

## Success and Failures of Kingship and Government in Ancient Politics in Sri Lanka

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### ABSTRACT

*The main purpose of this paper is explore nature of success and failure of the government and administration system of king domain regimes in Ancient Sri Lankan politics. Until end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that world experience was there are many different kind of monarchical governing system has been activated with subject to changers in many countries in the world. Also, Sri Lanka is a one of the South Asian countries which has long historical experience about dynastical King Domain governing and administration system. There was a strong governance system with territorial unity due to centralized power of the King. Also, there was different kind of king regimes were activated in different time periods until colonized of Sri Lanka. Since, there are several external threats as well internal influences were could be shown regarding Sri Lankan King domain governance. But, governing process was strongly maintained by the Kingship without any disruption. Simultaneously, there are many monarchical systems were activated in many countries in the world. Comparatively, there are many King domain governing systems were could be indentified in many countries in the world including South Asia. There are many monarchical governance has been activated in many countries and today they have become constitutional monarchies by adjust the existing Kingship Kingdom in many countries without abolished it. Yet, in Sri Lanka, could not continuously maintain or sustain such a monarchical governing system with their changing pattern of the politics why? This paper has examined this question regarding King Domain governance system of ancient Sri Lanka. Mainly, this research is depends on the existing literature and scholarly arguments. Therefore, critical analytical approach has been applied in the analysis for the paper. Secondary sources were applied to gathered information. Final output of this paper is that internal as well as external social and political factors have been influenced to demoralized existing ancient monarchical governance system in Sri Lanka. Due to these trends that system could not long term success. The main limitations of this research is finding relevant secondary sources documents which written by the previous scholars. Further, final output of this research can be used scholars who desire to do a research on same area with applying same methodology.*

**Key Words:** Kingship, Ancient Government, Centralized Power, External Threat, Internal Threat, Local elite.

### INTRODUCTION

Ancient governance system in Sri Lanka was a most dynamic process which has been faced many challengers and influences. Paralleled with other countries in the Asian region as well as world, common experience was Sri Lanka also had a royal governance system since their early human settlements. Except few tribes that many human settlements were resulted of the migration from the outside countries. Closed proximity in between India and Sri Lanka was strongly caused regarding determined of the safe and nature of the governing system in the Indian Ocean Island. First Kingdom was started from ancient city of Anuradhapura and has been spread in to whole Island latter part of history. Except few numbers of Kings, most rulers could not properly maintain united or single governing system until collapsed of the Kingship.

There are many governing Kings and Kingdom was erupted different time and parts of the country. However, due to many reasons, especially internal conflicts and hostilities and external invasions that Sinhala Kingdom has been shifted in to different place in time to time of the ancient Sri Lanka. Chronologically, it has been shifted from Anuradhapura to Pollonnaruwa, Dambadeniya, Yapahuva, and Seethawaka –Kotte. Finally it was concluded in Kandyan Kingdom in 18<sup>th</sup> century. All of Sinhala Kingdoms were unstable due to weak ruler or internal dynastical issues among the royal families. On the other hand, some invasions from South India was de-established the Sinhala Kingdom in ancient politics in Sri Lanka. Strong Kingship and governance always demonstrated their commitment for the protecting and sustain of the Buddhism which is majority people were attached. Therefore, significantly, Buddhist symbols were crucially impact on strong or weakness of the King or Monarchy. Few numbers of Kings were gave their priority to Buddhism and its development. Therefore, they become as strong Kingship in Sinhalese Kingdom due to their military strongest and popularity among the majority Sinhalese. Last stage of Sinhala Kingdom has been faced many external invasion from India and Europeans countries. Sri Lanka become a significant place for the trade and commercialized agriculture among the Europeans. Beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Europeans invaded Sri Lanka. It was main threat for the Sinhalese Kingship and governance. Specially, Portuguese and Dutch were strongly influenced and weakened ancient governing system in Sri Lanka. Initially, they were spreader their power within a law country side and gradually encroached up country Kingdom. Beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, British invaded Sri Lanka and challenge to upcountry Kingdom which was final Sinhalese Kingdom in Sri Lanka. Due to internal conflicts and disagreement among the Sinhala rulers and his officers that British could crucially defeated Kandyan Kingdom by force. In 1818 British completely defeated Kandyan Kingdom and take whole control in their hand through convention. It was demarcated ending point of Kingship and dynastical monarchy in Sri Lanka.

### **1.0 ARYAN SETTLEMENT AND FIRST DYNASTICAL KINGDOM AND GOVERNMENT**

Ancient governance system in Sri Lanka was a dynamic one. It can be shown volatile situation under the different kind of Kings Regimes. Different kinds of Kings Regimes were activated in different time and occasions with successes and failures. Anuradhapura was a first Kingdom and gradually there are Six Kings regimes were indentified in Sri Lankan Ancient dynastical governance history. All those dynastical regimes were did not sustain for a long last due to many reasons. Also, some regimes could sustain for a long time periods. There are many social, economic and geographical factors can be identified regarding creates strongest or weaken Kings Regimes in ancient politics. But, there are two major factors can be clearly identified which caused to decline of the ancient governing regimes.

01. Internal threat or deviations
02. External threats or influences

There is Six King dominated governing systems were activated under the different kind of Kings and their regimes in different times in ancient politics in Sri Lanka. In between Anuradhapura and Kandy which are first and last governing Kingdoms were demonstrated a most dynamic and stereotypes of changing pattern of process in Sri Lankan ancient government system. There are many volatile situations can be shown in those regimes. Initial background of formation of the governing regimes was going back to 543 B.C. in history of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is an Island country in Indian sub continent which is closely located to the India. Therefore, all of the socio, economic, cultural and political formation of the country has been influenced by the Indian closed proximity. The first formal human settlement was erupted with migrate of the Indo Aryan from the South India in fifth century. Like other human settlement of the world civilization that Sri Lanka also had same similar experience on their human settlement. All the human

