Chapter -II

Colonialism and Commercialization of Coffee Cultivation in the Western Ghats: A Historical Perspective

The scholarship on the eighteen century has given rise to a lively debate among historians of near consensus that the century represented rupture from the past as a result of the decline of central Mughal authority.\(^1\) The colonial state has been viewed as a determining and defining disjunction with regional studies based on land records as the other colonial state was embedded into the regional political economies and continued improvisations many of their indigenous economic and cultural referents. In recent times the scholars like Washbrook, Peril, and Bayly has stressed the pre-colonial phase which continued the processes were the tax farmers and lease arrangements under the company permitted wealthy, influential groups to expropriate public funds under the canopy of the English agents. Colonialism transformed the structure of the state into a unified and centralized structure by assimilating and reorganizing the feudal armies, which were fragmented or disjoined into a unified and strengthened on the decentralized process.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) The 18\(^{th}\) century as a century characterized by ‘change’ has been described by Irfan Habib in his studies focused on Mughal political collapse as an inevitable consequence of endemic structural faults rooted in the very conception of empire: high land revenue rates demanded by Delhi caused large-scale rural exploitation, leading to peasant migration and rebellion. This created an agrarian crisis that resulted in the weakening of the empire’s political edifice. Irfan Habib (2003): ‘The Eighteen Century in the Indian Economic History’, in Seema Alavi (Ed) The Eighteen Century in India, Oxford University Press, pp.57-84.

\(^2\) It has indicated that the proponents of the ‘continuity’ thesis are often labeled as ‘revisionists’ because their views have considerably revised the notions of looking at the colonial political economy. The major works are of C.A. Bayly, D.A.Washbrook, and F.Perlin considers the eighteen-century as a time of economic vigor, even development and rejects the conventional characterization of chaos and economic decline. The recent studies have begun to probe the complex pre-colonial regimes of South Asia have rejected the conventional characterization of chaos and economic decline, and stress the continuations of prior centralized indigenous regimes of the subcontinent regarding revenue collection which Bayly rejects what he calls the ‘Black Century’ conception of the 18\(^{th}\) century. Burton stein stress the continuity of rule from the pre-colonial rule of Mysore to British governance, which probes the pre-colonial formations of centralized military, civil administration, commercial regulations that justified the formation of the British colonial state. See Bayly (1983) Townsmen and Bazaars: North Indian Society in the Age of British Expansion, 1770-1870, Cambridge University press, F. Perlin (1978): “ Of White Whales and Countrymen in the Eighteen Century Maratha Deccan” Journal of
The princely Mysore state the transition included both continuity and change as the British continued the pre-colonial land revenue which was carried out by the active intervention of intermediary classes and groups.

**Pre-Colonial Regime on Land Revenue**

The land revenue system that prevailed under the Vijayanagar rule did not undergo any serious change during the early days of Mysore's history. It was during the reign of Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar (1672-1704) who started off the centralized and militarized administration to increase revenue collected by the state officials and simultaneously exempting lands held by his soldiers from revenue demands. This resulted in large territories were auctioned off to ambitious warriors- mostly Hindus who as tax farmers called Amildars (local officials) pressed the accumulation of wealth. The sovereignty claims of the most aggressive of such chief's who were called as palegars became powerful in their respective regions and subsequently emerged as landed aristocracy of the state. Some of them had attained certain legitimacy due to their support to temples, Brahmins and other religious leaders (namely jangama preceptors of lingayats).

The state of Mysore under Hyder and Tippu (1761-99) was built meticulously on army and the civil bureaucracy that possessed around one-lakh employees, which

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3 "Princely states" were kingdoms, many of ancient lineage, and with a long history of exercising political power. It was British colonial terminology that referred to rulers as "princes". While the quasi-independent status they-enjoyed under British rule made them hostile to the anti-imperialist nationalist movement.


5 The lingayat peasantry in Mysore for example rebelled against attempts by Chikkadevaraya Wodeyar to raise the Land revenue. See Burton, Stein (1985): "State Formation and Economy Reconsidered", Modern Asian Studies, 19, pp.400-1.

6 The Palegars were appointed persons of trust and integrity by the king, in different parts of the country. They were expected to clear the jungles and bring the wasteland under cultivation. The palegars became powerful in their respective regions and subsequently emerged as landed aristocracy of the state. Besides these Palegars there were a number of offices in all the villages and towns.
knitted the kingdom and contributed to its unification and consolidation. In the revenue administration, Haider Ali subjugated several of the palegars, and restored some of them on the condition of paying tribute and rendering military service when called on. The main objectives of Tippu administration were to strengthen the military which was brought to its highest point from 1783-1799 against East India Company.

The regime of Hyder and Tippu Sultan was strong primarily because they were partially able to suppress the palegars and thereby directing a larger part of the economic surplus taken from the villages to the state machinery. But the palegars were waiting for an opportunity to re-establish their local power-positions, and when the British army attacked Tippu Sultan such an opportunity came the British encouraged this local upsurge, to get control over the countryside. In some districts Palegars were under favorable conditions and the majority of them choose to resist and rebel against the British. The capture of Serirangapatam and Bangalore, the principal centers, and the region falling to the south of Mysore were taken by the

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7 Under Haider, the palegar chiefs (hereditary chieftains who possessed armed retainers) remained semi-autonomous. In 1780 during Haiders Carnatic expedition, the palegars provided 10,000 irregular cavalry and infantry. See Nikhiles, Guha (1997): “Tippu sultans Quest for legitimacy and his commercial measures” in Iran Habib (Ed) State and Diplomacy under Tippu Sultan, p-114.

8 Ifthikar A. Khan: “The Regulations of Tipu Sultan for his State Trading Enterprise”, in Habib (Ed), Confronting Colonialism, p-152.

9 Tipu’s annual revenue until 1792 was over two crores of rupees or 69 lakhs of pagodas. However, treaty of Srirangapatnam in 1792 reduced his kingdom by half which came to be estimated at 40 lakhs of pagodas. To make up for the loss in revenue, in 1795 he increased the assessment by 37.5% (30% on produce and 7% excise duty). See Kaushik, Roy (2004): A Military Revolution in Mysore? Technological Changes, Social transformation and Military Modernization under Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan between 1752-99, Contemporary India, Vol.3. No.4, July-September, p-26.

