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**Dutch and British colonial intervention in Sri Lanka, 1780 - 1815:
expansion and reform**

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DUTCH AND BRITISH COLONIAL INTERVENTION
IN SRI LANKA c. 1780-1815:
EXPANSION AND REFORM

DUTCH AND BRITISH COLONIAL
INTERVENTION IN SRI LANKA
c. 1780-1815:
EXPANSION AND REFORM

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PREFACE

They say that writing a PhD thesis is a lonely affair, but that is only part of the story. In the last four years I have been fortunate enough to work with a great variety of people, through the TANAP project and the CNWS (School of Asian, African and Amerindian studies). Although I wrote the thesis entirely by myself, some people have helped me greatly by giving me their feedback on my writing. The comments I received from Prof. Dr Nira Wickramasinge and Dr Hugo s'Jacob at the TANAP conferences in Yogyakarta and Xiamen respectively were certainly useful. The TANAP seminars in which all TANAP students participated were a great platform to discuss new ideas and compare our findings. The same goes for the cohort-meetings at the CNWS, where fellow PhD students, but from very different fields, commented on each other's chapters. I regret that Leiden prescriptions do not allow me to thank my promotor and co-promotor.

Although I was already well acquainted with University life as an undergraduate, I got to know the University in a very different way as a PhD student. The well-organized CNWS, with Ilona Beumer and Wilma Trommelen as its backbone, provided a good working environment. Through the CNWS I met new people from all over the world and made new friends like Rivke Jaffe, Anna Beerens, Willemijn Waal, Daan Kok. I would also like to thank the "South Asian Club", led by Dr Jos Gommans, for introducing me in the wider study of South Asia, and the good company when I just started my research.

TANAP had its own base in the persons of Dr Henk Niemeijer and Marijke van Wissen-van Staden, without whom the project could never have succeeded. It was a unique experience to work together with fellow TANAP students, who I have come to regard more as friends than mere colleagues, Kwee Hui Kian, Liu Yong, Bhawan Ruangsilp, Ricky Goedeman, Ota Atsushi, Ryuto Shimada, Muridan Widjojo, Sri Margana, Hoang Anh Tuan, Chris Nierstrasz, C'hui Hsin-hui, Nirmal Devasiri, Binu John, Ghulam Nadri. I will never forget Anjana Singh's energy and enterprising zeal when travelling together through China and South India – I am sad that this era is approaching its end.

The research for this thesis was executed at various institutes in London, The Hague, Jakarta and Colombo. I am grateful for the good working atmosphere offered by all these institutions and the generally very helpful staff. I have special memories of the Sri Lanka National Archives, where the help I received was most personal thanks to the

friendly staff at the reading room and the personal attention of the director, Ms. Dr Saroja Wettasinghe. I would like to thank Nirmal, Shirani and Hiranyada for making my life in Colombo so agreeable and Nirmal in particular for always keeping me updated on Sri Lankan politics and Sinhalese culture. Furthermore, I would like to thank Amice and Mahendra Dissanayake for their friendship and Sepa and Sunitra Ilangakoon for their hospitality while staying in their fantastic house. My long-term research in London was made possible through the kind intervention of Dr Felipe Fernandez Armesto, who arranged an exchange between Leiden University and Queen Mary's college, University of London. I thank the LUF for subsidising this stay in London. For my short-stay visits to London I could always rely on Gillian, Susannah and Michael for a bed and a warm welcome.

Closer to home, I am grateful to my Leiden base: de *Damesclub* in its broadest sense, for reminding me that beer and fun are as essential ingredients to a good thesis as are books and archives. Of course I would like to thank my family, my brother Simon and his wife Renie who worked so hard on their own breakthroughs in the last years. And, of course, my mother, An, for stimulating my interest for history in general and that of the East in particular from an early age onwards. I thank my father André for supporting me in this "soft" project, despite his absolute preference for "real" science; Job's parents Rina en Thijs for creating Job and finally, I thank Job just for being there – always.

