CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

British rule in India was both direct and indirect. While British India was under direct administration of the imperial power, there were 562 big and small native states ruled by the native maharajas. Princely states covered an area of nearly 716,000 square miles and claimed the allegiance of more than ninety-three million people. At one end of the scale, there were states like Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Gwalior and Kashmir, described as the big five, which were as large and populous as some of the European countries. At the other end her were states which spread over a few square miles of area.

The origin and expansion of British indirect rule in India is closely linked with the history of British rule in India. After the battle of Buxor in the year 1764 British secured political rights to rule over various parts of India. From 1798 to 1841 the company entered its major phase of rapid expansion of its influence over large parts of the Indian sub-continent. This political expansion brought it to a position of indirect control over some of the larger states such as Awadh, Hyderabad and Mysore.1

English East India Company to promote its commercial interests appointed commercial agents at courts of major native rulers during the middle of seventeenth century. These agents engaged themselves in
securing commercial concessions from Indian rulers to promote company’s trade interests. After the battle of Buxor Company secured political rights to rule over various parts of India, towards this end they in the year 1764 appointed political residents first at Murshidabad and later at Luknow and Hyderabad. Between 1767 and 1782, the number and influence of these residents grew significantly as did the Political role of the East India Company in India from 1798 to 1841. The number of Residents appointed by East India Company reached its peak (47) during the year 1840. Following the Queen’s proclamation of 1858, the number of states brought under British rule stabilized and the role of Residents also underwent significant transformation in the light of changed Political Equation between British and Native Rulers. Thus the history of residency during British rule is closely linked with the origin and expansion of British rule in India.

HISTORY OF MYSORE RESIDENCY

The victory over Tippu Sultan in 1799 placed the whole kingdom of Mysore with all its resources at the disposal of the British. The territory of Mysore were divided between the Company, the Nizam and Marathas. The remaining territories were given to the royal house of Wodeyars and the subsidiary Treaty was imposed on the maharaja. This treaty had elements of colonialism embedded in its clause. Though the maharaja was placed on throne, the British took care to see that the prince’s right to succession depended upon British goodwill rather than his ancestral right.
Map of British India.
The subsidiary treaty was enforced upon the maharaja Krishna Raja Wodeyar 111 in July 1799. As the maharaja was a minor, it was signed by his mother Rani Lakshmi Ammanii and Dewan Poorniah, on behalf of the maharaja and by General Harris for the company. Shortly afterwards the company felt that the subsidiary treaty imposed upon the maharaja was not sufficient to achieve their objective. They thrust upon the maharaja another treaty, supplementary treaty in 1807. The supplementary treaty was signed between the maharaja and the East India Company.\(^4\)

British decided to establish a separate government. In justifying the restoration of ancient royal house of Mysore, Marques Wellesley wrote to court directors of east India Company that between the British government and the family of the Mysore rajas, a bond of friendship and kindness had subsisted. Even in the most desperate crisis of their adverse fortune, the Mysore rajas had not formed any links with the enemies of the English. Hence, it was strongly felt that Mysore be restored to the Wodeyars. Moreover the English knew pretty well that without their support, the Mysore rajas could not maintain themselves on the throne, either against the family of Tipu Sultan or against any other claimant.

By placing the Wodeyars in charge of Mysore, the British did not limit their satisfaction to mere distribution of hostile power, which menaced their safety. In the place of that power, they substituted one, whose interests and resources would be absolutely identified with the interests of English. Thus the kingdom of Mysore which had been a source
of calamity and alarm to the English became a new barrier of their defence and even supplier of fast means of wealth and strength to the company and their subjects.5

