Geographical and Political Conditions of Myanmar (Upto Bagan)

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Abstract

Myanmar geography in the Stone Ages was common which was not confined to any spice. Depending upon food available and desirability of the species could move wherever they wanted whenever in our ancient earthen geography. There are many evidences relating to species employed. As per our knowledge twenty sites where these species moved were discovered. When these went out in the Neolithic era a new species had come in this geography where those new species formed community which had changed into clans who had established a garrison near which grew up a city which was known as city-states of the Pyus people. The city was not constructed open space which was walled. After deterioration of these city-states a city-kingdom known popularly as Bagan was established. When population increased it was advanced scarcity of lands. At this condition people were no more inside the city they came out from the city and established economic zones that to agricultural zones which were very important to serve the increasing population. This paper aims to know geographical and political conditions and appearance of governing systems, origin, nature and attribution of Myanmar up to establishing city kingdom where various art and architecture occurred. And also to ascertain how those art and architecture appeared related to political and geographical conditions. We went through some theoretical historical literatures for our clarification. We investigated archaeological evidences too. It is indubitable that there governing systems not only in our common geography but also kings with body politics and ruled too in the city-states and city-kingdom too. Our main problem is how they learned transaction to operate their business. We found Matriarchal and Patriarchal governing systems in the time of common geography, kings and ruled in city-states and then monarchs and his followers in the city-kingdom. Politics was is very important for the appearance of art in earthen geography from city states period to Bagan. 

Keywords: Politics, governing system,

Introduction

People upto later Stone Ages did not have limited geography but politics at that existed which might be Matriarchal. After that era due to discovery of method of agriculture people had settled down in one area where they lived in operating works of agriculture those periods were known as Neolithic and Megalithic periods. During these eras as people had invented boats for travelling they lived through earthen and revering geography in which as volume of works became big those functions were tackled by father. So that era was known as Patriarchal. But in Megalithic era it commenced community. Next to these eras under this paper are city states and Bagan Period. Then, it established city states where political structure formed which was run by kings living in limited geography which was walled area. After that Bagan kingdom appeared in the ancient area which was though at the beginning within walls that became broad based on population increased. In Bagan geography political structure was clearly formed. The aims of this paper are to know political and geographical conditions and to ascertain how politics linked with arts in the geographies where people lived in those eras.

Discussion

Space, geography of present Myanmar was different from the Stone Ages, Megalithic, city-states period leading to Bagan. Like this politics in Stone Ages, Megalithic, city-states eras and Bagan was diverse compared with politics of Myanmar in the current era. Geography means nothing else but a space limited either for a group of people who were in the Megalithic period or Lesser people who were in the city states period and multi color peoples who had established multi pots of society, who lived in on eastern side of Tungabadara, on western side of Tugabadara and on the north of Tabaddesa and on the north of Tavalipa and on the northwest of Subanabhumi, the country of Mons. The space of stone Ages, spaces were common in which species in those eras
were allowed free movement because at that time boundary system did not develop. They wherever wanted could travel whenever for

either depending on climatic conditions or scarcity of foods or on their interest. Therefore burial in regard to species of those time were found rarely while burials of Megalithic people were discovered in bulk clearly because in that era people became gregarious lived in one specific place where grew plants, grains and hunted what they wished and fished at the pools and streams reached by them. The species in this primitive era attached with their surroundings for their survival because they did not form political policy by which to structure and develop their economy. They when exhausted foods in their environment upto late Paleolithic period had travelled to another place which was water shadow and rain shadow. It was the good luck getting free movement in their need of time because as I also mentioned land at that time was commonly possessed by them because there was no boundary limited. Therefore they had to concentrate on earth and earthen materials that to silicified tug Peoble,(fossil wood) boulders and stones for making tools for the use of food gathering and food collecting as well as tool for protecting their enemies. When they got idea for cooking by discovering fire they made pots for carrying water, storing water and cooking which were led them to available owning to facilitate from their geography where they moved for their survival. The following are the places in ancient Myanmar where they concentrated on:-