GLOSSARY

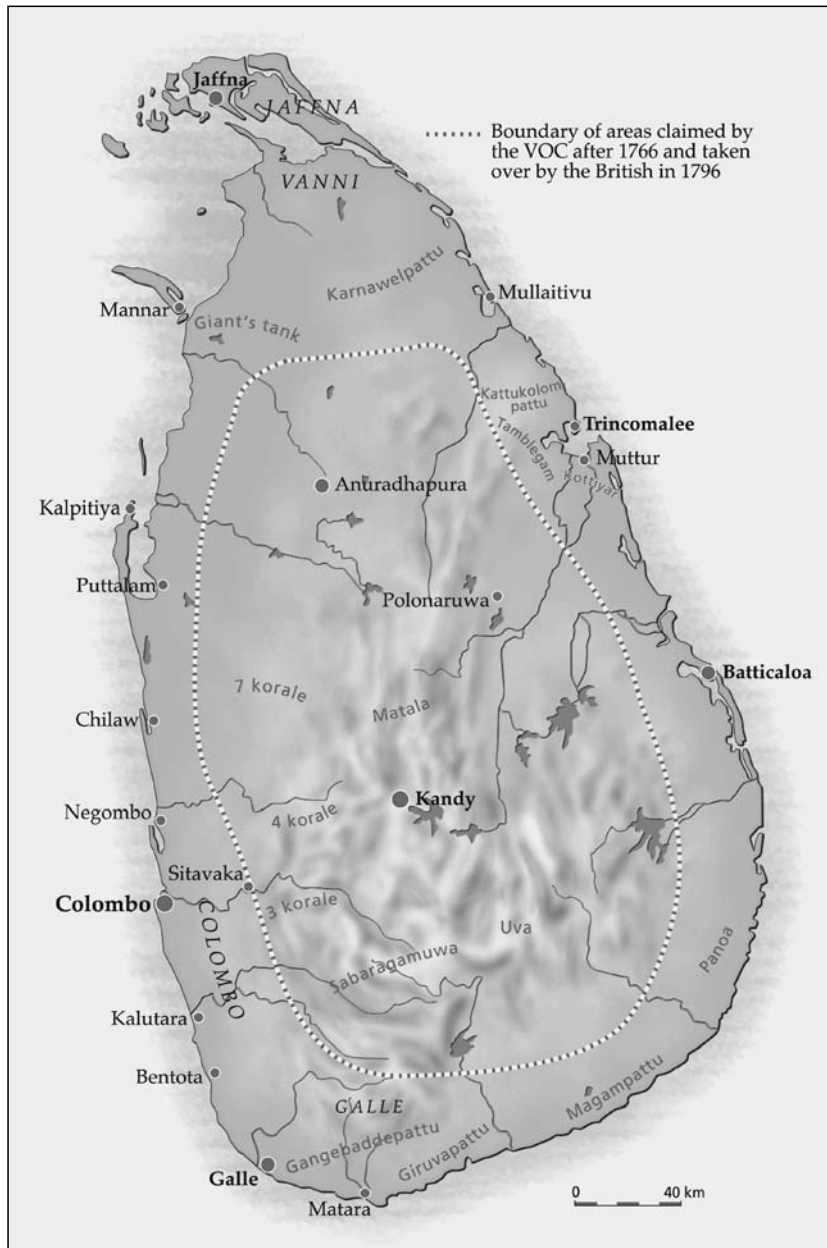
<i>accodomodessan</i>	Land granted in return for duties or services or offices held.
<i>adigār</i>	One of the two principle ministers in the Kandyan kingdom; title for headmen in Jaffna.
<i>ande</i>	Type of landholding, based on a share of one half.
<i>attepattu mudaliyār</i>	Headmen serving the <i>disāva</i> (<i>dessava</i>).
<i>aumildar</i>	Native agent in British India.
<i>badda</i>	A group of people belonging to one particular caste organized for service or bound to supply certain provisions to the state.
<i>basnāyaka nilamē</i>	Lay head of a <i>dēvalē</i> (shrine).
<i>broodkamer</i>	Breadbasket – referring to the ideal to produce rise in one part of the Island to furnish the rest.
<i>cangany</i>	Native official of low rank, for example head of a caste.
<i>canicopoly</i>	Native official of low rank, usually writer or bookkeeper.
<i>Chalia (Salāgama)</i>	Sinhalese Caste, responsible for peeling the Cinnamon.
<i>chank</i>	Mother of pearl.
<i>cbēna</i>	Forest burnt and cultivated at intervals; mostly sown with fine grains and vegetables
<i>commandeur</i>	Dutch official, heading a <i>commandement</i> .
<i>commandement</i>	Dutch administrative division.
<i>coir (kayer)</i>	Coconut fibre.
<i>dākum</i>	Tribute, paid to the king by officers of the Kandyan kingdom.
<i>dēvalē</i>	Hindu/Buddhist Shrine.
<i>devalagam</i>	Land belonging to a shrine.
<i>dessava</i>	Administrative head of a province, <i>dessavony</i> , in the regions administered by the Dutch.
<i>dessavony</i>	Province in the regions administered by the Dutch.
<i>disāva</i>	Administrative head of a province, <i>disāvany</i> , in Kandy.
<i>disāvany</i>	Province in Kandy.
<i>dispensdorp</i>	Villages leased out as payment for offices.
<i>dubash</i>	Native agent or middleman, working for the British in South India.
<i>fiscaal</i>	Public prosecutor.
<i>gabadāgama</i>	A royal village.
<i>Goyigama</i>	Caste of farmers, highest caste in the Sinhalese caste hierarchy
<i>gravetten</i>	Borders.
<i>Heeren XVII</i>	“Gentlemen Seventeen”, board of directors of the VOC in the Netherlands.
<i>Hoge Regering</i>	Highest VOC authority in Asia, government seated in Batavia.
<i>hoofdtombo</i>	Register of people.
<i>hoofd pedie (headpedie)</i>	Headman in Batticaloa.
<i>Inlandsch departement</i>	Department for the interior (Dutch period).
<i>kafirs</i>	African slaves and soldiers.
<i>Karāva</i>	Caste of fishermen.
<i>kiate</i>	Teakwood.
<i>koopman</i>	Merchant, high ranking VOC official.
<i>kōrāla</i>	Chief of an administrative subdivision called <i>kōrālē</i> .
<i>kōrālē (corle)</i>	Administrative subdivision of a <i>dessavony</i> / <i>disāvany</i> .
<i>landraad</i>	Landcourt, dealing with all sorts of civil cases in the interior.
<i>landdrost</i>	Bailiff.
<i>land tombo</i>	Land register.
<i>lascarin</i>	Indigenous soldiers, but also employed as messengers and guards

