



Travancore and the friendship alliance with the British and its consequences

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Abstract

The British India was divided into presidencies governed by Governor-in-council. Travancore was a princely state of India Travancore had to conclude two treaties with the British. The series of struggles launched by the Maharajas their Chieftains and soldiers were suppressed and destroyed by the colonial forces one after another. The friendly relationship between the English and Travancore was duly acknowledged in the treaty of Mangalore in 1784 A.D. The treaty of 1805 AD between Veluthampi and East Indian company Resident made a friendship alliance.

Keywords: travancore, colonial, tippu sultan, territories, macaley

Introduction

In The beginning of the 19th century, the Indian territories were broadly divided under two heads; the territories that came under the control of the British were called as British India and the territories remained under the control of the Indian rulers were known as princely states Travancore was one among the princely states of India. The British India was divided into presidencies, each one was governed by a Governor-in Council. The British Government appointed a Resident to the princely state to control the state affairs. The former princely state of Travancore and Cochin had a Resident. The appointment of Resident for the state became instruments to bring out major reforms in the field of Judiciary, education, military, trade and return. It also created administrative stability which brought about in an era of progress.

Travancore had to conclude two treaties with the British, one at the times of Maharaja Karthikai Thirunal (1758-1798) in 1795 and another at the time of Maharaja Balarama Varma (1798-1810) in 1805. These treaties ultimately paved the way for the appointment of British Resident to deal the State business with the British in December 1784, Tippu Sultan of Mysore attacked Travancore kingdom. In return, the British in December 1784, Tippu Sultan of Mysore attacked Travancore kingdom. In return, the British attacked Mysore for Travancore Kingdom. Tippu Sultan was compelled to retire. As a result, a treaty was concluded in 1795 between the state of Travancore and the British for "Perpetual Friendship alliance and subsidy". The company agreed to protect Travancore from foreign invasion. In consequence of the treaty, Travancore had to accept a British Resident. In 1800 AD Colonel Colin Macaulay was appointed as the first Resident to the state of Travancore and Cochin.

Business interests mostly governed the English relations with the native rulers' The English gave very little importance to their agreement and promises and very often floated the terms of their treaties with the native power and Travancore became an ally with British. The Raja of Travancore was a faithful ally of the British extended active assistance against Haider Ali and Tippu Sultan during the Anglo-Mysore wars.

The friendly relationship between the English and Travancore was duly acknowledged in the treaty of Mangalore in 1784 A.D, when Tippu Sulthan invaded Travancore in 1790 A.D. The British did not help Travancore in the initial stage. The English East India Company demanded the Raja to defray the entire expenditure of the war. A formal treaty was concluded on 17 November 1795 A.D at Anjengo. This treaty did not contain any clause enabling the company to interfere in the affairs of Travancore in case of a rebellion or strife.

Col. Macaulay the first British Resident arrived in Travancore as Resident, the durbar of Travancore worked against the intervention of the English East India Company in the affairs of the state. Col. Macaulay elevated Valu Thampi to the office of Dewan of Travancore. The Resident demanded the modification of the Treaty of 1795 A.D with regard to the political and administrative affairs of Travancore. However, it was delayed for seven months. When it proved unfruitful, col Macanlay called Major Mac Dowell and his troops from Tirunelveli to Travancore territories. Dewan Velu Thampi persuaded the Resident to cancel the proposed movement of the British forces to Travancore and he promised the Resident to sign the Revised treaty. In consultation with Maharaja the revised treaty was signed in 1805 A.D. The treaty resulted in the diminution of royal authority and the loss of political independence of Travancore It was an eye-opener to all patriotic elements.

Conclusion

Till the conclusion of the treaty of 1805 AD Velu Thampi maintained friendly relation with the English India Company and the Resident. However that the Resident had already started intervening actively in to the internal

administration of the state and came into clash with the Dewan. It became worst with the Dewan's plea for the reduction of enhanced subsidy amount and the Residents insistence on its payment in full on the appointed date. When Col Macaulay insisted on the payment of the increased amount without any leniency, the Dewan also felt his position was none too pleasant. The over interference of the Resident in the affairs of Travancore and the repeated warnings make them bitter enemies. The situation became worse when Col. Macaulay suggested disbanding the Canatic Brigades. "At last the resident seriously warned the Dewan that "if it be not regularly discharged something must happen".

In one of the letters to Sthanapathy Subbayam Col. Macaulay ordered "to lay hold of that minister and throw him to the Valiathuray surf who would not pay heed to his advice" It is stated that the warning regard, which the Resident showed to the Dewan disappeared and he began to use highly objectionable and abusive language in his later correspondences. In one letter Col. Macaulay described Velu Thampi as a Temporizing,

Reference

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