10 Tippu introduced new forms in administrative system and the cultural life for his subjects. He considered his government as Sarkar-i-Khudabad (Government given by god). He introduced Hukmanama contained 128 articles laid down about the administration mainly the duties of administrative officers which were addressed to Chief Officers, present and future namely the Amils (the Executive), the Sirastedars (the chief accountant) and the shanbhogs (village accountant) and punishments accorded if they failed to perform them, the measures adopted for promoting agricultural productivity which was the principal revenue of the state came from agriculture, inducements for cultivation of crops and plantation, treatment to be accorded to Muslims, Christians, orphans, Standards of morality to be maintained by prohibiting the manufacture of tobacco, drugs and liquor. See Kulkarni, A.R. (2006): Explorations in the Deccan History, Indian council of Historical Research, pp.68-78.

11 In 1782, many palegars deserted to the Company’s side as Haider resumed their role as tax collectors and the power to maintain law and order were taken was taken away during the reign of Tippu Sultan and the state took over the duty of enforcing civil authority. Hettne, Bjorn (1978): Political Economy of Indirect Rule: Mysore -1881-1947, New Delhi, Ambica publishers, p-30.
British but the resistance did not automatically come to close. The central and northern parts remained in the possession of Dhondia Waugh and the allied Maratha army. He played an important role by building an army and a political confederation of all those palegars from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra who sought to overthrow the British. The rebellious spirit affected the whole of south India, except a small part of Nizam of Hyderabad. Under Thomas Munro 80 palegars were eliminated by a combination of force and pension-bribery, which Frykenberg calls the 'silent settlement'?

The property rights before the arrival of the British were held by groups like Palegars who were the local chiefs or elites and belonged to dominant castes in alliance with the Brahmins were considered significant intermediaries for transmitting revenue and maintaining rule in ryotwari areas were ryots were a small ‘managerial castes’ who were in fact landlords.

**Colonial Phase**

The defeat and death of Tippu Sutan, altered the pace of relationships because of the Subsidiary Alliance in 1799, which created the new state of Mysore under a Hindu Maharaja in subordinate alliance with the company. According to this treaty the British undertook the defense of Mysore in return for a subsidy amounting to seven lakhs of star pagodas (24.5 Lakhs of rupees). According to Tippu Sultan’s accounts,

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13 Robert Frykenberg has focused on the relationship between the state and society and in his view the strength of the local influences and traditional political process, which the British confronted with relation to local power, organized around family, Caste, Kingship and village. The traditional social order was too strong to be ignored and consciously or unconsciously the company succumbed to its influence. Frykenberg (1977): “The Silent Settlement in South India, 1739-1853; an analysis of the role of the Inams in the Rise of the Indian Imperial System”, in _Land Tenure and Peasant in South Asia_, Oriental Longman, pp.37-54.

14 The Permanent Settlement of 1793 reform in Bengal Presidency was entailed setting a fixed revenue demand and encouraged the maintenance of large estates with tenure relations and agrarian management under the centralized control of estate managers.

the annual revenue in 1792 was 412553 *pagodas* which correspond to 42 Lakhs of rupees.\(^{16}\) The state of New Mysore was divided into four different administrations during the British period: Bombay Presidency (in Uttara Kannada), Madras presidency (in Dakshina Kannada), and Coorg Princely state (Kodagu). The colonial rule of Mysore princely state included (Mysore, Bangalore, Mandaya, Kolar Tumkur, Hassan, Chitradurga, Chikmagalur and Shimoga districts) and Coorg Princely state - (Kodagu).

The decisive act of the East India Company after the take over of Mysore realized that the whole physical basis of governance depended on geographical, geological and botanical knowledge of the region. This was promoted by the need to obtain information on the land, its people and resources. Accordingly Col. Mackenzie agreed to survey Mysore in 1800 with the main objective of commercial views\(^{17}\) but in larger advantage to the company in the improvement of scientific knowledge.\(^{18}\) The reference to ‘scientific knowledge’ elucidates the superiority of the colonial explorer as a state enterprise. But along with this he also collected 1700 epigraphs, 600 old manuscripts; local histories and myths were the colonizer used them to his advantage. After Mackenzie it was the turn of Dr. Francis Buchanan who had earlier served in the Bengal administration in Bihar in different fields of knowledge for the task of undertaking a extensive survey of the natural, industrial, agricultural resources and products of Mysore.\(^{19}\) The travel through the princely Mysore and other parts giving a


\(^{17}\) Tippu sultan had created monopoly on teak and sandalwood and it was constituted as “royal” tree. The felling and sale of trees were under his hands, and constituted a monopoly of the rulers because of the property rights over certain varieties of trees. The commercial regulations issued to commercial department (*Mulikut tujar*) of his government wanted to prevent the enemy to access such commodities, and also to prevent spying under the guise of trading more because of it’s strategic rather than its commercial importance. The state monopolies also included gold, betel nut, pepper, cardamom and silk. The state controlled the trade centers and competed with indigenous and foreign merchants. They were well aware of the plans of the East India Company’s strategy of trade expansion and political control over India. His revenue regulation did not exclude the sphere of Trade and industry Bjorn Hettne, (1978): *Political economy of Indirect rule: Mysore 1881-1947*, Curzon Press, London.


\(^{19}\) The surveyors and geographers have been regarded as agents of imperialism rather than mere data collection. The British representation of Indian society was derived from the perspective of an Indian Society, which is hieratically organized, by degree of purity and pollution. Vicziancy, Marika (1986):
detail description of the general conditions of the country with emphasis on its agriculture, arts, commerce, the religion, customs, manufactures and industries its population and few other matters relating to the territory.20

The East India Company had to bear sever financial crunch due to the Anglo-Mysore war 1798-99 and the second Maratha war on 1803-05, which had strained the internal financial structure of EIC.21 The period from 1799-1830 Mysore was diffused by the constitutional position of the state. The heirs of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan were pensioned off and the old Hindu dynasty of Wodeyar was restored to the throne. The Mysore territory after the boundaries were fixed in 1799 consisted of three divisions- Patna Ashtagram, Chitradurg and Nagar respectively. These divisions included 115 to 120 taluks or subdivisions being in charge of an officer called Amil or Amildar. From 1800-1811 the administration of Mysore was guided by Dewan Purniah, who acted as a Regent for the minor King Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. During his tenure the office of Asophs was abolished but that of the Fouzdar22 who already had the control of police also took control of the revenue. He tried to restore the lands back to Brahmin Inamdares by bringing back most of the landholders who had fled the country and restored inam lands and cash allowances to temples and Mutts of worship.23

Under Purnaiya for the much-reduced state increased substantially and in many years exceeded 30 lakhs, in this way a large surplus was created. The bulk of the revenue was the land revenue, which in 1799 made up to 88% of the total income of the state and the other items included the Sayer (excise duties on the sale of various goods, revenues from liquor, tobacco and sandalwood). The increase in revenue was