settlements and civilization were initiated and established beside the many riverside of the dry zoon in the Island. Mainly Malwathu Oya which is one of the main rivers in north side in the country was noted first human settlement in the Island. First group of people were migrated from India was headed by Vijaya who was son of the King Sinhabahau in India. Vijaya who was stubborn son of the King Sinhabahau came with 700 groups and reached to Thambapanni present is call Puttalam was one of the historical bench marks in the Island regarding formation of the formal civilization and government system. However, Vijaya was established his first Kingdom with his followers in Anuradhapura which is ancient city in the Island. K. Samaranayake pointed out; Settlements were established at various places for his men, mainly along river basins. They put up houses and cultivated food, crops. His closed associates, Uppathissa, Vijaya, Uruwela and Anuradha were made ministers and they set up colonies in the interior of the country (K.Samaranayake - 2004).<sup>1</sup> First political formation was established under the patronage of King Vijaya with above followers and they have been conducted administrative activities in limited geographical area at the beginning. Nath Yogasundaram pointed out in his thesis , the site was human settlement at Anuradhapura estimated as being about 10 hectares in area around 800 B.C. and about 50 hectares in size by 600 B.C. (Nath Yogasundaram- 2006).<sup>2</sup> Vijaya was the First King of the country and he ruined in his power which center in Thammanna Kalaviya in ancient city of Anuradhapura which latter it's become as main Kingdom in first dynastical governing body in Sri Lanka. One of the main positive factors regarding success of his kingdom was favorable geographical environment for the human settlement. River basin of the dry zoon area was provides most suitable environment for the agricultural activities. Economically, this government was become most success so it was caused to weaken the regimes as well.

Simultaneously, there was a many settlements were happened in Island wide which close to the riversides in many parts in country such as Walawe and Mahavali rivers. That entire civilization also centered in main cities such as Rohana and Magama. An important thing was in those settlements that most of settlers were nobility migrates from various tribes groups in India. Those elites gave their loyalty and support to King therefore; he was gained absolute power in his hand. Power also was transferred to his family member or relatives. This kind of tradition was established a hereditary system on shifting power in later political regimes in Sri Lanka. It was one of the influential factor regarding tied of the Kings Power and authority. King Vijaya was handed over his power to his brother Paduwasdewa who came from India. Also, Buddhism become as a state religion that it was combined with the governance process. Result of this event is that a tradition was erupted that is person who desires to become a ruler that he or she must be a Buddhist person. Power also was shifted from Fathers to elder's sons. This tradition could not violate except unavoidable matter (Allepola H.M. Dharnadasa – 1967). Strongest of this governing body was long lasting because all the power concentrated in to King and his followers. On the other hand it can be confirmed that Vijaya Dynastical governing system was succeeded for 38 years period without any disruptions. King Vijaya was arrogant and violent person but in his early period he was ruled out the country with peaceful and righteously, commanding the respect and loyalty of his duty. His first Attempt was tied his power by defeating existing native people called Yakka who were relations of the Vijaya first Queen called Queani who belong to

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<sup>1</sup> K. Samaranayake. 2004, Famous Kings of Ancient Sri Lanka, Tharanji Prints, High Level Road, Navinna.

<sup>2</sup> Nath Yogasundaram. 2006. A Comprehensive History of Sri Lanka from Prehistory to Tsunami, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

Yakka (Devil) tribes. Further, he was spreads his hegemony in his new Kingdom with his new tribes who comes from India. According to dominance theory the theory begins with the observation that human social groups tend to be organized according to group-based social hierarchies in societies that produce economic surplus (Sidanius, Jim, Pratto - 1999).<sup>3</sup> Vijaya, first dynasty defeated existing female leader Queani and her tribes and he established male concentrate government. Dominance theory has emphasized number of factors which is prominent regarding establishes of the dominant power in a society. According theory, sexuality, nationality, religion and classism are significant in this regard. Religious and nationality were highly prominent factors regarding mobilizing power and authority in early administration in Sri Lanka. Those are the facts that were caused enhance of the strong Kingdom and made most successful ruler in ancient government of Sri Lanka. Second human settlement was indicated in the same period by Paduwasdewa who is younger brother to Vijaya in his final stage of the governance. K.M. De Silva pointed out by referring Mahawamsa which is one of the important theses regarding historical evaluation of socio, political context of the Island.

The Mahawamsa story of Vijaya has it that towards the end of his reign he invites his younger brother in Sihapura to come to Sri Lanka as his successor landed at Gokanna (now Trincomalee) in the North – East of the Island with thirty two followers, and was subsequently enthroned at Upathissagrama, thus ensuring the continuity of the Vijayan Dynasty (K.M.De. Silva - 2003).<sup>4</sup> Existing dynastical governing body was established by the King of Vijaya and he needed to continue this regime with concentrated power within his family. He has been maintained his governing power and authority and he did not ready to hand over his power to a person who out of his own family. Upathissagrama was the first governing capital center of the first dynastical governing system in Sri Lankan governing history. Since 543B.C until 437 B.C. there was a dynastical timeline can be identified in ancient politics in Sri Lanka. After end of the Vijaya period that there are number of Kings were incubating such as, Uppathissa, Paduwasdewa, Abhaya and Mutasiva who were relations to King Vijaya. Therefore, continuously, the governing authority was chronically handed over to the above Kings. Result of these process they could build up strong governance within their governing area. Those entire King were influenced by Indian Kingdoms. Under the King Abhaya who is one of the relations to the early king of Panduwasa that he was become as “Nagaraguttika” who was first in-charge leader of the early ancient city of Anuradhapura. He ruled circa 424 B.C. – 387 B.C. after being deposed he was placed in charge of the city of Anuradhapura and designated “Nagaraguttika” ( Nath Yogasundaram – 2006).<sup>5</sup> This was one of the important points of historical evaluation process of local governance body of Sri Lanka governing history. Existing economic and social interactions were influenced to enhance and elaborate of the political formation and governance system of Island country. Mostly, Aryan settlement was influenced by the many traders who come from different parts of India and South and East Asia. However, Vijayan dynasty has been gradually spreader its power to other parts of the country.

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<sup>3</sup> Sidanius, Jim; Pratto, Felicia (1999). *Social Dominance: An Intergroup Theory of Social Hierarchy and Oppression*. Cambridge University Press.

