

Rs. 5000/-

207520
2014/05/21

Evolution of Colombo City: An Outgrowth of Colonial Encroachment

Gampahe Koralalaye Nandanie Damayanthi Karunathilaka

Thesis Submitted for the Post Graduate Institute of
Archaeology, for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at
University of Kelaniya.



Ph.D.

Library - USJP



207520

2008

207520

CONTENTS

Declarations	I
Acknowledgments	II
Table of Contents	V
List of Tables	VIII
List of Figures	X
List of Abbreviations	XIII

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One

Introduction and Methodology

1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Scope	4
1.3 Growth of Cities: Theoretical Back Ground	6
1.4 Problems and Definitions	10
1.5 Objectives	14
1.6 Research Methodology	17
1.6.1 Literature Survey	17
1.6.2 Sources for the Pre Colonial Period	19
1.6.3 Primary Sources After 15 th Century	20
1.6.3.1 Importance of the Municipal Council Sources	22
1.6.3.2 Census of Population and Housing	24
1.6.3.3 Administration Reports and Ceylon Blue Books ...	25
1.7 Studies by Other Researchers	27
1.8 Analysis, Themes and Organization	28

Chapter Two

Traditional City Structures and Colonial Encroachment

2.1 Introduction	30
2.2 The First Urbanization in Sri Lanka	32
2.3 Salient Features of Traditional Cities	36
2.4 The First Plan City and Traditional City Structures	41
2.4.1 Religious Background for City Development	46
2.4.2 Designing Pre-Colonial Cities	49
2.5 Development of Trade Activities and Ancient Port Cities	51
2.5.1 Port Cities	52

2.6	Disturbances to the Traditional City Framework.....	57
2.7	Outward Expansion of European Powers.....	57
2.8	Colombo as a Portuguese Outpost.....	60
2.9	Site Selection: Colonial Approach.....	60

Chapter Three

Birth and Expansion of Colombo City

3.1	Introduction.....	64
3.2	Origins of the Name.....	64
3.3	Birth of the City.....	65
3.4	The Portuguese and the Origins of Colombo.....	67
3.5	Dutch Approach to the City Development.....	76
3.6	British Approach to the City Development	80
3.6.1	Patrick Geddes and Town Planning in Colombo City.....	80
3.7	Lost Environs of Colombo.....	81
3.7.1	Kayman,’s Gate	86
3.7.2	Delft Gate.....	90
3.8	Stories Behind the Lost Environment.....	97
3.8.1	Slave Island.....	97
3.8.2	Beire Lake.....	97
3.8.3	Galleface Grounds.....	98

Chapter Four

Impact of British Socio-Economic Policies Towards the City Growth

4.1	Introduction.....	99
4.2	Implementation of Merchant Capitalism in Sri Lanka.....	101
4.3	Establishment of the Plantation Sector.....	104
4.4	Traditional Tenure System	105
4.5	New Land Policy Under the British Administration.....	109
4.6	Conflicts between British and the Indigenous Societies	116
4.7	Creation of Unemployment.....	117
4.7.1	Unwillingness of Villagers to Work in the Plantation Sector	117
4.7.2	Deterioration of the Village Economy and the New Economic Order under British.....	121
4.8	Colombo Opening to the World Economy.....	128
4.9	Migration to Colombo.....	133
4.10	Emergence of a New Elite in Colombo.....	135

Chapter Five

Growth of Population and Expansion of the City

5.1	Historical Background.....	141
5.2	Population Growth During the Period from 1871-1953.....	143
5.3	Supremacy of Colombo in the Population Increase.....	145
5.4	City Wards Formation and Expansion.....	148
5.5	Historical View of Population Distribution in Colombo.....	148
5.6	Population Composition of Different Ethnic Groups.....	158
5.7	Contributions of the Labour Force to the City Development.....	161
5.8	Changing the Residential Segregation of the City.....	164

Chapter Six

Environment Changes and Issues Related to the City Growth

6.1	Introduction.....	167
6.2	Overcrowding and Housing Shortage.....	168
6.2.1	Increasing Land Values of the City.....	169
6.2.2	Origins of Slums and Shanties in the City.....	173
6.2.3	Over Crowded Areas in the City.....	174
6.3	Increase in Infant Mortality.....	178
6.4	Inappropriate Waste Disposal Systems and Environmental Hazards	182
6.5	Spread of Diseases and Increased Death Rates.....	187

Chapter Seven

Colombo Emerging as a Commercial and Administrative Centre

7.1	Commercial Development: Harbour.....	200
7.1.1	Historical Development of the Port of Colombo.....	200
7.1.2	Importance of Colombo as a Port.....	201
7.1.3	Colombo Developing as an International Port.....	208
7.2	Colombo Developing as a Commercial Centre	211
7.2.1	European Owned Commercial Establishments.....	215
7.2.2	Hotels.....	219
7.2.3	Banks.....	222
7.2.4	Chettiar: Providers of Financial Sources.....	224
7.2.5	Markets.....	226
7.3	Colombo Emerging as an Administrative Centre.....	229
7.4	Buildings as Symbols of Colonial Power	234
7.4.1	The Town Hall.....	235
7.4.2	General Post Office.....	236
7.4.3	The Museum.....	236

7.4.4	Precedent's House.....	238
7.4.5	Foreign Ministry	238
Chapter Eight		
Expansion of Roads and Transport Net Work		
8.1	Introduction.....	240
8.2	Historical Background of the Road System.....	241
8.2.1	Gravets (<i>Kadavath</i>).....	245
8.3	Road Development Under the Municipal Council.....	247
8.3.1	Upgrading of Roads.....	248
8.4	British Approach in the Road Net Works.....	250
8.4.1	Construction of Bridges.....	252
8.5	Expansion of the Transport System.....	252
8.5.1	First Rikshow.....	257
8.5.2	Tram Car Service: New Era of the Transportation History ..	258
8.5.3	Accidents Related to Tram Cars.....	259
8.6	Status of the Streets.....	260
Conclusion.....		265
Bibliography		270

LIST OF TABLES

2.1	Classified Urbanization Periods in Sri Lanka.....	33
3.1	Dutch Ground Plan.....	79
4.1	Lands Extents Lost to Rural Communities.....	113
4.2	Extents of Lands Taken Over from Villagers in highlands of Sri. Lanka.....	114
4.3	Intercensal Increase, Natural Increase and Migration Increase 1871-1953.....	118
4.4	The Number of Dependents to the Earners during 1900-1911 in Sri Lanka.....	119
4.5	Rice Imports in Sri Lanka.....	125
4.6	Development of Trade 1891-1921.....	126
4.7	Annual Values of Imports.....	127
4.8	The Value of Sri Lanka's Trade and Volume of Trade Handle by Colombo 1852-1922.....	129
4.9	Principal Imports and Exports of Sri Lanka 1846-1871.....	130
4.10	Tea Consumption in the United Kingdom.....	131
4.11	Exports of Sri Lanka Tea to Markets Outside the United Kingdom..	132