22 Fouzdar- Chief military administrator in the district of a region.
23 Shama, Rao (1936): Modern Mysore from the beginning to 1868, Printed by Higginbotham’s, South parade, Bangalore, p-343.
mainly due to increase in land revenue, which in turn was due to extended cultivation made possible after 1799. The first conditions that British exerted on the kingdom by signing the Subsidiary Treaty were the annual contribution in monthly installments and a tribute to the crown. In areas that came under its direct rule, it extracted this amount through its own revenue collection, machinery by setting targets for bureaucrats.\textsuperscript{24} There was certainly decline in the number of soldiers, which fluctuated sharply with the state of peace.\textsuperscript{25}

The tenure of Dewan Purnaih ended in 1811. At the time of retirement, he was rewarded with annual pay was fixed at 18,000 rupees and he was also given one percent of the net revenue proceeds of the Kingdom, which amounted to an annual average of Rs 62,000. While Purnaiah wish that the office of the Dewan was to be hereditary, was politely refused by compensation of Yelandur taluk in the kingdom as Jagir to him and his successors.\textsuperscript{26} The British colonialism and its march towards conquering territory in different cities like Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras witnessed the rise of new elite class with the advent of British rule. In Mysore it opened up opportunities to Maratha Brahmins as Purnaiya belonged to a Brahmin family (originally from Maharashtra) whose forefathers had migrated to Tanjore in Tamil Nadu for service brought in a large number of 'Madras Brahmins' for jobs in the Mysore administration.\textsuperscript{27} The opportunities were used for their social and economic

\textsuperscript{24} The tribute imposed was 24.5 lakh Rupees imposed on Mysore under Article II of the Subsidiary treaty of 1799. and at the later stage in 1881 this was increased by 10\% lakh rupees and the enhanced payment of 35 lakhs were made regularly for a period of 32 years from 1896 to 1928. Although in 1928 it was again reduced to 24.5 Lakhs as fixed in the treaty, the absolute practice continued. Mysore tribute formed almost 50\% of the total contributions of all the 198 tribute-paying states to the imperial exchequer\textsuperscript{24}. The enormity of the tribute can be assessed by the net revenue collections of the kingdom in 1809-10 the net revenue receipts were Rs 28,24,646, peaking at 37,18,633 in 1811-12 and gradually falling to Rs 28,64,950 in 1825-26. Joseph, Sebastian (1979): Mysore’s tribute to the imperial treasury: A classical Example of Economic Exploitation, \textit{Quarterly Journal of Mythic Society}, Vol.70, No.3 July- September 1979, p-154.

\textsuperscript{25} M.H. Gopal (1960): \textit{The Finances of the Mysore State} 1799-1831, pp. 30-45.

\textsuperscript{26} Swamy, Siddalinga (1997): \textit{Agrarian relations in Mysore,1799-1881}, Nation Builders Book Sellers, Bangalore, p-40.

interests under the shelter of the East India Company acted as an intermediately class between the company and the peasantry.

The intermediately class composed of the land owners who looked after by Shanbhags (usually belonged to Brahmin community) who were responsible for keeping village accounts and those who were responsible for revenue collection and maintenance of law and order in the village were called Patil/Patel belonged to Vokkaliga or Lingayat communities. The amildars assessment of a village was made according to his own idea of his ability to pay and compelled the patel or collector to collect the amount. According to Stein the king did not collect the regular taxes, but it was accepted as tributes. The basic unit of political organization was not the kingdom but a small region controlled by an assembly of dominant cultivators or Brahmins or chieftains who paid a tribute to the king in recognition of his over lordship but managed affairs with their localities.28

The Sharat system was a contract made by the Amildar that he would guarantee certain amount of revenue to the government and if the collection falls short of that amount he would make the deficiency, and if exceeds the surplus should be paid to the government. The amount, which the Amildar thus engaged to realize, was generally on the increase in the early years. But later heavy arrears began to accumulate and the system virtually transformed into the annual auction of high offices that were sold to the highest bidder. This led to the introduction of friends or relatives into the service of the government and led to malpractices and the greatest beneficiary was the amildar because the amount of recoveries was being carried to his own credit.29 The sharat system emerged and prevailed because the Mysore administration had an elaborate mechanism from Raja to Dewan, and the Dewan had commission agents in the Foujdars. They in turn had the Amildars as their agents and ultimately the Patel and Shanbhoga were the agents who exploited the peasants.30

28 Burton, Stein (1975): The State and the Agrarian Order: Essays on South India, Honolulu, pp.76-78.
29 Shama, Rao (1936): Modern Mysore From the Beginning to 1868, Printed by Higginbotham’s, South Parade, Bangalore, pp. 411-415.
30 From 1799-1831 there was a British resident in Mysore, who sent his letters and reports to his intermediate supervisors at the government at St.George (Madras), which in turn submitted the information to Governor-General in council at fort William (Calcutta) who forwarded the
The Amildars with the host of intermediaries between them and the peasants exploited the latter to the maximum level possible. There was a debate between the authorities whether to implement the permanent settlement regulation or Ryotwari system as Munro opposed it and in 1805 recommended a permanent settlement on Ryotwari principle.31 The British did not develop alternative tax farming until the establishment of the Roytwari system in the 1820s when Thomas Munro the chief architect of the system, had become the governor of Madras Presidency to Mysore kingdom.32 Thomas Munro claimed the Roytwari as the indigenous system because it was based on historical relations of a village and also the basic unit of agrarian relations on which the primary unit of a society, culture and economy is linked to each other. He was convinced that only Indians could manage the complexities of their historical landed system which requires a highest quality of management and the native agency if provided honorable and rewarding employment they get more attached to the British rule. Munros proposal were also termed as pragmatic and cunning proposal that: “If we are to have corruption, it is better that it should be among the natives than ourselves, because the native will throw the blame of evil upon their countrymen, they will retail their high opinion of our superior integrity, and our character, which is one of the strongest supporters of our power."33

The Roytwari system meant that government made a deal only with peasant that tilled the land, but the system made the ‘settlement’ with whoever owned the land.34 The Mysore Gazetted gives details of the confusing state of affairs in the state during this period, were inam grants like sanads (that is documents conveying emoluments, titles, etc under the seal of the ruling authority),35 were hereditary title


33 Nilmani, Mukherjee and Frykenberg (1962): ‘The Roytwari System and Social organization in the Madras Presidency’, in Frykenberg (Ed), Land Control and Social Structure in Indian History, p-238.


without restrictions to the heirs and powers of alienating the land were distinctly added in the *sanads* for a long period.  