Krishna Raja Wodeyar-III was placed on the throne in 1799. The power restored to the maharaja was extremely limited. Legally it was regulated in the subsidiary treaty, the maharaja had no right to handle external relations with other countries nor had he any in defence and communications. They were all handled by the British government with whom the maharaja was tied in a subsidiary relationship. The treaty forced the maharaja to maintain a military force. This was for the defence and security of his dominions for which he had to pay an annual sum of twenty four and half lakhs rupees to the company. Further he had to contribute extra money in case of a war against any other state by the company or for the defence of Mysore territory. If the Mysore government failed to meet the above expenses and of the company’s military force stationed at Mysore,6 the governor general had the right to take over a part or some parts of the country. The territory of which the maharaja was placed in charge was based distinctly upon the British governments’ right of conquest. The British saw to it that he did not inherit any patrimony on the soil. By the subsidiary treaty of 1799, those of the Wodeyar royal line were greatly curbed while the influence of the British colonial system began manifesting itself.
From 1799 itself a British Resident at Mysore acted as a link between the state of Mysore and the British as an instrument of imperial power. He paved the way and acted for a systematic but subtle exploitation of Mysore for the benefit of its colonial masters. Barry Close was appointed as the first Resident in Mysore on 3rd July 1799, and the company established its office of the Resident in Bangalore under the immediate administrative control of the Presidency of Fort St. George in Madras. In addition to this the subsidiary treaty was concluded by the British with the Maharaja of Mysore, for which the Maharaja was asked to pay an annual tribute of Rs.25 Lakhs. The dictated terms were designed in such a way that the Maharaja remains loyal to the Residency.

In his instructions to Barry close, the Governor General warned about the alienation of land by Krishna Raja Wodeyar-III to Brahmins and temples. Resident took care to ensure a copious supply of potable water to the civil and military station of Bangalore at the cost and to pettah of the Durbar. The instrument of transfer, the Mysore Treaty of 1913 took perfect care of the interests of European coffee Planters. Missionary activities received positive encouragement from the British Residents. They took an active interest in extending to Mysore, the Native Converts’ Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866 and the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872. Using their personal influence with the Maharaja and the Dewan, they secured many advantages to the missionary societies such as valuable building sites, periodic money grants etc.
The residents collected information concerning the Royal family, labour unrest, agricultural and seasonal prospects, political agitations, newspapers reports etc. from their own sources and forwarded the same to the Government of India with their own observations. They were instrumental in curbing press freedom. The cases of warnings issued to the editors of Deshabhimani, Suryodaya and the Mysore Standard were indirectly influenced by the British Residents of the day. During the I and II World Wars, the British Resident played a major role in harnessing the resources of Mysore state towards the war efforts. In addition to obtaining various advantages like supply of men and materials, they took a leading part in collecting contribution from private sources throughout the state. Thus, on every occasion the British Residents endeavored to safeguard and further imperial interests in Mysore.¹⁰

In no field was the role of the British Resident in Mysore more conspicuous as in the matters connected with the economic development of the state. The Instrument of Transfer (1881) contained many stipulations relating to economic questions. Article 14 provided: “The Maharaja of Mysore shall grant free of all charge such land as may be required for the construction and working of lines of telegraph in the said territories whenever the Governor General in Council may require such land and shall do his utmost to facilitate the construction and working of such lines. All lines of telegraph in the said territories, whether constructed and maintained at the expense of the British Government or out of the revenues
of the said territories, shall form part of the British Telegraph system and shall…be worked by the British Telegraph Department and all Laws and rules for the time being in force in British India in respect to telegraphs shall apply to such lines of telegraph when so worked.”

Article 15 further provided: “If the British Government at any time desires to construct or work by itself or otherwise a railway in the said territories the Maharaja of Mysore shall grant, free of all charge, such lands as may be required for that purpose and shall transfer to the Governor General in Council Plenary Jurisdiction within such land and no duty or tax whatever shall be levied on through traffic carried by such railway which may not break bulk in the said territories.”

These two articles make it clear how far reaching and sweeping were the economic interests of British in India. As an important functionary of the imperial Government the British Resident carried out all correspondence with the Mysore Durbar touching upon the Railways and telegraph lines. Taking advantage of the financial difficulties of Mysore, the British Resident proposed the hypothecation of the State Railway to the Southern Maratha Railway Company.

