

Impact of the Dutch rule in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka

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During 1698 to 1796 the coastal areas of the country were under the dominance of Dutch. Although their control was limited to the coastal belt of the country, their influence made a great impact all over the island.

The Western education system and schools were introduced by the Dutch. They have also contributed in making significant influence in court system and law enforcement. The new court system and Roman Dutch laws are still operating in the county. Muslim law was introduced and The sawalame laws were also enacted by Dutch.

Religious influence is concentrated basically with the introduction of the Protestant. The impact of the Dutch on social system, for example costumes are considered important. Sweets such as Kokis and Dodol were also introduced during the period of the Dutch. Advancement of architecture such as fortress, Verrandah and Soldara were made by them. Kavichchi and Almirah are also the introduction of the Dutch.

The vocabulary of Sinhala was enriched by the Dutch. This study aims primarily to evaluate the consequences of the Dutch rule in Sri Lanka.

Some locations, buildings, furnitures and some other materials were subjected to the research while the primary data was collected through literature reviews.

Key words: Roman-Dutch law, Dutch, Muslim law, Thesawalame Law, Dutch rule, Sri Lanka

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