The changing nature of landlords like palegars to proprietors as property rights were claimed by individuals, groups, and the village communities together. The question of land revenue varied enormously from district to district, and indeed from village to village, since the revenue administration was still ill organized and often arbitrary and the cultivator was thus often left with very little of the crop. The economic system did not penetrate deep inside the countryside, but compromised with the pre-capitalist relations and the burden was totally shifted on the peasants of Nagar owned revenue dues worth 13 lakhs rupees to the government. The deep financial crisis erupted and the princely Mysore state also witnessed widespread peasant insurrection in several parts popularly known as the Nagar peasant rebellion since it was more intense in the Nagar province.

Thus the pauperization of the peasantry by continued or often dependent debt to landlords who in the eyes of the East India Company failed to act as agricultural capitalists and lacked entrepreneurial ability, or the capital for extending cultivation and increase the revenue to the state. The pre-capitalist mode of production was essentially a self-sufficient condition that has been referred as 'natural economy', which is geared to the production of 'use values', instead of commodities for exchange.

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36 The British contemplated the investigation of inam tenures in the state by setting the *inam* commission in 1864. It consisted of an *inam* commissioner, a special Assistant and three Assistants. In the first instance all of them were invested with judicial powers, these powers were taken way in 1872 when the commission was reorganized See *Mysore Revenue Manual* (1931): Vol.I, p-220.


and developed it into a viable plantation crop for commercialization of coffee subordinated it to the world market.41

**Genesis of Coffee Cultivation**

There are several types of plantation exhibiting great diversity over space and time like indigo tea, coffee and rubber came up in different parts of India. Indigo plantations were launched in the middle of a peasant society in some of the densely populated districts of Bengal presidency in the 1790s. The situation of tea changed dramatically with the new tensions in Anglo-Chinese relations from about 1830 with wider geographical terrain like North East (Assam, Dooars, and Darjeeling).42

The earliest plantations in Mysore were in the present day Chikmagular district (earlier known as Kadur District) was the first to grow coffee in India.43 The cultivation of coffee was introduced by Hazrat Shah-Janab Alla Magatabi called Baba Budan a Sufi saint of Attigundi in 1600 A.D near Kadur district. He brought the seven seeds from Yemen44 on the way back from his Haj holy pilgrimage and raised

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41 Karl Polanyi analysis of the nature of market capitalism comprises “double movement” in which the sphere of the market leads to a countervailing socially protective response which leads to increasing role of the state and private organizational power and insisted that protective response is spontaneous and not supported by any coherent ideology. The market economy requires a market society by integrating the division of labour, land and capital be organized through the supply-demand price process. The economy is conceived to be working without the conscious intervention of human authority which he calls disembedded economy an autonomous sphere of human activity, self-motivating by greed or the threat of hunger and self-governing through a system of price-making markets. See Stanfield, James and Jacqueline, B. Stanfield (2006): “The Protective Response and Evolution of the Capitalist State”, in *Alternative Theories of the State*, (Ed) by Steven Pressman, Palgrave McMillan, pp.34-64.


43 The country came to have several types of plantation exhibiting great diversity over space and time like indigo tea, coffee and rubber came up in different parts of India. The cultivation of opium and indigo in Bengal and Bihar in the early nineteenth century was dominated by about half a dozen giant European houses. The fluctuations in the world economy and economic depression in the 1820s led to the collapse of the leading agency houses during the years 1830-33. David, Hardiman (1992): *Peasant Resistance in India: 1858-1914*, Themes in Indian History, Oxford University Press, pp.12-13.

44 The province of koffa, a district of Abyssinia is considered to be the original habitat of Arabica. The Arabs also grew it under irrigation in the province of Yemen over a number of years. The Mysore coffee was taken to the coast and from there to Arabia were the merchants put into Arab bags, shipped to England and sold as Mocha coffee.
seedlings on the hills, which lies in the Western Ghats region, and the climate and altitude proved ideal for coffee cultivation.\textsuperscript{45}

The hill regions of Chikmagalur are integrated because of the close association of planting interests that bound South India and Ceylon together for many years. The forests belonging to the Chikmagalur portion had a different history because of remoteness and lesser demands being made on them. In this district virgin forestlands were available in plenty in Mudigere and Koppa taluks and therefore much of the focus to utilize forestlands for coffee cultivation remained confined to these areas. Coffee cultivators had all the encouragement and free access to forests to develop estate, which they did utilize and enjoyed great privileges and therefore were the main reason for overrunning the forests.\textsuperscript{46} Subsequently the coffee plantation spread to Hassan district, near Manjarabad and Sakaleshpur. Kadur was in those days considered North Mysore and Manjarabad was considered South Mysore. The preliminary efforts at coffee cultivation before 1830 were entirely by Indians. They were small farmers who developed a small but actively grown in the backyard of their houses known as “Hittalu Coffee”. In the Hittus, coffee was grown along with a variety of other products like Lime, plantain, ginger and mango.\textsuperscript{47} It was listed among the ‘Jungle produce’ of Mysore and was on sale in the markets of Bangalore and Srirangapatam.\textsuperscript{48}

The change from a crop to estate was a consequence of the decision taken by Maharaja Krishna Raja Wodeyar III of Mysore in the early 19\textsuperscript{th} century. The Maharaja of Mysore in order to encourage coffee cultivation offered land to the peasantry under the Batayi land, which is held for payment of a share of the produce to the government. It led to the large tracts of forests land obtained both by the native Indians and Europeans were left unplanted because in turn there was nothing to pay to

\textsuperscript{45} The Coffee Guide (1997): Central Coffee Research Institute, Chikmagalur District, Published by Codeword Process and Printers, Mangalore, p-4.


the government. The Government made a rule before making the grants that unplanted coffee cultivation was liable to forfeiture of 500 plants per acre were not planted within 5 years. In the first decade of the 19th century the enterprises drew the notice of Dewan Purniya. He ordered coffee growers to remit half of their produce to the state. This sharing of produce was called *Vara*, a common and time-honored relationship between those who owned land and those who worked on it. The coffee cultivation was spread out to south of *Manjarabad* and Belur, and the government realized that and it did not have the human resources to insure fair and prompt collection of the *Vara* and also because of the inaccessible forest area.