It was the responsibility of the British Resident to realize the punctual payment of the subsidy to the British Government as stipulated in the subsidiary treaty of Srirangapatna. It amounted to Rs.24.5 lakhs of rupees. At the time of rendition it was enhanced by an addition of Rs.10.5
lakhs to Rs.35 lakhs. Though it was a great drain on the resources of Mysore the full amount was regularly collected from 1896 to 1928. Instantly Rs.10.5 lakhs was remitted for a period of fifteen years and from 1928, the enhanced subsidy of Rs.10.5 lakhs came to be cancelled. Many Dewans of the state had to use all their negotiating skills with the British Residents to secure partial concession. Besides the subsidy, the state was contributing nearly 125 lakhs of rupees to the Indian Exchequer by way of various imposts. The manufacture of earth–salt in Mysore was prohibited (1864) and was never allowed to be resumed. This was aimed at safeguarding the salt monopoly of the British. Mysore was also prohibited from producing opium. The Resident in Mysore was required to oversee the implementation of these and similar curbs.¹⁴

The active role of the British Resident to wrest concessions to Messrs. John Taylor and sons and other companies for exploiting the Kolar Gold Fields was another case in the economic subservience of Mysore. In the negotiations with the Modern Government in regard to the Shivanasamudram Hydroelectric Project and the Kannambadi Reservoir project, the Resident took an entirely biased attitude in opposition to Mysore interests. Every trick was employed to force Mysore to conclude the 1893 agreement and the 1924 agreement in regard to the sharing of the waters of the river Cauvery. Thus the British Resident was instrumental in the economic exploitation of Mysore to a large extent. During the
Dewanship of Sir Mirza Ismail, it was the British Resident who foiled the automobile project in Mysore.\textsuperscript{15}

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Examination of the overall system of British indirect rule was in fact attempted during the Nineteenth century by imperial administrators like Southern land, Lee-Warner and Tupper. Each of these there scholars tried to evaluate the relationship between the princely states and the British Colonial Power. These imperial administrators were deeply involved in justifying principles then under heated political discussion and therefore lack the perspective of the historian. As a result their writings provide us much evidence about their contemporary concerns as about the foundations of the system of indirect rule in India.\textsuperscript{16}

Copland in the study Ideology and performance of Indian political service documents, the profile of British administrators who administered India at the end of the Nineteenth Century and the beginning of the Twentieth Century. He refers to them as low quality men of poor morale, Prejudice against intellectual ability, emphasizes on physical Powers, Financial Parsimony and a lack of basic training in administrative skills, combined to produce a service dominated by upright but slow thinking and extremely unimaginative officers.\textsuperscript{17}
Terence Creagh Coen, in his study on the Indian Political Service gives an insight into the role and functions of Residents and Political Agents during the Eighteenth Century.

Philip Woodruff in his studies the men who ruled India gives a romanticized account of British administrators who ruled India during Nineteenth Century.

In his article Indirect Rule in the British Empire: The Foundation of the Residency System in India 1764-1858 Michael H. Fisher uses Quantitative data on the careers of the 615 British Officials who held posts within the political line. He gives an account of the evolution and growth of the Residency System during British indirect rule. He also deals at length the origin and expansion of the indirect rule in India, the composition of men who were appointed as Residents and aspects relating to Recruitment and training to officials who were appointed as residents.18

Some extremely interesting work has been done on direct rule and the role of Residents in specific Indian states. Jeffrey has discussed the working of Residency in Travancore state. He argues for four distinct phases in the evolution of residency in Travancore during the period between 1800 and 1947. Dominant Residents, balanced, the system laisser-faire and imposed ministers.
Reeves writes about Residents in Awadh during the early nineteenth century and describes them as functioning like a co-manager installed in a business enterprise by one partner.¹⁹

Michael H. Fisher on Residents in Awadh suggests that much of the company’s influence arose through the building of a constituency out of the notables of the court, capital and countryside.²⁰ The Awadh depended on the Resident rather than on the ruler.

Panikkar has seen the Delhi Resident as primarily controlling diplomatic relations with the princely state of Rajasthan.