<sup>4</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. *A History of Sri Lanka*, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

<sup>5</sup> Nath Yogasundaram. 2006. *A Comprehensive History of Sri Lanka from Prehistory to Tsunami*, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

There was another mystical story that has been presented in many historical documents such as Mahawamsa that the Vijaya migration happened parallel to the Buddha's Parinibbana (End of the life of Lord Buddha) therefore, the story is that Buddhist ideology has been combined with Vijaya migration to Sri Lanka. It is mentioned that Vijaya brought a special Buddhist message to Sri Lanka. The latter part of governing Kingdoms was strongly combined with this ideological factor that caused to create a strongest religious state in the latter part of the ancient governance in Sri Lanka. However, the first governing settlement was an extraordinary encroachment or invasion by South and North Indian noble tribes in Sri Lanka. During the period of Vijaya dynasty there was a foundation laid down for the Sinhalese nation which later became the most powerful nation in the country. Sinhalese has been hegemonic all over the society excluding other native tribes such as Naga and Yakka. Modern Sinhalese ideology was formed by this stage. Complexity emerged with external influence and aggression can be identified. There are some external threats and influences that caused to make an instability nature of the governance of the King in the earlier period Sri Lanka. There was evidence such as influence from South India in 500 B.C. sometime these influences came from proto-Dravidian tribes from South India. Yogasundaram pointed out that possible Dravidian (or proto-Dravidian) presence is that of a Megalithic culture at Pomparrippu in the northwest of the Island (Nath Yogasundaram – 2006).<sup>6</sup> These tribes were settling down in many parts of the country. This was the beginning of a threat for the first Kingdom in the early governing system in Sri Lanka. But, the ancient Vijaya dynastical kingdom was a most successful and foundation governing regime in Sri Lanka which was given a foundation to enhance the political and governance system in the latter part of political and governing history in Sri Lanka.

### **1.1 Erupting and Declining of the First Formal Governing Kingdom of Anuradhapura**

After the end of the early settlements there was a formal Kingdom established under the name of Anuradhapura which is the most prominent ancient city of Sri Lanka. There are several changes that happened on kingship, governance and socio, economic and cultural sphere in Sri Lanka in this period. There is a rich full agricultural economy which is based on the most advanced irrigation system that could be shown during this period. Trade and diplomatic activities also were prominently upheld. All these evidences were realized that there was a most formal and powerful governing Kingdom activated in the Anuradhapura period. But, some time there are many instability situations also could be shown in time to time in this period. According to Mahawamsa that the first formal Kingdom was established by the King Wasaba. However, at the beginning of the Anuradhapura Kingdom was demarcated its internal deviation about governance and politics in ancient Sri Lanka. There are two dynastical factions that were struggling for the kingship and governance in the beginning stage of the Anuradhapura period. Mainly, the Lambakannas dynasty and the Moriya dynasty were attempted to catch the power of the Anuradhapura Kingdom in the end of the Seventh century in Sri Lankan history.

The Moriya challenge to the Lambakannas fizzled out by the end of the seventh century AD and the competition between them was replaced by a Lambakannas monopoly of power (K.M.De Silva - 2003).<sup>7</sup> Comparatively the Lambakannas dynasty was more powerful than the Moriya dynasty at the

<sup>6</sup> Nath Yogasundaram. 2006. A Comprehensive History of Sri Lanka from Prehistory to Tsunami, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

<sup>7</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

beginning. This dynastical conflict gradually spreads in latter kingdom of the Anuradhapura period. However, Lambakannas dynast could successfully achieved power and they have been maintained power for a long time without disruptions. First Lambakannas dynasty was established by King Wasaba it was activated until AD 111 with 34 years. It was a long term Kingdom during the period in ancient Sri Lanka. This Lambakannas and Moriya conflictual interest regarding throne was main caused to create instability of the governing system in latter politics and governance in Sri Lanka. According to social dominance theory, social theory is an intergroup relation that focuses on the maintenance and stability of group-based social hierarchies (Sidanius - 1999).<sup>8</sup> One of the important factors is competition on power in early period of Anuradhapura dynasty was reflected. Throne was shifted within the Royal family. Sidanius says, the reason that social hierarchies exist in human societies is that they were necessary for survival of inter-group competition during conflict over resources (Sidanius 1999).<sup>9</sup> Therefore power concentrated in to one family and it could enhance power by the King. Anuradhapura Kingdom was one of the most remarkable periods of politics and governance in Sri Lanka. Prominent King called Devanampiyathissa who come from the Lambakannas dynasty become to power after death of the first King Wasaba.

There are many changers were happened on socio, economic and cultural as well as political sphere during the period of King Devanampiyathissa. Governing power was wide spreader in to whole country. There are some radical changes were happened in Kingship as well. There are two important incidents were happened under the government of Devanampiyathissa. One of the important trends was relationship in between Sri Lanka and India became a turning point. Anuradhapura Kingdom was demarcated many events on several fields in Sri Lankan royal governance under the Devanampiyathissa regimes. There are many influenced were caused to determined of the state of arts, culture and power of the Kingship. First time, Buddhism was introduced to Sri Lanka by the India under the leadership emperor of Asoka. The reign Devanampiyathissa (traditionally 307 – 267 B.C) saw the introduction of Buddhism by Arahat Mahinda, (the son or brother) of the Mauryan emperor Asoka. In ancient civilizations it was customary for subjects to follow the lead of their ruler with regard religion (Nath Yogasundaram – 2006).<sup>10</sup> It is clear that Buddhism became as a state religion under the patronage of King Devanampiyathissa. It was a main responsibility that protects and sustains Buddhism under the direct supervision of the King. Result of this trend was whole country and society was transferred in to Buddhism. Therefore, as a state religion, Buddhism was become more attractive and powerful hegemonies factor regarding concentrate of power in to King. Whole society combined with in a single religion, customs and traditions. Therefore, political ideology was combined with religious perspective. There was a strong condition formulated regarding Kingship that is person who wants to success to throne, he or she must be a Buddhist. King Devanampiyathissa could spread his power all over the country which base on Buddhism. He was become as a Big King (Maha Raja). Arahat Mahinda who is son of the emperor Asoka arrived to Anuradhapura from India, first time he called Devanampiyathissa as Maha Raja (Absolute King). The influence of social force regarding make a strong foundation that Samuel