The regions mentioned above were the beneficial places which permitted the people of species who stayed by seeking food and hunting beats which were fostered by the geography which also present forests, streams, rivers, pools and mountain ranges. The geographical conditions in conformity with its climate created natural phenomenon which forced these species to make utensils like tools which were to be employed in hunting and defending animals as well as human beings who made them harm and mud which were available and created by those geography where they stayed led to think them to make pots for carrying water and storing foods. These spices lived in groups aiming at safeguarding them from danger. In this group they selected those who were with intelligence and advising the means and way for their livelihood chose as their leader of the group. Little by little these leaders of groups were gather to gather into communities and then into society. In this society created by the geographical condition was in favour of women who were made intelligence by that ecology that to upto late Paleolithic era. But some women were so highly intelligent that they were chosen as the leaders of those societies. However, they did not establish their communities as a state, which was mere society popularly known as matriarchal society. The geography in which this society led by women originated common because we hold that in this common land these women with their communities could freely travelled for their livelihood and survival. The attribute of geography of the early stone age was amazing. The space was open one where anyone can inhabit seek foods which were just consumer labour, seeds, roots eatable, leaves and fruits bearing naturally with any labour of any sector of natural science though which was existed no one could struck the idea of applying that natural science. The climate in which those

1 Rakhine Pye Nay pet Sin Thamine, Thamine Ganda, Volume I, The State Council of Rakhine, 1984, Plate.2
2 M.R.Sahni, Man in Evolution, Calcutta, Orient Longman’s Ltd, 1952, P.141, Fig.50 cited in Akey Pya Myanmar Thamin
species' inhabited had to adjust for their survival. When they were not in conformity with geography for their living they had to leaf shift to another space which was appropriate to them from all quarters especially for their inhabitations with foods available in the new geography which gave way a governing system that was valiantly called matriarchal society as we already mentioned in our socio-economic chapter, in which women decided everything because the geographical condition made them very powerful. The women in geographical conditions of that time superseded men. In that specific geography and time there was no way for men who to make decision as to species inhabited because geography at that time stood on women side which can be simply structure just two stratusms which were women employing a great deal of power on one structure and men lacking power on the other hand. This geographical condition might be similar we thought in every corner of the world at that early stone age. The species in that time had especially chosen hilly regions that to high location for their security from both floods and enemies and also bulk of fruits, seeds, leaves, grains grown in that natural geography. From that hilltops the woman leading descended to plains at the bottom of mountains for their mastery because of their long stay on the hilltops where matriarchal governing system at the plains were just pastoral one when space became wide matriarchal governing did not work as many as the pastoral geographical conditions necessary which was late paleolithic period in that men sought for mastery of the environment where they lived in. In this pastoral life species realized value of manure which makes fertile the lands because they in this condition had to make attempt fertility of their environment. They had made competency in competition for getting manure for the development of agriculture by which to bear juice fruits and healthy vegetation. For accumulating manure even there was war waged between group and group. Little by little species turned into New one which was favorably called neolithic era in which men sought path for the mastery of the plain, geography. Fortunately they came to know how to grow plants and grains and also how to extract seeds from beans and fruits which changed them into agricultural life from pastoral one. In agricultural life on their geography they with previous experiences in regard to fertility in their pastoral condition made valiant endeavor to make their present geography fertile. They with their groups had settled down in a specific region where they employed agriculture and raised animals especially dogs and elephant which had helped them in hunting, travelling, dragging heavy things and breed fowls which were bulk in their geographical environment. They worked in group for high productivity to export their products to outside of their locality because they had already invented boats in carrying the commodities as we mentioned in our socio-economic conditions. Little by little grains and fruits were promoted in the production based on their knowledge on