Several jungles were cleared for coffee, but when the Maharaj’s collectors found it difficulty in getting the peasants for coffee cultivation lead to the selling of the collection rights to metropolitan merchant J.H.Jolly of the famed trading house of *Parry and Company of Madras* in 1823-1833 for ten years. This marked the entry of organized metropolitan capital into the planting sector in southern India. With the growers compelled to sell their produce to Parry’s, the government was assured annual share of Rs.4720 and this was renewed after the first decade for five years at Rs.7472 a year. Soon coffee growing hills which have also lent their names to the growth of Indian coffee are the Bababudans in Mysore, Nilgiris,Wynaad, Shevaroys, Anamallais and Palnis in the Madras State, the Coorgs (both North and South).

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49 Parry Dare and Co founded in Madras by Thomas Parry in 1788 and the second oldest surviving business house in India today.


Traditional Coffee Growing Areas

Source: Coffee Board, Bangalore.
Cash Crop to Commercial Enterprise during Commissioners Rule: 1831-1881

In 1831-1881, the British took over the administration of the Mysore state from the Krishnaraja Wodeyar III on the pretext of misrule and the Raja had a commission agent in the Dewan, and the dewan had commission agents in the Fouzdars. They in turn had officers called Amildars had agents to the lowest level of the village.\(^{52}\) During Krishna Raja Wodeyar rule the kingdom was divided into six provinces and each was under the control of an officer called Fouzdar.

In 1838, the Superintendent of the Nagar Division of Mysore H.Strokes, considered the extension of coffee cultivation of paramount importance, not as a distinct source of revenue, but as a source of wealth and comfort of ryots and promoting the general prosperity in Mysore. The commissioner Mark Cubbon (1834-1861) adopted the suggestion and Parry's contract was abolished because the coffee cultivation was spread out and measuring coffee plantation was a major problem, so instead of contract system they decided to put export duty on coffee and threw open the coffee cultivation to free competition.\(^{53}\) In 1939, Thomas Cannon replaced the Vara system by Halat or Excise Duty of Rs 1 per maund and gradually reduced to 4 Annas per maund.\(^{54}\)

In Kadur district Thomas Cannon was the most successful and notable pioneer in the earliest large-scale plantation of coffee in 1830’s and his famous Mylemoney estate is still in good condition even today. In 1840s he had extended his holdings to

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\(^{52}\) In 1831, the Mysore kingdom was brought under the commissioners Rule. In 1836 the 6 fauzdars were clubbed together to form 4 divisions and each division was looked after by a European Superintendent were to perform the revenue, magisterial, certain judicial duties and supervise every department of the civil government, subject to the final authority and concurrence of the 2 Commissioners.

\(^{53}\) In the ryotwari areas, particularly in the case of large holdings, tenants under different terms cultivated lands. The terms were as follows: a) Vara system the produce was equally shared between the landlord and tenant and the landlord paid the assessment on land to the government. b) Mukuppa under which 2/3 of the produce went to the tenant and 1/3 to the landlord who was to pay the assessment on land to the government. c) Under the Chaturbhaga system the landlord obtained the 1/4 of the produce and paid half of the assessment on land, the tenant got 3/4 of the produce and paid the other half of the assessment. Selections from the records of the Mysore government No.15 -papers regarding the abolition of Halat on Coffee etc., Chikmagalur District Office Library.

\(^{54}\) Maund is the usual weight for reckoning solids. It varies in difference place, but the general standard is 80 lbs = 1mound. To roughly estimate the standard share as yielding so many maunds of grain for each crop on each kind of soil, and then to value at an average price.
about 500 acres and was shipping out the best known coffee as "Cannon’s Mark One" named over cannon’s Nose peak in the Bababudan. The next pioneer was Fredrick Green who opened estate at “Aigur” in Manjarabad in 1843. Soon after Aigur was opened he was joined by Mocketts in Sakeslpur.55

The natives also followed the footprints of the English planters in this regard.56 In 1856 there were only seven planters in the province, but it had increased to 662 in 1890-91 plantations held by Europeans in Mysore was 49,862 acres.57 There were 27,180 ‘native’ plantations in Mysore with an area of 96,814 acres but many of these so-called plantations only consist of small patches of coffee. The total area of European and native holdings in 1890-91 was 146,676 acres.58 The local producers got benefit from the economic conditions created by the colonial power, even though these conditions were meant to favour the development of European capitalist enterprise and not that of the small holder production.59 This resulted in the commercialization of coffee and its gradual acquirement of the proportion as an industry.


56 In 1856 Elliot who started his own plantation at Bartchinhulla, Saklaspur, Mysore State says in his account that when I entered the province in 1855, anyone who desired to have a given tract of forest land for coffee planting sent an application to the Government for it. An inquiry was then made, and if no objection existed to the land being made over to the intending settler or applicant, a puttah or grant, free of charge for the land was made a which mentioned the name of the land and the boundaries of it, and stated that the land was to be planted within three years time, and if it not planted, it was liable to be resumed by the state. Elliot, H. (1894): Gold, Sport and Coffee planting in Mysore, London, pp. 140-160.

57 The stability of the agriculture was destroyed due to the fall in the prices which made agriculture extremely un-remunerative under ryotwari system due to which the tax on land was slightly reduced and the seasonal conditions did better to improve the conditions between 1855 and 1885 due to which prices of agricultural commodities rose by fifty percent, the taxes on land were reduced by twenty-five percent. Cash crops were introduced and new areas of land were brought under cultivation. See S, Chandrashekar (1995): Colonialism, Conflict and Nationalism South India: 1857-1947, Wishwa Prakashan, Bangalore, p-36.


Golden Era of Coffee Cultivation

The attitude of the government in favoring European planters was basically a reflection of its subordinate status to colonial power in British India.60 In 1862 the Commissioner of Mysore Lord Bowring succeeded Mark Cubbon and once again the reorganization took place.61 Bowring in his book express the situation about coffee plantations as the European planters have conferred an immense benefit upon Manjarabad and the adjoining sub divisions where they have established themselves. “The native holders averse to the curtailment of their own feudal powers and fearing the consequences of the labourers quitting their employ frequently regard with a jealous eye the colonization of their country by the interlopers”.62 The export of coffee occurred from 1863 on wards and the increase in the halat can be seen from the year 1863-69. The major source of income to the government was through the excise duty levied on areca-nut, Cardamom, pepper and tobacco on removal from the place of the production and export duty levied on coffee. This also resulted in the growth of banking in the coastal region which was introduced in 1868 when the Presidency Bank of madras opened a branch to cater to the needs of British firms involved in exporting plantation produce. The growth of banks was largely due to the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, the region remained inaccessible for long and was not conducive for the setting up of industries. Early entrepreneurs, therefore, took successfully to selling financial services and even today coastal districts maintain a strong banking culture with almost every other household having at least one member employed in the banking sector.63

60 Ibid., pp. 59-73.
61 The stern rule of Mark Cubbon as Chief Commissioner gave immediate returns in terms of revenue stood at 58 lakhs of Rupees, and when he left in 1861 it had reached to 100 lakhs. (For an account of Cubbon’s rule in Mysore see K.N. Sastri The Administration of Mysore under Sir Mark Cubbon. Mysore Gazetter, Vol.IV, p-378.
62 Shama, Rao (1936): Modern Mysore from the beginning to 1868, Printed by Higginbotham’s South Parade, Bangalore, 534-55. Also see Lewin, B.Bowring (1872): Eastern Experience: Mysore; Historical and Descriptive (Second edition).
Coffee Halat from 1831-1881.