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<sup>8</sup> Sidanius, Jim; Pratto, Felicia (1999). *Social Dominance: An Intergroup Theory of Social Hierarchy and Oppression*. Cambridge University Press.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Nath Yogasundaram. 2006. *A Comprehensive History of Sri Lanka from Prehistory to Tsunami*, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

Huntington has pointed out, A simple political community may have a purely ethnic, religious, or occupational base and will have little need for highly developed political-institutions (Samuel P Huntington - 1973).<sup>11</sup> Symbolically, Buddhism was provided supplementary supports to Kingship to enhance Kings Power during that period. According to Rev. Haguranketha Deerananda, there are different kind of positions were applied for the rulers in ancient Kingdom but only for the Anuradhapura regimes was used position called Maha Raja (Absolute King) for the King of the Kingdom (Rev. Haguranketha Deerananda – 2007).<sup>12</sup> Therefore, governing body was strong due to active interaction among most homogenous ethnic group in the society. People were combined with same traditions and customs.

The second important incident was arriving of Sangamittha who is daughter of Asoka emperor in India. This was happened as a result of the diplomatic communication in between Devanampiyathissa and Emperor Asoka. According to Wilhelm Geiger, when the nephew Maharittha had delivered the king's message to the King Dhammaskoa he gave him (also) the theras message: The spouse of the brother of the friend, of the King (Devanampiyathissa). O, thou, elephant among Kings live, longing for the pabbajja, constantly in stern discipline. To bestow on her the pabbajja do thou send the bhikkunji Sangamitta and with her the South branch of the great Bodhi-tree (Wilhelm Geiger. 2003).<sup>13</sup> This was a symbolic event regarding tied of the relationship between two states and government. Also Bodhi tree was symbolically realized power of the King of Sri Lanka. Geiger has pointed out, when the ruler of the earth saw the miracle he cried out rejoicing: I worship the great Bodhi-tree by bestowing Kingship (thereon) and the monarch consecrated the great Bodhi-tree as king of his great realm (Wilhelm Geiger, - 2003).<sup>14</sup> First Bodhi – tree which is branch of the original Bo tree which has used by Buddha's in his enlighten was planted in Anuradhapura which is capital city of the Kingdom. It was an influential factor for the Buddhist society in Sri Lanka. There was a bench mark noted with arriving Arahat Mahinda and Sangamitta regarding political system and governance of first monarchy in Sri Lanka. Devanampiyathissa who gave his priority regarding enhance and expand of the Buddhism in the whole country. A large number of his subjects, including the members of his family and also the royal household, who listened to the sermons of Thera Mahinda, follow the King and embraced Buddhism; Devanampiyathissa donated the royal park, Mahameuna in Anuradhapura, to the community of monks, headed by Thera Mahinda and built a monastery in it, providing all facilities required them. He was the first Sri Lankan to be ordained as a Buddhist monk. He was followed by several other males. Under the royal patronage, Buddhism spread far and wide in the Island within a short period (K. Samaranayake, - 2004).<sup>15</sup> There was no political party or organization therefore religion was function as a mobilizing of the mass in a single governing body. There are many temples and Sthupa were constructed under the patronage and sponsorship of the King and government.

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<sup>11</sup> Samuel P. Huntington, 1973. *Political Order in Changing Scarcities*, New Haven and Yale University Press.

<sup>12</sup> Rev. Haguranketha Deerananda, 2007. *The Maha Bodhi Culture of Strengthen Local Unity*, Pravda, April, Vo 7, 2007, Social Scientists Association, No 12, Suleiman Terrace, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka.

<sup>13</sup> Wilhelm Geiger, 2003. *Buddhist Cultural Center*, 125, Anderson Road, Nedimala, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> K.Samaranayake, 2004. *Famous Kings in Ancient Sri Lanka*, Tharanji Prints, High Level Road, Navinna.

Mahavihara is the First Buddhist religious place was established by the Devanampiyathissa in capital city of Anuradhapura. Those symbols were provided considerable power valuation for the ruler for maintain and sustain of his power. Simultaneously, many temples and Sthupa were constructed in other parts of the country under the sponsorship of King. Temple was most prominent place for the majority Sinhalese. Therefore, people were gathered surrounding temple. Therefore, temple has become a most powerful place in the society. Bhikku become as advisory body for the King. It was deep tradition and ancient ruler could not violate this tradition therefore, this also impact on success and failure of the ruler in ancient government in Sri Lanka. King was become most popular and powerful due to main guardian of the religion and those religious symbolic places. On the other hand, there was a large number of Buddhist Bhikku were have been spreads in entire country. Those Bhikku also empowered King through their religious activities. All those Bhikku were treated and sponsored by the King and his government. It was most attractive factor regarding enhance King's power and his governance process in the first Kingdom of the country. Anuradhapura Kingdom was the most success monarchy under the Devanampiyathissa regimes. Mostly, ones the power concentrated in to one hand that ruler become as an absolute behavior according to Aristotle statement quoted by Huntington, The simplest political system is that which depends on one individual. It is also the least stable. Tyrannies, Aristotle pointed out, are virtually all "quite short-lived" (Huntington - 1973).<sup>16</sup> But, Devanampiyathissa regimes have been activated nearly 40 years period without any disruptions. However, according to many researchers have pointed out that there was four kind of governing body such as Rajarata, Magama, Ruhuna and Malayadesaya has been activated in same period. Gradually, first Kingdom has been faced many challenges and influence from Moriya dynasty and other external invasions. These dynastical conflicts have been spread in latter part of political history. Devanampiyathissa could sustain for a long time with mutual support from Emperor Asoka in India. After death of Asoka emperor that Mauryan dynasty was become weaken in India. It was one of the factor that loosing external force regarding sustain of the internal power of the country. This trend was significantly influence and impact on Sri Lankan governing system in by the time. Therefore, many internal and external invasions and threats were erupted against Lambakannas dynasty and governance. It is very clear, there was a power game was created among the internal groups and escalated as internal conflicts with in a dynasty on King and Kingship. K.M.De Silva pointed out, rulers of the Anuradhapura Kingdom sought to establish a control over the whole Island, but generally this was more an aspiration than a reality. The more powerful of them succeed in unifying the country, but such periods of effective control over the Island were rare, and no institutional structure capable of surviving when royal power at Anuradhapura was weakened especially at times of disputed succession-was ever devised ( K.M.De Silva – 2003).<sup>17</sup> According to Mahawamsa, Vasabha was succeeded on the throne of Anuradhapura by his son a Tissa, surnamed Vankasika, of the curved .i.e., aquiline nose, who reigned for three years. Tissa, s son, Gajabahuka Gamini succeeded his father and ruled for twenty two years. His successor was his brother in-Law, Mahallaka Naga, who reigned for six

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<sup>16</sup> Samuel P. Huntington, 1973. *Political Order in Changing Scarcities*, New Haven and Yale University Press.