their geographical condition which was fertile soil with suitable weather for those plants and grains going to be grown. That was late stone age and dawn of neolithic era in which as functions of agriculture became broad and wide the governing system altered from matriarchal into patriarchal system in which at the initial stage both women and men maintained the society with equal power. As works were functioned extensively management system production and distribution as well as trade and commerce which involved both external and internal heavy governing responsibilities were to be undertaken by men. In such condition they chose heads in each group. Later they even selected a legislator who had to make decision without predict if any case arose either within group or either in production or business especially in external trade which was exercised to some extent because goods carrier that to boats howling the logs by their intelligence. Gradually they had established civic. In this way those stone age species living on hilltops descended to the plains where they formed matriarchal governing system which was changed into system of government because functions of society became wide and broad. In this patriarchal system they elected heads.
in each group in making decision either for tools making technology of making house hood utensils either for carrying water from places where water available or storing food and plates for putting and holding food and grains. In this geographical conditions these species had elected a legislator which indicates political norm came into existence in their geography, when this legislator could maintain works and practices in that society in that regions in conformity with the species he designed his species to be knowledgeable and create system and devices which would have made their lives fruitful he consulted with communities leaders each was elected by each group. With the agreements of leaders from communities legislator made them to form a civic looking forward for welfare of society by leading political norms which were combined ideas of legislator leaders of communities who were in the civic which was even could be mastery for both their geographical and political conditions vice vicer. Therefore from the early Stone Age species mastering geography established matriarchal political system which changed into patriarchal politics from which a head in group was chosen and with the consents of those communities’ leaders it had elected a legislator which made political paradigm clearly in its geographical condition of Stone Age. Little by little in the needs of time and with the goodwill of the legislator combining with the suggestions and agreements of leaders in the communities a civic was formed and employed activities of the society with governing systems. Owning to growth of agriculture which has been depending by every being in every part of the world population promoted too. Previously up to Neolithic age species had to travel depending upon food available. So ratio of population was slow. After finding way how to grow plants and breed animals ratio of population increased because high birth rate and low death as species could produce ration by their labour. As population increased crossed over ten thousand either in a specific region or group or in a space that society was popularly named as Megalithic era in which there was different standpoint. Some scholars opined that due to migration happened species in Neolith ic time migrated to the place which was suitable for them, which caused all over the world. At that time species were gregarious in Myanmar migrated toward Atlantic region. Nevertheless new era historically known as Megalithic came to appear in the time line not only in Myanmar history but also in world history because in this era population consisted of at least ten thousands in which leader became more influential than in the previous eras. In Here a problem rise based on scholars believe in monism whose concept is human being are creation but there were are scholars who assume that human beings are evolution. Whatever may be it is clear that human beings in our geography presented since Neolithic period. However, it is no doubt role leadership sharply started operated since Megalithic period in which leader became a dominant person in their community. Such domination of leader can be found on seeing situation of burial ground where their's and leaders body were buried in systematic manner. With the hard labour of followers a pillar of stone which was perhaps carried from far distance place was planted on front side of the dead leader as memorandum. For this special function which was not in previous time different craft was employed. Remarkably on the top of that pillar was shaped either a figure of lizard or other creature which are visible on earthen geography. This function was no doubt undertaken through arrangement of the political institution of that period. The art of making such figure was not implemented without guild where taught crafts and way manipulating trade and commerce and also management of communities activities, which was undoubtedly by political organization. It is clear that leader dead was satiable