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<td>1864-65</td>
<td>92,791</td>
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The coffee cultivation soon established itself as an outstanding quality in the world market. In earlier days there was no regular direct service of steamers to take away the crop. The coffee was cured and transported to market centers on their own account by the large growers. Many of them were keen to test the market with their...
produce and if possible establish a reputation for their quality. Many estate or production centers became well-recognized premium coffee markets in Mangalore, Bombay, London and other buying centers.64 This led to the increase in transport agents, curers, attended to many of the chores needed to get the coffee across to a favorable market, get shipping intelligence, cash and dispatch cheques from coastal banks.65 The producers received about 66 to 70 percent of the sale of coffee at Mangalore and 60 percent of the value in London. The retailer’s share was the largest at 13 to 14 percent of the retail price of coffee. The wholesaler’s margin was about 5.9%, the curing and grading charges about 6%. The brokers charged the equivalent of 25 paisa for every Rs.100/- worth of sale.66

The initial success of growing “chick coffee” crumbled to the outbreak of pest and diseases, like white stem borer (Xylotrechyus quadripes), leaf rust (Hamileia Vastatrix)67, which probably entered India along with the seedlings brought from Ceylon. The area under coffee reached its peak in the 1870s and thereafter began a steady decline and this replaced coffee with tea in many districts as they were not profitable to operate.68

**Incidence of Pests, Insects and Diseases on Coffee Cultivation**

The coffee industry was laid waste by the attack of these diseases. There would have been an end to coffee planting in Mysore except in the case of a few elevated tracts on the Bababudan range of hills. But, most fortunately for the planters, the Government, and the people of Mysore, Mr. Stanley Jupp - a South Mysore planter - took a trip to

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67 Leaf-rust is a fungus which rises during the post monsoon period. When it affects the plants, yellow spots appear on the leaves and coffee plants become completely defoliated with dry twigs and completely debilitated.

Coorg in 1870, which lies on the south-west of Mysore, and was impressed with the variety of coffee grown there and recommended that experiments in Chikmagalur were made with carefully selected seed which was obtained from Coorg. Although coffee remained the dominant crop of the district but with the introduction and rapid expansion of tea cultivation in 1860 was instrumental in shifting from coffee to tea plantation. Coffee cultivation continued in Chikmagalur due to untiring efforts of Dr. Leslie Coleman led to the establishment of a Coffee Experimental station at Balehonnur in Chikmagalur district. The primary objective of the organization was to breed rust resistant selections and conduct research on control of pests and diseases. The pioneering work of Walter Mayne the first Coffee Scientific Officer on the existence of physiologic specialization of leaf rust opens the chapter of coffee research and experimental work in the Malnad.

**Coffee Association**

The planting association in an isolated environment of Malnad region forms an important phase in the early development and the exchange of views on common problems and the sharing of experience led to the conditions for a joint action through different associations. The different regional associations like *Mysore Planters Association* in 1864, *North Mysore Planters Association* in 1881 and the *Southern Mysore Planters Association* in 1880 and a *Bababuddin Mysore Planters Association* in 1911. Then the earlier one in Wynaad in 1857, the *Shevaroys planters Association*

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69 The experiments turned out to be a remarkable success, the young plants raised from the imported seed grew with extraordinary vigor, and it was soon found that the new variety would help to grow well, and even on land on which all attempts to reproduce the "Chick" variety had utterly failed. Then this sinking industry rose almost as suddenly as it had fallen; old and abandoned estates, and every available acre of forest, and even scrub, were planted up, and land which used to change hands at from 5 to 10 rupees an acre was eagerly bought in at twelve times these amounts.

70 Dr. Leslie Coleman could be considered as the father of organized coffee research in India.

71 The tea production was more labour intensive than coffee, and unlike coffee it required a year-round labour force.

72 The British planters of Chikmagalur felt the need and were granted a piece of land by Maharaja of Mysore for building a Club house in 1883. It was at the bar of these clubs that the Planting Association was formed both at the district and state level to have their voices heard by influential planters. As a result of these various deliberations on planting affairs, various planting associations were founded. A committee was formed under the Chairperson of Mr. W. A. Allardice, the owner of Mylermoney estate.
in 1871, the *Coorg planters Association* in 1878 pointed to the emergence of a sufficiently large number of planters association in each district. The different Mysore planters association was brought together to form a single association from 1924 to represent Mysore planting interests except those in the former Chief Commissioners State of Coorg. The subsequent change from MPA into Karnataka Planters Association was only when state took the name of Karnataka.

The Mysore Planters Association faced greater problems and the associations were confronted by sudden decisions that affected them. They reacted vigorously with protests and petitions. The southern Mysore plantations complained of the unsatisfactory working of the *Anche* (post office), shortage of silver and copper coins and they were surprised at the *Amildar* ordering the forest officials to enter the estates for the inspection of trees in the field. The planters complained vigorously to get labours because of the new place, dense forest, and heavy rainfall and diseases like Malaria continued to be a major problem. They affected the plantation population both labours and planters alike. The coffee planter’s representing landed interests, raised large number of issues during the colonial period.