<sup>17</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. *A History of Sri Lanka*, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

years. Contemporary inscriptions, on the other hand, speak of a Dutaga-maharaja and an Utara maharaja who were both sons of Vasabha.

The record mentioning Dutaga is found at Tammannava in Nagampha Korale; while Utara (Uttara) is mentioned in an inscription at Habassa in the Uva Province (in ancient Ruhuna). It appears therefore, that there was a division of the Kingdom among three brothers after Wasaba, s death (C.W. Nicolas and S.Paranavithana – 1961).<sup>18</sup> Due to, two factors that is declined of the Indian relationship and cooperation and internal disputes among the power groups that governing process of Anuradhapura Kingdom was gradually declined. First King government has been become as politically unstable and weakens. On the other hand internal geographical reasons also impact with weaken of the ancient government and rulers strongest. Those Kingdoms were established strongly dry zone area, due to much disaster an climate logical difficulties that people were moved to place to place. Therefore, central authority could not maintain a powerful administration structure for a long period. Simultaneously, there are some invasions from South India. Nath Yogasundaram pointed out, that Sena and Guttika were the first invaders and ruled at Anuradhapura from 237 – 215 B.C. (Nath Yogasundaram - 2006).<sup>19</sup> This external invaded was happened during the period of King Soorathissa who is Third brother of Devanampiyathissa. According to Mahawamsa, these two invaders were defeated King of Anuradhapura Kingdom and handed over power in their hand. Most of Indian invasions were happened due to cultural and geographical proximity. In historically, dynastical establishment was happened from the Indian tribes and elites. Mainly cultural hegemony influenced Indian invaders to invasion of Sri Lanka. Therefore this influence could not unavoidable latter part of history. All those invasions were seriously influenced on governance, social, cultural and politics life of the people in this country. This incident was remarkable point of decline of the Anuradhapura kingdom and Lambakannas dynastical power from the monastically governance in ancient Sri Lanka. Hereafter, many writings had confirmed that many invaders and aggressive attacks have been occurred from the North and South India. All those invaders and attacks were crucially impact on decline of the internal governance process. It can be proofed through invaded by King Elara who is Dravidian origin King from Chola India.

Elara who comes from India with Dravidian origin that he was defeated King Asela and has been ruled Anuradhapura Kingdom nearly 44 years (A.M. Karunarathne - 2008).<sup>20</sup> King Elara could easily defeated local dynastical Kingdom because by the time there was internal conflicts has been happened within a royal family. There is information giving by Mahawamsa that it does seem likely that Devanampiyathissa, s three brothers divided the Kingdom between themselves, hence wrecking it. On the other hand by the time a large amount of the country's wealth and energy was spent on religious monuments perhaps ignoring aspects of national defense (Nath Yogasundaram – 2006).<sup>21</sup> Therefore, internal unity and integrity has been collapsing in Anuradhapura Kingdom. Also, peace and prosperity and instability were made many issues on governance. Elara invaded and his Kingdom was brought various harassment and difficulties for

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<sup>19</sup> Nath Yogasundaram. 2006. *A Comprehensive History of Sri Lanka from Prehistory to Tsunami*, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

<sup>20</sup> A.M.Karunarathne, 2008. *Foreign Invasion and Liberation Struggle in Sri Lanka*, Dayawansa Jayakody & Company, 101 & 112, Ven, S. Mahinda Himi Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

<sup>21</sup> Nath Yogasundaram. 2006. *A Comprehensive History of Sri Lanka from Prehistory to Tsunami*, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

the majority Sinhalese but nobody was appear or overcome for these aspirations due to internal conflicts and divisions. One of the important facts is that Elara did not seriously harm to Buddhist places or Buddhism' He knew the reason behind the success of the government and he silently tolerated Buddhism but did not tries to expand Hinduism in Sri Lanka. Therefore he could successfully maintain his government for a long time. While dynastical conflict that King Dathusena who was the first King from Moriya dynasty become as a King in Anuradhapura against Lambakannas dynasty. King Dathusena was also continuously fights against to Chola Dravidian invasion to Anuradhapura from South India. W.C Nicolas and Paranavithana pointed out, after the death of the last King, Devanampiyathissa, in a decisive battle with Dhatusena (Dasenkali) was consecrated King at Anuradhapura in the year 459 and became the founder of the Moriya dynasty (W.C. Nicolas and Paranavithana - 1961).<sup>22</sup> Whole Sinhalese dominant governance system has been collapsed and Buddhism and its properties, symbols were governed under the non-Buddhist ruler. Sinhalese has been suffered for a long time period under the Elara regimes with various aspirations.

