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#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE





#### NAGAR PEASANT REVOLT: A CASE STUDY

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#### Abstract:

Moreover, according to these articles the British themselves did not fulfill the conditions of Treaty which caused the Nagar rebellion as well as the dispossession of the Raja. Because, when the Nagar revolt was not in its climax the Raja requested the Resident to employ the Subsidiary Troops in suppressing the insurrection. This paper expresses Subsidiary Treaty of Mysore, Krishnaraja wodeyar-III and Nagara revolt.

#### **KEYWORDS:**

British, Nagara, Company, Treaty, Mysore.

#### INTRODUCTION

#### **SUBSIDIARY TREATY OF MYSORE**

After the death of Tipu, Mysore became an independent State. But after the subjugation by British it lost its independence. As a result, Mysore entered into a Subsidiary Treaty and had to pay the tribute as well.1 As per the Subsidiary Treaty of Mysore, 1799 Article II,

"The Honorable East India Company, agrees to maintain and His Highness the Maharaja, Mysore Krishnaraja Wodeyar Bahadoor agrees to receive a military force for the defense and security of His Highness dominions in consideration of which protection His Highness engages to pay the annual sum of seven lakhs of Star Pagodas (Rs. 24.5 lakhs) to the said East India Company the said sum to be paid in twelve equal monthly installments, commencing from 1st July A.D. 1799". In addition to this the Raja by a subsequent arrangement paid 5,000 pounds per annum as rent for the River Island of Srirangapatnam held by the Company's Government.

Moreover, to get permanent auxiliary assistance, wilks the acting Resident prepared a modified supplementary Treaty and on 29th January 1807 forwarded to the Supreme Government for ratification.<sup>3</sup> On 20th March 1807 Governor General signed and it was delivered to the Maharaja.<sup>4</sup> This modified Article Third of the Treaty had four clauses.<sup>5</sup> So, to maintain the auxiliary forces, as ten and a half lakhs was added to the existing subsidy of Rupees Twenty Four and a half lakhs. Hence, it increased to Thirty Five lakhs of rupees.<sup>6</sup> Mysore had to maintain ready army always to serve with the Company's army of 4000 soldiers.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, Mysore had lost huge amount of wealth under Article-III of Subsidiary Treaty. In this regard, in 1804 as Wellesley himself mentioned that in the Maratha wards on behalf of British, Mysore had spent 4,10,000 Star Pagodas<sup>8</sup> and the Mysore Government had fully paid out of the obligations imposed on it by the third Article of the Treaty.<sup>9</sup> In detail, this third Article stated that if it shall be necessary for the protection and defenses of the territories of the contracting parties, or of either of them, that hostilities shall be undertaken, or preparations made for commencing hostilities against any state or power the Maharaja

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should contribute towards the discharge or the increased expense incurred by the augmentations or the military force and the unavoidable charges or war et., as determined by the Governor General with reference to the net revenues of the State. <sup>10</sup> Moreover, according to the article's-II, IV and X of subsidiary Treaty of Srirangapatnam it was the responsibility of the company for overseeing, control and help to Mysore in dangerous situations.

But as per Article-X of Subsidiary Treaty 13 it was the duty of Company to employ troops under such circumstances as the Raja sufficiently subsidised the military force for the maintenance of his rule and for the suppression of public disorder. Such an employment of the troops was at all an extraordinary service or special favour shown to the Raja by the Company's Government.

Regarding the fault of the Company the Insurrection committee opined, "that we doubt whether the disturbances would have broken out when they did but for the prevalence of the belief to which we have already advocated, of his not being supported by the British Government and that we think they would have been speedily quelled, had not the family of the terrikerry Paligars joined in the revolt, and kept them up by means of their personal energy and hereditary influence, and perhaps most of all, the employment of foreigners (to Mysore) of the military class, who flocked to their standard, chiefly from the Southern Maharatta Country for the sake of pay and plunder and of occupation congenial to their habits and qualifications" <sup>14</sup>.