The questions rose led to the emergence of the industries central organization called; the United *Planters Association of South India* (UPASI in 1893) organized to tackle the various problem of the industry. The major grievance of the planters of South Indian association 13 in number had signed a memorandum to the Government of India in 1892 to black list contractors who decamped with substantial advances and joined other estates which did not safeguard the petitioners against the *mala fide* defaulting labour contractors and suggested amendments to the Act XIII of 1859. The KPA represented the planting community to cope with their common problems and

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75 The United Planters Association of Southern India was founded in 1893 and is the apex organization of the producers of tea, coffee, rubber and other species in the southern states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu affiliated to the UPASI are the three state planters Association in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka and about 25 district and other associations in these states. The UPASI is an important link between the government and the industry and plays a key role in the formulation policy for the industry.
worked towards reaching a consensus on major issues faced by the planters. Militant Agitation demonstrations were not in the tradition of these associations, but believed in dignified language and conduct. The planters therefore created the institutional framework to reflect their common interests and to give form and shape to them through mutual discussion of community problems, the search for a broad measure of common agreement and the sharpening of community responsibility.76

Caste and Coffee Labourers

The enlargement of the coffee production unit from a cash crop to an estate enterprise involved the employment of hired labour. The two major coffee beans grown are Arabica and Robusta is highly seasonal. Almost the entire Arabica crop is harvested from December to the middle of February. The geographical distraction of Arabica coffee is largely concentrated in the Northern producing area of Chikmagalur, Manjarabad, North Coorg and Billigiris. The Southern Kodagu areas and Wynnad is largely Robusta crop and the harvest begins in January or February and continues to about two to three months. The labour needs of the coffee industry vary considerably depending on the nature of the season.77 The caste identities were central to the ways in which work in the plantation was structured and legitimated were labourers constituted the largest group belonged to the lower castes or ‘untouchable’ castes namely Hasalaru, Mundala, Koraga, Bant from Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and North Kanara Districts, Banjara or Lambani and Adi Karnataka from the Tumkur district.78 Shivaram Karnaths novel Choma’s Drum were the lead role was an untouchable whose dream to cultivate his own land as he worked in the fields of landlords along with his children. Choma drowned his sorrows in drink and playing his drum with the monotonous sound. The story highlights the plight of the plantation labour with irony. “The hut was his own- but not claimed by rains and storms and the

77 Ibid., p-39.
dinner would be before dark, for no lamp had been lit in choma's hut. What precious thing did they have to do at night to need a lamp? Plantations debts are like plantation malaria: once in their grip no release till death...79

In the initial year the contractors called Maistries80 who went around different districts in the state in search of laboures and supplied these labourers for plantations by giving advance money to labourers for purposes such as birth, ceremony, marriage and death and in turn got bhakshis (commission). The labourers were not able to repay the advances and initially went to work in the dense forests for coffee cultivation, but Maistries preferred laboures in-group of families rather than as individuals, so that they might be induced to settle permanently in or around the estate were their whole family was taken to these estates on the assumption that a person will not run away from the estates.81

The intimate connection between slavery and custom has given rise to an idea of a natural complementarily between labourers and landholders typically required low caste and tribal groups to work for landholders of higher-caste rank and the arrangement described in terms of hereditary occupations validated by tradition.82 Most of the landless labourers went to coffee estates due to poverty or due to the crop failure or due to drought went to work in the coffee estates.

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80 Although the term maistri is commonly translated as labour contractor, this definition is far too narrow. Aside from recruiting labour, it was usual for a maistri to assume responsibility for both the supervision of his workers on an estate and for their welfare needs. Planters made a clear distinction between maistries and professional labour contracts who merely delivered workers to estates.

81 Tanika Sarkar has argued that slavery and bondage are two separate forms theoretically but in practice it would be extremely difficult to distinguish one from the other with absolute certainty, for during most of our period, the two constantly overlapped and merged into each other. The British colonizers while addressing the issue of slavery in India followed a policy of non-interference in the earlier years allowing the natives to administer their own laws in matters of property, inheritance and contract. Later under pressure it paved way for a new form of labour control and exploitation globally. See Sarkar, Tanika Bondage in the colonial context, Utsa Patnaik and Manjari Dingwaney (1985): Chains of Servitude, Bondage and Slavery in India, (Ed) Sangam Books, Madras, pp. 97-126.

The widespread use of penal contracts on plantations permitted employers to recruit and retain workers. The abolition of slavery law in 1843\(^8^3\) to release the workers required to work for the plantations was aimed at promoting the basic capitalist ideas of free labour and free market. The indebtedness was used to control the immigrant workers in their respective places of work. This is illustrated from the case of plantation workers exported from south India to the Sri Lanka British plantations.\(^8^4\) The British culpability in legalizing the debt-bondage system through the indentured labour is exemplified in the various measures they took to protect mass recruitments to their plantations in India. The Workman’s Breach of Contract Act of 1859\(^8^5\) which made violation of contract terms legally punishable and thus made it impossible for bonded labours to escape slavery unless the entire loan was paid. It stopped all possibility of escape for workers from the coffee estates.\(^8^6\) The vocabulary of caste supplemented notions of organic social relations and indigenous law to form a compelling view of servile labour as a customary practice. The labourers were reduced to a state of total dependence on their masters for their basic needs for survival and the planter’s response to workers helpless often turned out to be ruthlessly exploitative and inhuman. The Mysore territory once supplied labour to Ceylon and Wynnaad\(^8^7\) but due to famine the attached household’s labours were only paid in kind by way of food grains and other essentials and cash payments were almost unknown for farm labour. The famine was also responsible for the general shortage of labour for coffee work which varied more sharply, as the harvesting


\(^8^4\) The anti-slavery report of 1841 prepared by the Indian Law Commission appointed by Macaulay identified three different forms of slave labour in India, namely contract labour, slave labour and bonded labour. However, in a deliberate move, the Anti-Slavery Act of 1843 only covered the category of slaves and ignored the categories of bondsmen and contract labour because the British and other European colonizers used the debt-induced indenture system to export workers from India to the plantations in Ceylon, Mauritius, Fiji, Guyana, South Africa, west Indies, etc. See Labour file (2006): “Bonded Labour: Is not over, but it’s all over!” Vol.4, No.3, May-June, pp. 15-20.

\(^8^5\) Ibid., pp. 32-44.

\(^8^6\) Ibid., pp. 22-32.

\(^8^7\) By 1865 the collector of the Nilgiris reported that approximately 80 percent of the estate labour in the district came from Mysore. See Report of the *South Indian Planters Enquiry Committee*, Madras, 1896, p-10.
operations lasted only about two or three months in the year, unlike tea which was cropped most of the year.