The main reason was behind the success of Elara, s government that he did not do serious harmful activities against Buddhism and treated for the Sinhalese well. Social unrest of the majority Sinhalese and their religious disappointment were had become a crucial point by the time. Lack of force of mobilization and leadership against Elara was main issue by the time. Second stage of the Sinhalese dominant power was erupting under the leadership of Dutugamunu who is elder son of King Kawanthissa was launched a war against non-Buddhist Dravidian King Elara, s monastery. Dutugamunu had a charismatic leadership and could understand behind force of the religion regarding power politics and governance. He, himself become proficient in military skills such as swordsmanship, archery, handling of horse and elephants, his father had in his army with ten mighty warriors of immense physical strength, such as Nandimittra, Velusumana, Suranimala, Therapuththabhya, Pussadewa, Gothimbara, Mahasona, Baharana, Labhiyawasaba and Kahanjadewa who excelled in various military skills. They had a well military trained. After Kawanthissa regimes, Dutugamunu became as a King of Ruhuna Kingdom. He gave his priority to launch a war against Dravidian King Elara who was King in Anuradhapura Kingdom. Dutugamunu was received support from various section of the Sinhala community including Maha Sanga. Especially, he was most popular among the Sinhalese Buddhist as leader for emancipation o Buddhism from Chola domination. Dutugamunu used Buddhist nation concept for his war campaign against Elara. When all arrangements were finalized, the long planned military campaign against Elara was launched at an auspicious hour, with the blessings Maha Sanga (K.Samaranayake - 2003).<sup>23</sup> In this war campaign Dutugamunu and his army crucially defeated Elara and his supporters. He re-builds unity and integrity of the country under his patronage. He gained strong power also he could deploy his power all over the country. By the time Sinhala Buddhist ideology has been strongly erupted from the majority Sinhalese. Temples and Bhikku were done significant role in war fare in between Dutugamunu and Elara. He filled the vacuum which had for a long time among the Sinhalese majority.

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<sup>22</sup> C.W. Nicolas and S Paranavithana, 1961. A Concise History of Ceylon, from the early time to the arrival of the Portuguese in 1505, Colombo Ceylon University Press.

<sup>23</sup> K.Samaranayake, 2004.Femous Kings in Ancient Sri Lanka, Tharanji Prints, High Level Road, Navinna  
[www.ajhss.org](http://www.ajhss.org)

He merged three Kingdoms in to one governing system under his ruling power. After the success of his campaign against Elara, Dutugamunu was united Sri Lanka and the entire society including of the three Kingdoms of Ruhuna, Maya and Pihity were brought under one umbrella, it was the first unification of Sri Lanka under one monarch (K.Samaranayake - 2004).<sup>24</sup> It was remarkable point of the ancient monasteries history of Sri Lanka that Dutugamunu could uphold strong Kingdom nearly 24 years. Dutugamunu political agenda complacently depend on Buddhist ideology. He understood the necessity of the satisfactory sponsorship for the Buddhism. He constructed various Sthupa and temples and builds his charisma leadership among the majority Buddhist. His commands were spreads entire country. He could rule whole country with a single Kingship. He combined the Buddhism and nationalism altogether in his political project. He could recreate common administration structure for the entire country. King becomes a central figure of all over the properties of the country. All lands were belongs to King. Existing feudal polity and cast system were supplementary support for enhance of the Kings governing power. He builds concept of Lake, Sthupa, village and temples it as appear for the easy administrative purse. He mobilized grass root from the bottom level. All over the sectors such as economy, trade, agriculture, Irrigation and Buddhism also began flourish latter part of the history of Anuradhapura Kingdom and governing process.

### **1.2 Dynamic Path of the Ancient Governance from Pollonnaruwa to Dmbadeniya Kingdom**

Pollonnaruwa which is second ancient Kingdom was located in between Central and Eastern part of the country was second Kingdom of the ancient monarchical governance in Sri Lanka. It also most reputed Kingdom in ancient politics Sri Lanka. Second Kingdom also sustained by several reputed Kings who belong to different kind of dynasties. There are many Kings were hold power in Pollonnaruwa Kingdom with absolute power in time to time. Some time there was many weaken rulers also could be shown on their Kingship. What happened in Anuradhapura that same thing was happened in Pollonnaruwa Kingdom in latter part of the history. Especially, external invasions and internal conflicts and divisions were caused to decline or weakened of the power of some Kings in Pollonnaruwa regimes. All over the Pollonnaruwa Kingdom has been invaded by Chola Dravidian King called Kalinga Maga. In earlier period, Sinhala dynasty could easily capture but Pollonnaruwa was isolated area. It was a hard task of those Kings, but in 1070 under the Vijayabahu (I) was launched an attack against Chola ruling authority and he could captured Pollonnaruwa Kingdom and he restored the Sinhala dynasty.

Therefore again he could mobilize all the power for entire country under his Kingship from Pollonnaruwa Kingdom. Vijayabahu role in the prolonged resistance to Chola rule which culminated eventually in their expulsion from the Island would by itself have ensured his position as one of greatest figures in the Island history (K.M.De. Silva – 2003).<sup>25</sup> Vijayabahu (I) could established a firm administrative system which base on Buddhist Sinhalese perspective. he has been implemented power in whole Island. Also he restored irrigation system, economy and he could successfully re- constructed Buddhism as well. However Vijayabahu (I) has been ruled nearly forty years in Pollonnaruwa Kingdom successfully. But, after his death there was many issues were erupted regarding governance. Unity and integrity were jeopardizing the whole country. Country has been compartmentalization in too many Kingdoms and principalities.

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

Whole governance system become weakens due to these trends. There was a remarkable trend can be shown in Pollonnaruwa Kingdom under the King Prakramabahu (I) who is one of the charisma leader in Sinhalese. Pollonnaruwa was completely depending on agricultural activities. Therefore, people main necessities were enhancing of the irrigation system and giving priority for the Buddhism. Prakramabahu could prevent existing anarchical situation through launched a extend civil war situation beyond the country. He was suffered cultural and political power tasy in parallel to internal mobility. He could over run his power beyond the country as well. There are two incidents can be mentioned regarding his aggressive capacity by the Sinhala ruler. Sinhala army was launched unsuccessful invasion to Chola country. Paranavithana says, The earliest , dated about two years after Lankapura,s landing in Pandya, states that the Sinhalese army , having captured the Pandya country and driven out Raja Kulasekara from Madhura, made war in Tongi and Pasi against chieftain of the Chola King with such success that the people of the Chola country were put in great fear; divine intervention was sought through a holy man to ward off by prayer, sacrifice and warship, the invasion of the Chola country, and at the end of Twenty –eight days of puja performed by him, news was received that the entire Sinhalese army, led by the Dandanayakas Jayadratha and Lankapuri, had suffered defeat( W.C. Nicolas and Paranavithana - 1961).<sup>26</sup> Due to his enormous capacity, and charisma leadership has been populated among majority people. Therefore, people called him as Maha Prakramabahu (Great Prakramabahu). Prakramabahu had the distinct advantage of being closely related to the royal dynasty at Pollonnaruwa and was therefore in a position to stake a claim to the throne. Once he captured power, his legal status as sovereign was accepted, unlike the claims of his two predecessors Pollonnaruwa, Vikramabahu (II) and Gajabahu (II) (K.M.De. Silva- 2003).<sup>27</sup> It is clear that one of the behind factors of every successful King of the ancient politics was his loyalty for the religion. Since, every successful King such as Devanampiyathissa to Prakramabahu were gave their maximum patronage to rebuild Buddhism. Symbolically, Relic Bodhi-tree and Buddha’s tooth relic which are main keys of the concentrated of power in King Hands were came under the King protection and guardian. That is one of the important duties and responsibilities of the King in ancient politics in Sri Lanka. Therefore, every successful Buddhist ruler was concerned to carefully protect and developed those symbols by enhancing Buddhism. It was clear that Buddhism has hegemonies early government and Kingship in Sri Lanka.