for his organization which was central hub for all performance in that geography and environment nearby, which he made hard attempt for not only his communities esteem but also geography for which he was responsible. Instruments made of metals, various sizes of stone and earthen utensil baked employed in burial prove that the craft was instructed by public esteem guild which was a government board for the goodness and for smoothness of operation of the functions. The extraordinary example made by species of Megalithic era was Sargophigus, a sort of case made of stone for putting dead body of communities' leader in Megalithic period, which shows creative activities of craft manager who was either member of that specific guild or who taught artistic functions, of which Sarcophagus was new mechanical work produced with the management of political organization or civic institution that indicates administrative machinery was bureaucratic like Pharaoh in ancient Egypt. In this Megalithic era the leader buried with remarkable marks and grand manner was not an ordinary leader he was fostered in a strong political organization or in an institution. It is that in this era guild was occurred with the instruction of political organization which was already experienced it seems before they presented into this new geography or leader of Megalithic society was trained in political institution like Greece or Roman or Persia or England where the Greeks and Roman had invaded in this era or they got train in one of those countries political institution because as per our knowledge there was migration in this era. It is found with the references of scholars that wherever this burial customs in which Sarcophagus with various sizes of pots, plates with grains, pieces of bronze inside the pots and on the plates as well as weapons made of iron were common whenever this customs developed in this Megalithic period in which geographical conditions were in favor to those species living there. The species had produced urn, plates employed in the burial tradition and also from metal soil that to iron sands where deposited minerals produced iron tools which were trident, in its form that was commonly seen in one of the hands of Siva's Trinity of Hinduism. The geographical conditions at that time were fertile and beneficial to them in growing grains seen on the plates of burial ground. There were two kinds of burials found in this era, which are pit burial and silt burial which were side by side which shows people in this era lived in collectively. Unlike previous eras it looks that this people established villages where leaders who were buried grandly it seems they ruled with the order of political authority existed at that period. Though with our experiences we found sole dead body or skeleton in a pit there were many dead found in silt burial mostly death of child which show in a time many children were died, which proves that in that period children died little by little affecting harmful diseases for which even their leaders or any one among the community did not find or make drug to cure the children diseases affected, which proves though political institution existed according to scholars at that time which did not concentrated on children health care affairs, which opined of that the geographical condition was appropriated for the production of utensils and metal instruments but which did not harmony with the children in their geographical conditions either may be climate or water population due to that bulk of dead were found in a single pit. Due to dangerous diseases the children who had died in one time and uninterruptly were buried in single pit which show the geographical condition which became unfavorable for children was helped by the political mechanism which might be lack of scientific progress that indicates that no medicine in curing child diseases developed.

From megaliths burial ground it found there things:- solidarity without it the huge stone planted on front side of its leader dead could not bring, which was not individual labour by which such big long stone could not be brought and erected, another is art which was is visible on the top surface of those megalithic stone and next is ritual performed on burial which are urn, and grains put on plates in the burial ground. All these three phenomenon found in megalithic ear relating to
food and hunting though this period was transitional era the hunting for prey was not discard which attached continued in their livelihood and food were are essential for every one in every age. Attempt for these things led them to initiative with the solidarity with individual or group conscious. By both solidarity and initiative species could dominate their environment which for the goodness of agriculture and shaping their lives. Through these two themes agriculture was promoted which paved the paths for the urbanization in which political condition ascribed for the activities of the area in urbanizing. The species in this area were popular known as Pyus.

Now we will talk about the city-states of the Pyus emerged in Myanmar. Before we deal with city-state of Myanmar we turn our attention to originate of city-states. On this connection one can make quarry from where these city-states did introduce? In this consideration we had observed emergence of city-states all over hemispheres as we reached through Theoritical and historical Literature. From which we came to ascertain that the earliest of emergence of city-state was as early as 800 B.C which is in the Europe that to Greece. In this regards condition which favored for the development of city-states is investigated. In our investigation we came to understand that village communities formed in Megalithic era has changed into clans who had established city-states, was the introduction of political unit for the communities. Because of community in the Megalithic period according to political theory was not correspond with geographical conditions. As which were inconvenient with the community that was forced to establish city-state. The geographical condition may not be come up to expectation of population who were either regressed or affected by diseases presented in that geography. In promotion of population was proved by burials. Even many deads in a pit or sit burial were found. It is indubitable that community recognized to build up city which would protect them from affection. When peace and security became important the communities built a garrison on a high land around which grew a city which was the most famous political society which took care and operated activities of political organization in connection with the city-states which thus itself was political norm. In this concern we have to turn statement of Roland Benjamin who said a group of people entered into earthen geography of Myanmar in the 6th century B.C. If so who were they and where they and where they established city whether in Dhayawati or Vesali in lower Myanmar or Vishnu in Central Myanmar or Tagaung in Upper Myanmar. If we look at Theory on the establishment of city-states the first city-state found in Myanmar would be Vishnu in Central Myanmar because the clan who had chosen place in establishing city state was not the first place in Lower Myanmar it was on the higher land. Though this category of work were much similar between city states in Myanmar and Greece city states it would have differed from the geographical condition of Europe where in spite of wall city it established Manor which was owned by either nobility or land lord. Apart from Greece which city states like Athen, Spartan etc had been established in Europe. Many regions in Europe operated the function establishing manors which were paradigms of Feudalism. However, the earliest specie according to scholars lived in Myanmar were the Pyu.