Large gangs of *Moplahs* (Muslims) from Kerala came to Chikmagalur to work in the Estates on a contract basis. Migrant workers are loyal to their employees however when the employer fails to provide continuous work or adequate wages, they either return to their home village or did work with other employer. This does not result in any kind of upward mobility because when the wage work becomes scarcer, the migrant manages to create a job for himself in the city’s informal sector as hawker or domestic servant which provides him no more than a subsistence income.88

The indirect colonial rule in the princely states of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin had an important bearing on the formation of labour force, particularly its recruitment and disciplining them.89 The debt bondage enforced by the planters through the *maistries* played a major role in mobilization and disciplining of labour.90

**Famine deaths**

The concluding years of the colonial rule Mysore was hit by a disastrous famine. The Dewan of Mysore had to resurrect the economy were the famine policy was subordinated to development works initiated by the Famine Commission of 1880. The post famine relief works were concentrated on modernization programmes like more rail networks and industrialization works were started in famine prone areas.91 The emphasis was to transport the food grains from the ports to interior districts affected by the famine and to cover the gap between the surplus and deficit areas by minimizing price differentiation.

89 Ibid., p-186.
90 The spread of destitution among the peasants has led many thousands to seek work in the industrial areas or plantations. The plantations lie mainly in the forest tracts, cleared by the planters, where the local population was extremely sparse and labour recruited from the villages or from adjoining villages. George K., Tharian and P.K. Michael Tharakan (1986): Penetration of Capital into a traditional economy: the case of tea plantations in Kerala, 1880-1950, *Studies in History*, Vol.2 No.2, pp. 199-228.
The railway construction began in the late 1850 and by 1852 the twenty-one miles was operational from Bombay to Thana was operational. The British operations were mainly confined to regions near the seaboard and did not attract the attention due to the non-existence of teak. The expansion of the railways (1870-1910) for the movement of troops and trade in the subcontinent also resulted in widespread destruction of forests to meet the demand for railway sleepers. The number of sleepers that required also varied from region to region. There was no supervision was exercised over the felling operations, and a large number of trees being felled whose logs could not be utilized. The gradual demand for Railway sleepers as well as timber for ship making increased illicit sleeper felling and smuggling was rife during the construction of railway tracts.

The development of large-scale steel industry in India from 1890-1907 was largely due to the changing conflicts of interest involving steel and capital in Britain, India and in the world arena. The emergence of mass production of steel in the world market and the development of railways and communication led to the formation of cartels dividing up world markets. This also influenced the colonial governments towards Industrialization which led to the Kolar Gold fields in 1890 which attracted the proletarian workforce and was responsible for an overall reduction in migration from the state.


93 During this time there was a demand for 20,000 sleepers for renewals as advertised by the Southern Maratha Railway Company and the contractor Mr. Wallace has sent his tender at 2-6 per sleeper which is only 2 annas higher than the rate at which 107000 sleepers were supplied before. The value of sleepers from both dazed and unadzed announced to Rs 240612 against which the value of timber supplied amounted to 166758-9-4 against the outlay of Rs 90357-7-11 for timber exploitation from August 1887 to January 1889 and the balance of Rs 73853-9-8 was paid to the contractor. There is a balance of 16984 cft (inclusive of rejected timber) of the present collection and further exploitation of felled stock lying hidden in grass, took heavy toll of forests in the summer fires. See Karnataka State Archives: Enclosure No. 1157/81, Office of the Inspector general of Forests and Plantations in Mysore to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore, dated 7th August 1889, Report of Forests 1868-1900, Bangalore.


95 The Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) has been functioning for the past 120 years. With a one time workforce of 36,000 workers it now has been reduced to just 4,000 workers. It was taken over during British rule by an English John Taylor in 1880s and nationalized by the government of India after Independence. It has so far produced 850 tons of gold. For this 4,600 workers died in accidents alone,
Conclusion

The colonial rule expanded with the sole purpose of raising new revenue in the local arenas to meet the increasing demands for funds, which the government of India placed upon the province as the result of mounting costs of the imperial system. The Mysore land revenue System provided the government as the main source of income between the state and local political systems. The Ryotwari system reinforced the landlords while the tenants nothing was settled because the land was principally associated with the social status and historically remained in the control of land associated groups. The high level taxation pushed the peasants into arrears and land fell into the hands of usurers. The Ryotwari settlements put more profits in the hands of the landowners with commercial assets to invest, which enable to dominate the rural agrarian economy in the nineteenth century. \(^96\) It was in settling the land tenures that the British divided the society into compartments where they could develop their personal and group interests and never any common interests. The concentration of land fell gradually in the hand of landlords, moneylender and traders, these three categories often indistinguishable in the countryside. \(^97\)

The settlement was uneven across the state with disrupting the local economic and social structure as there were eleven modes of land tenures in south India besides the numerous other tenures which cannot be defined. The colonial conquest of Mysore generated vast changes with cash crop economy, as separate clusters in

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\(^96\) During this period the Land Revenue Code underwent a number of amendments but only those of 1912, 1928, 1939 and 1940. Even these amendments did not seriously affect the provisions regarding the superior and inferior landholders were ameliorative measures and no comprehensive steps was taken to give protection to the tenants, wither in respect of security to tenure or fixity of rent, because in spite of recommendations of the Inam committee the demand between the cultivators or jodi was left vague and open to manipulations by the inamdars. The significant fact of the land Revenue code there was no fresh laws to regulate the tenurial or tenancy problems in the state. See P.T. George (1970): “Land system and Laws in Mysore State”, March-June Vol.12, No 1&2, *Artha Vijana*, Poona, p-127.

isolation from the rest of the region in which it operates may be described as an “enclave economy”. It created a lopsided development in the region and the plantation constitutes one such case. The commissioner’s rule ended in 1881 and the patronage to the coffee industry were a planter had the provision of choosing either a 30 year settlement at one rupee per acre or a permanent settlement at 1½ rupee. The commercial crops like coffee reduced between 1881 and 1911 particularly due to failure of rainfall in succession from 1883 and 1885 and 1904 and 1909. The industry was clearly stagnant which was an all-India phenomenon and to some extent explained by the rise of the coffee industry in Brazil and the coffee industry remained stagnant up to 1947.

The advent of British rule in Mysore in terms of its impact on land revenue as the structure of the society was modified but not remolded, by British rule. The village was deprived of its relative exclusiveness as villages continued to function in a more or less traditional manner and caste-based administrative bodies persisted outside the legal institutions establishment by the British Government. The broad caste categories like Brahmins, Vokkaligas and Lingayats referred as dominant castes as they do not form the majority but they control the means of production and state power. The dominant classes are the fundamental support base of the state and in economic terms its most important beneficiaries. The state protects their property rights when these are challenged, thereby protecting their political interests. The other castes included untouchables further divided and sub-divided into smaller groups. The British were the paramount power in India but they were not all powerful because of the Indian social structure, with caste association which helped to reconcile the values of traditional society with those of new order by using caste as the basis for social organization but at the same time establishing local political power.