In this context, he could capture whole power including Rajarata, Rohana, and Dakkinadesaya under his regime. He could build his image rapidly among the mass due to his contribution for the Buddhism and their sustainability. It was golden age of the Sri Lankan governance history. Prakramabahu I (1153 to 1186 A.D.) is widely regarded as the greatest Sinhala King of all time. Prakramabahu era was the golden age in the history of Sri Lanka and it was during this period that the country came to be known as the “Granary of the East” (K. Samaranayake - 2004).<sup>28</sup> Prakramabahu was always carefully handled his governing system and did not keep a space to any separatist attempt to separate country under his regime. There are many improvements were happened in many fields such as agriculture, irrigation, Buddhism, ext. He was the last great

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<sup>26</sup> C.W. Nicolas and S Paranavithana, 1961. A Concise History of Ceylon, from the early time to the arrival of the Portuguese in 1505, Colombo Ceylon University Press.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> K.Samaranayake, 2004.Femous Kings in Ancient Sri Lanka, Tharanji Prints, High Level Road, Navinna.

ruler in ancient governance in Sri Lanka because; he could up hold central power in his hand regarding whole country without any disruptions. As mention earlier that internal as well as external threats and influence repeatedly caused to weaken some rulers and their governing body. Most social anthropologists have theoretical confirmed kinship and affinity rules may also affect residence, relationships between individuals, modes of address, and various other economic and political behaviors (Gorden Marshall).<sup>29</sup> It was impact on peripheral governing body and subordinates rulers in the regional Kingdoms. There were many dynastical conflicts erupted from the various peripheral Kingdoms with regard the main Kingdom. Therefore, main Kingdom has been shifted to place to place. In this center periphery conflict can analyze on theory on center periphery, The centre–periphery (or core–periphery) model is a spatial metaphor which describes and attempts to explain the structural relationship between the advanced or metropolitan ‘centre’ and a less developed ‘periphery’, either within a particular country, or (more commonly) as applied to the relationship between capitalist and developing societies (Marshall Gorden - 1998).<sup>30</sup> Immediately death of Prakramabahu (I) there was issues erupted regarding Kingship due to unavailability of the family member for the throne.

This complicated situation was used by external invaders such as Maga from Kalinga area in India. After death of Prakramabahu (I) that Nissanka Malla who comes from Kalinga area in India succeeded to power in Pollonnaruwa. Nissanka Malla was a weaken King he could not strongly maintain and sustain his power and authority. But, he kept remark in Dynastical Kingship in Sri Lanka that is he become as King from new dynasty except old two dynasties. Further, his weak governing situation was impact on many internal and external invaders. Maga could successfully invaded in Pollonnaruwa by defeating Nissanka Malla. He could sustain his power for a long time until his death in 1255 A.D. Further; an internal separatist attempt was erupted against Pollonnaruwa from the Kingdom of Rohana in 1160. Maga was launched a massive attack to Pollonnaruwa Kingdom. In 1214 Kalinga Maga land to Island with his 24000 Malay solders captured capital city Pollonnaruwa. Maga and his soldiers were acted as cruelly rulers. They were destroyed, properties, temples and Vihara which build for Bhikku. His governance was really ruthless. Paranavithana says the people, rich and poor, were persecuted by torture, mutilation, robbery and every form of oppression and pillage, and were forced to adopt a different faith. It is expressly recorded that the conquerors destroyed libraries containing many books known famous and un-famous. Government was ruthless and a reign of terror prevailed (W.C. Nicolas and Paranavithana - 1961).<sup>31</sup> Maga, s monastery did not allow Buddhism and Sinhala Kingdom. He tried to establish a dominant Hindu culture in the Island. One of the important trends was Hindu cultural expansion during his period. He brought Hinduism Sri Lanka and mixed with Buddhism. He gave priority to build Hindu temples and statutes. But, after forty years period that Maga was expulsion by the Prakramabahu (I). Altogether total number of Twelve Kings and Queens were sat on the throne in Pollonnaruwa Kingdom within a 51 years period. It was significant that all of those Kings and Queens except one were come from Kalinga, Pandya in South India. In the same time, Rajarata and Ruhuna also had some kind of

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<sup>29</sup> Gorden Marshal , 1998. | © A Dictionary of Sociology 1998, originally published by Oxford University Press.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> C.W. Nicolas and S Paranavithana, 1961. A Concise History of Ceylon, from the early time to the arrival of the Portuguese in 1505, Colombo Ceylon University Press.

dynastical disputes. Prakramabahu was reigned his power until 1186. Some time, disputes were raised within a royal family which caused to weaken of the governance and Kingdom Pollonnaruwa. Sinhala Kingdome has been faced many backward and neglected situations during this period. Meantime, there are many South Indian invasion as well as migration were could be shown in Sri Lanka. Therefore, Pollonnaruwa Kingdom was dominant by Chola Pandiyan dynasty which comes from South India.