<i>Mahabadda</i>	The cinnamon department.
<i>mahā mudaliyār</i>	Highest native official in the service of the colonial government, advisor of the governor.
<i>maha nayaka</i>	Chief priest of a Buddhist establishment.
<i>maha nilame</i>	The first <i>adigār</i> , highest official in the Kandyan Kingdom.
<i>majoraal</i>	Village head.
<i>mallepalle</i>	Service land that is returned to the crown.
<i>Memorie van Overgave</i>	Memorandum submitted by Dutch governors and <i>commandeurs</i> for their successors.
<i>mudaliyār</i>	Native headman, district head in service of the colonial government. Originally: military officer heading the <i>lascorins</i> .
<i>mubandiram</i>	Native officer below the <i>mudaliyār</i> in rank.
<i>nainde</i>	Lowest member of the farmers caste, obliged to perform manual labour.
<i>negotieoverdrager</i>	Commercial bookkeeper.
<i>nielepalle</i>	Service land that is returned to the Crown.
<i>nilame</i>	High official, chief.
<i>oeliām</i>	In Tamil regions: a service of one day a month on the public works. In the Southwest: service labour performed by Moors, Chetties and other “foreigners” in return for the permission to stay on the island, usually three months a year.
<i>oelias</i>	One of the lower castes, performing service as dancers and carriers of timber.
<i>ola</i>	Palm leaf, used to write on.
<i>onderkoopman</i>	Submerchant.
<i>Oosterling</i>	Soldier from the Indonesian archipel, in service of the VOC.
<i>opperhoofd</i>	Chief.
<i>opperkoopman</i>	Headmerchant.
<i>opziender</i>	Overseer.
<i>otte</i>	Type of land (usually the less fertile lands) for which the owner pays one tenth of tax in kind.
<i>parra</i>	Measure of grain, 1 <i>parra</i> equals 24 pounds.
<i>parese</i>	Official meeting, where the inhabitants pay homage to their lord (governor, <i>dessava</i> or headman) usually by giving presents.
<i>pattu</i>	Subdivision of a <i>kōralē</i> .
<i>plakkaatboek</i>	Compilation of all <i>plakkatēn</i> .
<i>plakkatēn</i>	Proclamations issued by the Dutch government.
<i>poligar</i>	Native officers, chiefs in South India.
<i>radala</i>	Class of chiefs or nobles in the Kandyan Kingdom.
<i>nājakāriya</i>	Duty to the king, any service to the king, a chief or a <i>vihāra</i> .
<i>Rājarata</i>	The ancient civilisations in the Northern dry zone of the island.
<i>rāta</i>	District or province in the Kandyan kingdom.
<i>ratāmahatmayā</i>	Chief of a <i>rata</i> or district in the Kandyan kingdom.
<i>ryotwar, ryotwari</i>	Peasant in South India, here in connection to the distinctive system of taxation developed by the British.
<i>recibedor</i>	Tax collector in the Jaffna region.
<i>Salāgama (chalia)</i>	Caste of cinnamon peelers.
<i>Sangha</i>	Buddhist monastic order.
<i>schaggerij</i>	Pub.
<i>thunval</i>	Land leased on a tax of one-third.
<i>tombo</i>	Register.
<i>vanniyār</i>	Semi-independent ruler of the Vanni province.
<i>vidānē</i>	Village official.
<i>vihāra</i>	Buddhist temple.
<i>viharagama</i>	Land belonging to a Buddhist temple.
<i>visitateur</i>	Auditor.
<i>zamindar, zamindari</i>	Tax collectors of the Mughal court, landholders with judicial duties.

Map of South and Southeast Asia



Map of Sri Lanka (1780-1815)



Armand Haye, Amsterdam