Reganiyazdani and Wood have examined the relationship existing among the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Resident and the Company.

Each of these studies has advanced our understanding of the working of Residency system in various native states of India. Similar studies in other princely states will help us to understand the overall pattern of indirect rule and the working of residency in colonial India. Towards this end the present study attempts to understand the dynamics of the working of residency Administration in the princely state of Mysore with a view to better understand the complex nature of British indirect rule in India.²¹

The purpose of this study is to initiate enquiry into Mysore Residency Administration, which was the second largest of the 562 princely states. Mysore was one of the Premier states situated in the South
of India. Not many scholars have worked on the history of administrative structure during colonial rule. Any comprehensive study of British rule in India will have to take into account the political, administrative and economic developments in the princely states under the indirect rule of British paramount power. Residency system was an important mechanism evolved by the British as a tool of political hegemony and economic exploitation. A proper understanding Residency system will enable us to understand the dynamics of British rule in their proper context. British Resident at Mysore acted as a link between the state of Mysore and the British. He acted for a systematic but subtle exploitation of Mysore for the benefit of its colonial masters. An in-depth study of Mysore Residency Administration will contribute significantly to our understanding of economic and political subjugation of native states during the rule of British rule. The proposed study on Mysore Residency Administration system is an attempt to explore nature and character of British imperialism in subcontinent in general and the princely state of Mysore in particular.

The selection of issues discussed in this essay has been based on the criteria of availability of sources; comments on the Residency system of Mysore are discussed in a limited frame work because the concept of Residency was a universal phenomenon of the Imperial system. The methodology followed in the present study has been first to prepare a brief narrative of the imperial administrative evolved during colonial rule and
link Residency administration as a tool of political and economic exploitation of native states through the system indirect control.\textsuperscript{22}

**PRINCELY MYSORE A HISTORIOGRAPHY OVERVIEW**

The Historiography of the princely state of Mysore an obliviously important interesting and instructive chapter of India’s colonial and imperial experience. The history of Mysore since 1881 is the most untrodden ground. Since 1964 when the late Shivapad Sen exhorted historians to study the history of the princely states of India; only a few works dealing with the history of Mysore by James Manor, B. Hettne and S. Chandrashekar and Janaki air have been published.

To sketch the characteristics of the Colonial administration and the administrative policies Colonial administrative historian Wilks wrote his Historical Sketches of The South of India in an attempt to trace the History of Mysore (London 1817). Wilk’s book, despite its literary flair remains a masterly piece of Colonial bias. Wilks perspective was limited being a functionary as well as a beneficiary of the Colonial dispensation.\textsuperscript{23} Wilks could not look at the historical process of this period in an objective and scientific manner.

Three scholars deserve particular mention for their contribution to the present field of study. Hayavadana Rao, S. Shama Rao and M.H. Gopal. These works laid the foundation for history of Mysore for the period earlier to 1831.\textsuperscript{24} Hayavadana Rao, first among them in point of
time organized his narrative on the understanding that Mysore history
derived from a continuous evolution of South Indian polity since the days
of Vijayanagar.\textsuperscript{25}

Shama Rao in his “History of Mysore”, an administrative sketch of
the Mysore state, narrates Mysore’s history chronologically to study in the
colonial Residency administration, the work helps understand history in
different directions. M.H. Gopals study of the Finances of the Mysore
state- 1799-1831 explores the economic transformation in Mysore during
colonial rule with fuscous on finance of Mysore.\textsuperscript{26} As a student of Public
finance, Gopal emphasizes on quantification though it has to be admitted
that the figures for the unstable times of which he is the narrator are likely
to be of doubtful veracity.