K.M.De Silva pointed out that, at the beginning of this period the Chola were still the dominant power in South India, with the Pandyas struggling to maintain themselves as a distinct political entity (K.M.De Silva – 2003).<sup>32</sup> This Pandyas dynasty could gain supports from the local faction in Sri Lanka who against existing Sinhala Kingdom. With the dominant Chola governing system that Pollonnaruwa Kingdom and their culture and social and economic sphere also has been changed. Buddhism combined with the Hinduism as well. During the period not only Kingship but also governance and entire security situation of the country has been challenged and threatened by the South Indian Chola hegemony. On the other hand there are many disputes has been emerged in between Lambakannas and Moriya dynasties. Those two parties competitively gained support from India for their internal successes. But, South Indian Dravidians were utilized this kind of weak situations for their easy invasions in Sri Lanka. There are many Chola invasions were remarked in historical time line in Pollonnaruwa Kingdom. But, Sinhalese King could sustain his power if they protect or sustained Buddhist symbols within their people. Nissanka Malla and Vijayabahu who were last Kings of Pollonnaruwa Kingdom that they gave their priority to protect and enhance Buddhism and their enhancement. These are the main important factors that safeguard of their sovereign power in their regimes. People were moved to other areas due to internal in toleration. Therefore, rulers needed to shift their governing center to defensive place. Due to these issues and threats that second Kingdom also shifted from Pollonnaruwa to Dmbadeniya.

### **1.3 Shifting of Monarchical Governance from Dmbadeniya to Kotte Kingdom**

After many Chola invasions and attacks that Pollonnaruwa Sinhala Kingdom has been shifted to Dmbadeniya which is located in Western part of the Country. Mainly, Kalinga Maga and some internal influences and threatens from other peripheral Kingdom such as Rajarata and Rohana that Pollonnaruwa Kingdom become as a insecure place for the Sinhala dominant ruling center. On the other hand, Sinhala King wanted to protect and safeguard of the Buddha's relic tooth from internal or external aggression. Because, King was the legitimize guardian of the tooth relic and Buddhism in the country by the time. Activities of the Kalinga Maga did not give cooperation for the Buddhism and its safeguard. He did wrongful action against Buddhism and destroyed Temples and Buddhist religious places. Maga wanted to take over Tooth relic in his hand from the Sinhala Kingdom. In history, one of the important reasons behind the shifting of the Sinhala Kingdom to place to place was protection of the Buddha's tooth relic. After King Nissanka Malla that Sinhala Kingdom has been shifted from Pollonnaruwa to Dambadeniya. W.I Suraweera pointed out, Magha persecuted and destroyed Buddhist establishments and his atrocious rule was resented by the Sinhala nobility. In order to organize resistance movements they established the capital at Dmbadeniya under the rules of a new dynasty which is now known as Dmbadeniya dynasty. Vijayabahu III (1232-1236) , who was the founder of this dynasty had

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<sup>32</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

no Kingship ties with any previous King and was accepted by the people due to his success in organizing resistance movements against Magha (W.I.Siriweera – 2002).<sup>33</sup> Vijayabahu started his activities from the Vanni (North part of the country). He gave priority for projection of the Buddhism and tooth relic from the Chola aggression. After end of the Vijayabahu regimes that Prakramabahu II who is elder son of Vijayabahu was become as a king of the Dmbadeniya Sinhala Kingdom. Many sources have mention that Prakramabahu also gave his priority to protection and safeguard of the tooth relic. It is clear that Buddhism was main factor to get the popularity of the King. Also it was one of the factors that replaced Kingdom place to place in ancient governance in Sri Lanka. In the same time Magha domination has been spreader in to large area of Sri Lanka. In the same time another invasion came from India which leaded by Chandarabahanu who defeated Magha. Prakramabahu II was become weaken due to his weak health condition. W.I.Siriweera mention that Prakramabahu II fell seriously ill around 1258 A.D. and until state affairs were assigned to his chief minister Devappatiraja but from around 1262 A.D. Prakramabahu elders son Vijayabahu managed the affairs of the Kingdom although Prakramabahu II remained the lawful ruler until 1270 A.D.(W.I. Siriweera - 2002).<sup>34</sup> Defeating of the Magha was a crucial point yet, there was threats against the Sinhala Kingdom were not declined from the South Indian Invaders. Buddhism and Buddhist Bhikku were gave considerable strength for the Sinhala King.

Buddhism was strongly combined with the Sinhala society and people. Therefore, ordinary people were deeply attached with the Buddhism. Therefore, they were appearing any aggressive or attack against Buddhism. This trend well understood by the Sinhala Kings and they gave their first priority to protect the Buddhism and tooth relic which is greatest symbols of the Buddhist people. Therefore, large numbers of Sinhala people were gathered surrounding King and they empowered king by their power. According to dominant theory that religion and nationality are major factors regarding deploying and sustain of the power of the ruler. Therefore, King such as Prakramabahu II could mobilize huge army including Navy, and battalions against for invaders and attackers. Whatever, in final stage of Dmbadeniya Kingdom that there was a massive attack was launched by Chandarabahanu who was ruler in Rajarata but both princesses' Vijayabahu and Weerabahu who sons of Prakramabahu were launched heavy counter attack against Chandarabahanu and defeated and expulsion him and his allies. In this event, Sinhala King and his ministers have got support from Pandya emperor in India (Vidyalankara University - 1971).<sup>35</sup> There are many internal issues were erupted with in a royal family in Dmbadeniya Kingdom as well. Also internal divisions as well as attacks were further weakening of the Kingdom. Whole governance system was defending on the existing agricultural civilized economy of the country. Success and failure of the Kings and governance in ancient Sri Lanka was mainly depending on this factor. King had to give his priority with regard development irrigation system at the peripheral villages and other parts in the country. Some Kings has become more powerful because they had gave their maximum attention to develop agricultural sector through enhance irrigation system Under the Anuradhapura and Pollonnaruwa Kingdoms. But latter, there are did

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<sup>33</sup> W.I.Siriweera. 2002. History of Sri Lanka, From Earliest times up to the Sixteenth Century, Dayawansa Jayakody & Company, 101 & 112, Ven. S. Mahinda Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> Vidyalankara University, 1971. Ceylon History Volume I, (Sinhala Translation), Vidyalankara University Press, Kaleniya.

not seem considerable attention regarding development of agricultural development especially under the Dmbadeniya, