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EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FORT ST. DAVID IN CUDDALORE, TAMILNADU: WITH REFERENCE TO COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM

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Abstract:

The Bretton wood" Institutions are playing a major role in influencing the economy of the developing and underdeveloped nations. The most victimized are the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The exploitations unleashed against these nations are voluminous and untoward. In the past big colonial empires viz., British, French, Dutch, Portugese played a very precarious and havoc role in the uncivilized or weaker nations. There were huge amount of plundering happened in the name of civilizing the uncivilized communities.

The colonial empires captured the weak countries and exhausted huge amount of resources of the victim countries. And it 'is not confined to the resources but extended to humans also. The rest is history which was unspoken. The modern world has also seen various types of exploitative measures and activities in the name of globalization, Privatization and Liberalization. The current piece of research article is an endeavour to discuss about settlement of Europeans in general and British settlement in particular and its impact. The article also scrutinizes about the Fort St.David which served as a main business center cum administrative in nature.

KEY WORDS:

Colonialism, Imperialism, Settlement, Exploitation, Bretton Woods institutions.

INTRODUCTION

Survival of the fittest was the coinage propounded by Charles Darwin in his highly celebrated work "Origin of Species". This theory nowadays has become an interdisciplinary appliance by which more number of disciplines utilized it for in order to strengthen its theories and concepts.

Historically Speaking, Darwinian Phraseology can be utilized, when the phases of International history come across Colonialism and Imperialism.

COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM

Colonialism as such is a process of trade by which powerful Nations occupies powerless nations which controlled the economic process. Subsequently Imperialism is termed as an invasion process by which a powerful nation takes control of a victim nation politically. The modern period in the aftermath of 15th century A.D had seen a vast amount of countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America which were affected by the aforementioned institutions of colonialism and imperialism. There were Dutch, Portuguese, Ottomans, French, and British who intruded into various nations of the world by substantiating the

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EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FORT ST. DAVID IN CUDDALORE, TAMILNADU....

statement of "Civilizing the Uncivilized is the burden of developed nations." The ravages and exploitations in terms of natural resources, human, land, water etc., are incalculable and the residues are now being enjoyed by the affected nations. Dadhabai Naoroji in his work related to poverty and exploitation, clearly enumerated how the Britishers and Europeans plundered the indefinite wealth of India in various phases of British Imperialism. Recently a submerged ship was found out in which the contractors indentified "Silver bars" worth of 30 billion. The ship belongs to British that were travelling from India, which was attacked by German torpedoes during the IInd world war. In African continent, People are still fighting with each other due to the colonial and imperial impact of the foreign empires. The "divide and Rule" policy of foreign empires has made the world nations to suffer a lot in terms of territories, borders and the resources.

India is still facing a lot of border disputes with China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the sole reason behind this is the improper rule and unclear demarcation of borders that was done by the British empire. The divide and rule policy of the British empire not only affected India's relationship with its neighbours, but also it created a fissiparous tendency among Indians in India. The communal violence and disharmony between various religious are all the worst outcome of Colonialism and Imperialism. Other continents also were affected by these kinds of untoward activities in different phases of world history. In African continent, when Britishers entered into the land, African community possessed vast land and Britishers possessed none other than bible. When the colonialistic and imperialistic periods are finished, Africans got bible and Britishers took almost all the resources of African community. This is a common factor which prevailed in the 17, 18, 19 and 20th centuries in the modern period. Albeit, the colonial and imperial system introduced and established various constructive mechanisms but it is not for the sake of the welfare but for huge exploitation. The introduction of English education, Railway connection between different parts of India are all the good and as well bad establishments which benefitted Britishers in a larger way.

SETTLEMENTS

Europeans utilized the captured territories for in order to enlarge their own possession. The plunder of wealth and exploitation was possible only by permanent Settlements. There were Dutch, Portuguese, French and British who took a lot of control and divided India into various parts for sharing with one another. They chose different important places on the basis of hill stations, seashores, vast resources of lands so on. Britishers were fond of Cuddalore district, Tamilnadu as a one which is close to sea. The Garden house of English was spread around Capper hills, Tiruppapuliur, Manjakuppam soon. The Dutch majorly occupied lodge facilities in Tiruppapuliur.

SETTLEMENTS OF BRITISH IN CUDDALORE

Only in 18th century English selected the interior part of Cuddalore. Before that Fort St. David was the very prominent place for English for administration activities. In 1686 the Marathas sold the fort to Elihu Yale for 90,000 Pagadoes to East Indian Company. It is the fort which is very strong and close to the river called "Kadillam". The Dutch also had a little factory which was situated a mile from the fort. In 17th century the Dutch merchant were lived in rented house in Tiruppapuliur. The purpose of British settlement in Cuddalore is their unbounded affinity for sea and also to export various goods from India. And sea is the only way in that period by which a lot amount of products and resources were transported to London.

Various monuments and establishments at Devanampattinam in Cuddalore have great resemblance of European architecture and culture. It is in this junction scholars should realize that wherever European imperialists establish themselves, they were stubborn in impacting the victim nations. The culture and civilization, of Europeans were very much attracted with its dress code and food habits which are considered as an influencing factor in Asian continent. The settlement pattern is highly hinges upon the occupation of officials and the economic conditions. It is inferred that the socio-economic divisions are not the only component of underdeveloped countries but also a pivotal factors in deciding the settlement of colonial empires.

The Deputy Governor of Fort St. David bungalow is situated in the North bank of Kadillam river. The white town of Devanampattinam was divided into 4 divisions. 1st division is the fort complex which comprises of Agency house, ware house and Garrison which is known to be as triangular fortification. The IInd division consists of official buildings for administrative purposes. In between Ist and IInd divisions factories of Portuguese and Dutch existed. The IIIrd division is an area of residential areas in which officials resided on the basis of their ranks. The IVth division is the military boundary which was demarcated from the civilian area. The English people preferred Cuddalore and it served as a business center for all purposes. In 18th century, the port of Cuddalore has got wide significance and the English people changed their

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FORT ST. DAVID IN CUDDALORE, TAMILNADU....

establishment into the interior parts of Cuddalore. Since the Deputy Governor stayed in Fort St.David, the entire area got wide significance. There were more number of health institutions, ware houses, educational institutions and libraries established under the Britishers settlement. In 19th and 20th centuries the French and English continued to live in various parts of Tamilnadu, whereas Dutch and Portuguese left the territory or confined themselves in some areas. This fact was evident from various European cemeteries. In the middle of 19th century Newtown was formed and the Old town lost its significance.

The living styles of Europeans are astonishing by which they accustomed themselves with the existing atmosphere. They lived in terraced houses, ventilated with drawing, dining, bed and kitchen rooms separately. They also utilized flush out latrines. Materials they used for houses are tiles, bricks, timber, sheathing boards, keys, locks, iron, planks, hoods hinger, Coir, Stone dogs, rails, iron craves so on which are freely available in the local areas. It is inferred that the English community and other European community people were adopted fit enough with the existing conditions and materials in the local area which were frequently used of.

The importance of Fort St.David degraded gradually with the shifting of administration to Fort St.George in Chennai for the administrative requirements. Between 18th and 19th century Fort David was highly utilized, since Cuddalore is the main gamut area in Tamilnadu which is also situated near the sea. Even now the Fort was frequently visited by so many Europeans since their predecessors and antecedents lived a sophisticated life in Cuddalore district.

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