The boundary of the Pyus was as broad as east was Kambawza, as wide as south was Sea, as long as southwest was Dwarawati or ancient Yodaya, as west as was East India, as far distance as north was Nancho. Within this area there were 1,393 kings who administered the regions of which 800 kings in Hanlin Dynasty,190 kings in Tampatipa Dynasty,190 kings in Makkara Dynasty,97 kings in PinlayDynasty,30 kings in Kaingsin Dynasty,26kings in Allakapa Dynasty,50 kings in Ywapugyi Dynasty,40 kings in Laykaing Dynasty, all together 1,393 kings before

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4 G.H.Luce”The Ancient Pyu”,BRSFAP,No.2,Yangon,1960,p.318
establishing Tagaung and Srikṣetra. The Pyus political domain consisted of 18 sovereign Unions especially Falanbin, Java, Sharavat (Sravasti), Champa etc. In the small city states were administrated by Chiefs while larger were by kings. For jurisdiction courts were established, which direct strength of political power and fairness among the ruled. Judicial system of Pyu was pervaded by Indian ideas in the earlier, later which received employed Buddhist way. The presence of courts of walled city point kings’ performances for peace for the population within the city. The courts suggest existence of political power by which laws would be made and also dissolved. Though there was in some city states in the ancient world political power due to nature of superstructure law could not be made and also did not amend. Because of sharp division of central political body it so happened.

In these circumstances the leader had to cater for the development of the functions in every sector in respect to flourishing role of urbanization that to contributing the administrators whose management was crucial for its rule. With the leadership of the leaders and solidarity by initiative of leaders and labour with both consciousness and awareness to protect from flood and enemies coming from outside their living environment were walled which led the condition for safeguard and reliefs. Therefore this work with solidarity by the leadership of group leaders those groups who wanted peace and security took shelter inside the city states not only in Myanmar but also in many parts of the world. In this situation species in walled city has had inhabited within limited geography which was sovereign state. The kings, monarch settled down in the center of the city state. The officers and staff were placed not far from a citidal in the walled place. As regards city it was undoubtly ruling class and ruled in which were craftsmen, cultivators and slaves as citizens who had to be kept loyal spirit for the administration of the city states. The ecology in this city states enclosed by walls was harmony for those species living there especially for cultivation and productions for the promotion of its economy which supported the welfare of both ruling and ruled societies. This sort of limited geographical condition made them for creation by which their status could be upgraded. The function of Iron, bronze, copper, lead, zin sheets, gold and silver testify that geographical conditions of Pyu were prosperous.

Coins made of not only silver but also gold as well as bronze discovered in these three city states with skilled workers for coinage system. The golden Yasnopavita (Salwey) unearthed by archaeological department by its search in Srikṣetra was strong documentary facts for the existence of gold soils or having technicians who could change bronze into gold and qualified miners and workers with high knowledge as to golden utensils in Srikṣetra. It testifies that those metal minerals were explored with the help of political community and employed them in political way.

Now we will turn our attention to Bagan. Bagan originates from the debris of Pyu settlement. The kingdom of Bagan was bounded on the west by the Kala country called

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8 Aung-Thwin, Michael. The mists of Rāmañña: The Legend that was Lower Burma (illustrated ed.). Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2005, P.40

