearly four decades reigns of kings Taninganway and Mahadamayazadipati. It also delves into the incapacities and incompetence of these two kings and their courtiers.

In this treatise footnotes are given on the relevant pages and appendices are attached at the end of the text. It thus enables the reader to gauge the authenticity of the facts presented and also avail him with further details. By attaching a bibliography it entitles him to go on for further studies.

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