Apart from this military affairs Mysore had lost huge sums of money too. These extraordinary expenses borne by Maharaja were found very indefinite and in de facto Mysore lost its economic as well as political entity. This left Mysore at the Governor General's mercy. <sup>15</sup> In the shape of an annual subsidy this was regular drain of Mysore's wealth and it heavily pressurized on the economic condition of peasants. <sup>16</sup>

#### THE ROLE OF KRISHNARAJA WODEYAR-III

Besides this, usually, the payment of tribute to the conquering foes by the landlords, inferior rulers or subordinate chiefs was in the shape of coins, gold and silver.<sup>17</sup> This was too burdensome to the state and it was so onerous that Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III could not pay the subsidiary amount regularly. For example, about 1814 some difference arose between A.H. Cole and Krishnaraja Wodeyar as regards the expenditure, the subsidy had to be paid under the Treaty regularly every month and even so adverse a critic as lewin Bowring openly acknowledged that the ruler had paid it sumptuously on the due dates. <sup>18</sup> A large amount of specie was imperatively needed every month to pay the installment of the subsidy to British. And had to maintain a military strength of 4,000 horse of Company with the British was incumbent on the part of the Mysore Government.<sup>19</sup>

#### TREATY OF SRIRANGAPATNAM

Actually, under the treaty of Srirangapatnam of 1799 it was amended by the Supplementary Treaty of 1807 with the British. <sup>20</sup> To maintain this 4,000 horse, Mysore Government had to spend nearly four lakhs of Pagodas per year extra and subsidy amount increased from seven lakhs to ten lakhs of Pagodas.

In addition to this usual service beyond the frontier if not exceeded in duration of one month had to borne by the Mysore Raja <sup>21</sup>. This increased the burden and due to the payment of subsidy, tribute etc., the investment of the amount on irrigation works decreased. <sup>22</sup> The lightest delay in these payments was taken serious notice of, by the Resident and occasioned most unfavorable reports to the Madras Government. <sup>23</sup> Meanwhile, in every department the establishment and expenses increased. <sup>24</sup>Because, as we have seen above in 1801, 1803, and 1807 other supplementary Treaties were made between the Company and Mysore. <sup>25</sup>

In addition to this, before the fall of Srirangapatnam military afforded job for people in large numbers. Because, Tipu always had to maintain a big army. But after the death of Tipu soldiers lost their jobs.<sup>26</sup> It was very necessary for the Raja to have prior permission of company if he wanted to have any sort of relationship with any other European country.<sup>27</sup>

Hence the cultivators, manufacturers, artisans, traders and other classes found ready markets for their articles. But in 1810 when most of the British garrisons were removed in view of the prevailing normalcy, as a sequel, there was a sharp decline in the demand for various produce and expenditure of money as well. Synchronously with this diminished demand for articles, there was an extension of cultivation which brought into the market more grain than could be observed or markets were flooded with the grains as a result prices fell sharply.<sup>29</sup>

#### BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS MYSORE

The British seem to have always wanted to take possession of the Mysore state. This view was clearly exhibited during the Residentship of A.H. Cole and Casamijor and eventually they did it successfully. <sup>30</sup> For example, time and again there were misrepresentation and complaints against the Maharaja to the Resident and by the officials of the Palace and the Residency. The Resident eagerly swallowed everything that he heard and sent budget after budget of prejudicial reports to the Government of Mysore. <sup>31</sup> The Resident made out that the Revenue was deckling rapidly that the expenditure had increased and thus within 15 years almost the whole of the treasure amassed by Dewan Purnaiah amounting to above seventy Three Lakhs of Kantheroy Pagodas or nearly two and a half crore of rupees had been dissipated and every department was in arrears. <sup>32</sup>

This type of accusation was not made for the first time by A.H. Cole, against Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III. On 18<sup>th</sup> December 1813, 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1814 and 10<sup>th</sup> April, Cole sent adverse reports to Madras Government against Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III.<sup>33</sup> Hence, Sir Thomas Munro, Governor of Madras arrived in Mysore on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1826 and then on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> held a meeting with Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III to inquire into the state affairs and revenue.<sup>34</sup>

Secondly, about the misuse of seventy three lakhs Kantheroy Pagodas or 2.25 crore of rupees, about which Dewan Purnaiah had already explained was again taken up by A.H. Cole against Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III in 1825,<sup>35</sup> and A.H. Cole himself signed a memorandum which was prepared after an examination of the accounts by the Inquiry Committee. Hence A.H. Cole was utterly biased against Krishnaraja Wodeyar. Because, it was not the first time he accused Krishnaraja Wodeyar. And on 3rd June 1814 the Madras Government sent instruction to A.H. Cole not to interfere in affairs of Mysore.<sup>36</sup>

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The maintenance or non-maintenance of British troops as well as Subsidiary Forces was cumbersome, burdensome and problematic to the state. Because, a large British army with considerable numbers of Mysore forces had maintained and distributed in small bodies in various parts of the state. Thus the above factors were mainly responsible for the commencement of the nagar revolt of 1830.

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