9 Aung Thaw, Report on The Excavation At Beikthano, Yangon, Ministry of Culture, 1968, p.155, Figure.1-3

10 Sein Maung U, Ancient city of Srikṣetra, University General Phamlet V.III, Part.I, p.166

Pateikkara (India), on the north by Tarop country called Gandhala, on the south by Salankray; on the northwest by Kadu naga Gyi-Ye dwin mi, on the northeast by the Panthe country called Kavanti; on the Southeast by the Gywans country called Arawsa; on the northwest by Ngasaungkyan and on the Southwest by Yakhine. The city locates on Latitude 9452 North and Longitude 21 11 East, which stands on the left bank of the Ayeyawaddy where the river makes big bend to the south between Nyaung-U and Chaukp. Like Pyu’s cities Bagan was walled on quarterly:- the west wall, East wall, South wall and North wall. Of 55 kings who had ruled the entity of Bagan the seventh king Teylay Kyung Min established a city known as Thiripisaya at the region of Lokananda. In 1198 Bagan kingdom was administered by Sawrahan. After him King Pyin Pya had founded Bagan in 649. After Pyin Pya Min the king Thin KO Min popularly known as Sawyahan became king. After Thawka Htay in 1017 Anawratha ruled the Bagan. Under him entity of Bagan was extended coming out from city walled with the reason on population increased.

Myanmar geography in the reign of Anawratha comprised of Malayu Island on the extreme south, Thai on the east, Cambodia and Maykaung valley on the northeast, Nanchaung and China on the north. The capital of the kingdom situates on east of the river what is called Irrawaddy, one of the longest river now in Myanmar. The dynasty was divided into five- the first dynasty which was since the ruins of Sriksetra, the second was ascending the king Aniruddha, Awaratha (1044-1077AD), in the third there were three kings who were Colu Sawlu (1077-1084), Kalandacsya Kyansitha (1084-1111) and Aloncansu Aualangsinthu (111-1167), the fourth composed of three kings who were Narasu Narathu (1167-1170), Narasinkha Minyanarathinkha (1170-1173) and Narapathisithu (1173-1210) and in the fifth dynasty consisted of seven kings who were NatonmyaZeya Thein kha (1210-1234), Klacwa Kyaswa (1234-1249), Uccana U Zana (1249-1254), Narapathe (1254-1287) Klwecwa, Kyawswa (1287-1300). Many monuments with various presented on the earthen geography which were are visible because of political generosity.

**Findings**

From Eolithic to Mesolithic periods the Matriarchal governing system appeared in the common geography of Myanmar where flaked, edge-ground tools and orchards are found. The Patriarchal administrative form existed from Neolithic to Megalithic was dominated by Male known as Patriarchal. However community was gave birth in Megalithic Period. In these eras it found polished stone tools and Bronze assemblages, bronze axes. From Neolithic to Megalithic eras both incipient and developed agricultures flourished. What is extraordinary in Megalithic is Sarcophagus as we explained in our discussion. Bronze bracelet, glass bracelets, bronze spears and arrowheads, iron implements, iron and bronze implements, red and black pottery and different beads like agate and carnelian were investigated. Upto these except cave monuments it did not find any other monuments which are either repose or energetic style. Nevertheless from Eolithic to Megalithic arts were developed in ancient geography of Myanmar by not only Matriarchal and Patriarchal politics and community politics. In city-states period both monuments and mechanical arts made of bronzes and silver as well as silver were germinated in their geography walled. In the geography of Bagan dynastic politics that monarchical politics flowered where over thousand

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12 Pe Maung Tin and Luce, 1960, p.99
14 Pyu, Dr., “Socio-economic Conditions of Myanmar (Upto Bagan)” Third Japan-Myanmar International Syposium, 2017, p.28
15 Michael Aung-Thwin, Pagan, p.22
monuments and various arts made of gold, bronze, wood and stones were have been existing are evidences for richness of gold and bronzes in Bagan earthen geography.

**Conclusion**

This study considered geographical and political conditions of ancient Myanmar from commencing very early stone ages to Bagan emphasizing materials explored in each geography and in each period by the mechanism of politics flourished in each time. The data shows Myanmar was is rich of materials which were employed in respected role by people concerned with their political mechanism. The perspectives of this study are Geography and politics. It is historical context employed in this research and the approach is both artistic and materialistic.

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks are also extended to Dr Saw Pyone Naing, Rector and Dr Myat Myat Thaw, Pro Rector from Sagaing University of Education for permitting to publish this research paper.

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