“The Administration of Mysore under Sir Marks Cubbon” by KNV
Sastri was written with the avowed intention of carrying on the story from
where Wilks had left it. Sastri s open idolatry of Wilks makes it necessary
to incorporate some comments on the nature of work he chooses to base
himself on. It was a common characteristic of British rule in India as an
attempt to bring order out of chaos.\textsuperscript{27}
Map of Princely state of Mysore.
A new dimension in the study of Mysore history opened with the publication of the book Political Economy of Indirect Rule, Mysore 1881-1947 by Bjorn Hettne. Hettne analysis the challenges and impediments encountered by Mysore state in achieving political and economic development. One of the first critical studies on the history of princely state of Mysore appeared in the year 1977. James Manor a political scientist in his study explores the political change in Mysore state during the period 1917-1947. The author discusses aspects of Mysore politics, emergence of a political system and responsible government in Mysore.

S. Chandrashekar in his work discusses the impact of changes brought about by the British direct rule between 1831-1881, on the society, economy and polity of Mysore State. The author deals at length on the roots of socio-political ramifications.

Janaki Nairs study focuses history of gold mining in Mysore and emergence of labour politics in Mysore. R. Ramakrishna, has made a study of the growth of press and role played by press in socio - political changes. G.Made Gowdas work deals with the socio-political role of elite in Mysore state.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The fall of the Vijayanagara Empire facilitated the rise of various local kingdoms in different parts of south India. Mysore kingdom ruled by the Wodeyars emerged as an independent political power in the year 1610.
with their capital at Sringapattna. Mysore emerged as a major economic and political power during the rule of Wodeyars, Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan. In the fourth Anglo Mysore war the Mysore forces were crushed, Tipu Sultan was killed and the capital of Mysore kingdom Sringapattanam fell in to the hands of British army. From 1799 to 1947 the British either directly or indirectly administered Mysore.\(^{32}\)

After the fourth Anglo Mysore war the partition treaty was concluded between the east India company and the Nizam of Hyderabad in 1799. According to the treaty a part of Mysore was surrendered to the Nizam and another part to the British and the rest was placed under the control of a minor descendent Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III of the Hindu ruling family of Mysore. In the same year the subsidiary treaty was concluded with the raja of Mysore. According to that treaty the British undertook the defense of Mysore in return for a subsidy amount of 24.5 lakh rupees. The subsidiary treaty reserved the right to bring the state under the direct control of the company whenever Mysore state failed to fulfill its obligations. By virtue of subsidiary treaty Mysore emerged as a child of British imperialism.\(^{33}\)

As Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III was minor the new State of Mysore was administered by Purnaiah who had served as Prim Minister under Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan. As Dewan Purnaiah restored law and order and streamlined the administration of Mysore. During the year 1811
Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III forced Purnaiah to retire from his post as Dewan.\textsuperscript{34}

From 1811 to 1830 Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III administered the state independently for some time and after with the help of the dewans. The young ruler began to spend liberally towards reviving the splendor of his royal court through generous grants to temples, muths, kin and friends. Added to this was corruption and general decline in administration. These developments led to peasant uprising in the province of Nagara in Shimoga during the year 1830. Maharaja with the assistance of the army of east India company was able to put down the insurrection. East India Company held maharaja responsible for incident and took over the administration of Mysore in the year 1831.\textsuperscript{35}

The direct administration of British over Mysore lasted for fifty years from 1831 to 1881. During this period Mark Cubbon and Bowring administered Mysore as commissioners. During this period administration of Mysore was re-structured on the model prevalent in the British provinces and financial position of Mysore was revived. The commissioners rule led to opening up of Mysore for British investments in coffee plantations and laying of railway lines. During this period maharaja made a number of efforts to bring pressure on the paramount power requesting that he should be reinstated as the ruler of Mysore.\textsuperscript{36}
In the year 1881 British government and maharaja of Mysore signed the instrument of transfer which paved for the rendition of Mysore. The instrument of transfer which contained 24 articles ensured that colonial legacy continued in a different form after Mysore was restored to the native rulers in 1881. To oversee the strict observance of defined terms and conditions the Residency office was once again revived. James Gordon, the last Commissioner of Mysore who was involved in the preparations necessary for the restoration of the province from the British to the native power, was appointed as the first Resident after Rendition.\(^{37}\)

The British Resident in Mysore state was the most vigilant guardian of imperial interest. The instrument of Transfer and the Mysore Treaty of 1913 had both been so designed as to give him unfettered powers of interference in the affairs of Mysore. Politically the Mysore state was less independent than a feudatory state, because it was a creature of the British Government. This political subordination cost Mysore dearly in several terms. The threat of resumption often pronounced, was sufficient to bring the Maharaja and his Dewan to their knees.

**SOURCES FOR THE STUDY**

Among the more important primary sources for the subject under study mention may be made of reports of enquiry commissions appointed by the colonial Government on the administration of Mysore, confidential Residency files and reports of British Administrators, Residents day to
day reports on Mysore Administration, Revenue, Military and administrative files of the state Archives Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore. Files relating to foreign affairs at National Archives, New Delhi, Imperial records of Madras, State Archives, Chennai etc. and the primary sources used for the proposed research work. Among other sources mention may be made of Mysore Administrative reports for the period 1881 to 1947, proceedings of Mysore Representative Assembly for the period 1881 to 1947 census reports for the period 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931 and 1941 various administrative circulars, Dewan Residents’ correspondence, Mysore Dasara ceremonial records etc. are important documents.

FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

The study is divided into eight chapters.

The First chapter defines the problem under study, reviews literature on the subject under study, brief history of residency in Mysore, A note on sources for study, chapterisation of study and historical background for the study

The Second chapter traces the historical evolution of residency system in India and the historical circumstances which led to the evolution of residency system in Mysore

The Third chapter discusses the first phase of Mysore Residency and its function in first phase till abolition in 1843, its working under the subsidiary treaty imposed on Mysore, Powers of Residency, Residents’
Correspondence of Establishment of Civil and Military Stations, Arrogant Behavior of Dewan Purnaiah and Raja of Mysore, Residents’ Intervention, Adoption and Adoption problems.

The **Fourth** chapter initiates discussion on Rendition and Residency Rule in Mysore, Wodayars, Dewan and Residency Relations, Famine and Residency, Residency Policy and Rendition, Railways, Revenue and Financial Conditions of Mysore, Non-Brahmin Movement, Vishweshwaraiah’s role in the administration, Colonial Attitude towards Mysore Dasara etc.

The **Fifth** chapter discusses Residency Relations with Mysore Politics, Administration of Maharaja and Residency, Implementation of Madras Government Orders through Residency, Activities of Residents, Local Political Condition, Resources of Mysore state, Resident’s Control, Revenue etc., Liberal Attitude of Residents towards Dewan, Development of Mysore, Dewan, Resident’s Cooperation in the Administration of Mysore.

The **Sixth** chapter deals with Residency as a Guardian of Imperial Interest, Imperialism in India, Residency System and Functioning, Governor Generals Attitude towards India and Residency, Commissioner’s Rule, Role of Residents in Implementation of British Policy in Mysore, Famine and Residency, Lifestyle of British Residents, Judicial and Criminal Administration, General Management of Revenue, Inam System,
Police, and Tax, Agriculture, The Mechanism of Control of the entire System by the Resident.

The **Seventh** chapter deals with the Impact of the Residency on the Economic Development of Mysore, Impact on Revenue Collection, Forest, Tobacco, Gold-mining, Mysore Chamber of Commerce, Railways, Coffee, Cardamom, Pepper and Hydroelectricity.

The **Eighth** chapter forms the conclusion of the study.
Notes and References


5. Ibid., P.4.


10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.


14 Ibid, P.205.


17 Ray, Princely States and Their Paramount Power, Copland, The Prince of India in Edgame of Empire and Ramusack. The Indian Prince and the State.


20 Ibid.


22 Ibid.

23 Mark Wilks, History of Mysore.

24 Mark Wilks, History of Mysore, M.H. Gopal Finances of Mysore State.


28 Ibid.


32 Irfan Habib, “Resistance and Modernization under Haider Ali Tipu Sultan.”


34 Rangaswamy, “The story of Integration Manu Bhagawan Compares Mysore and Baroda” in Sovereign sphere.

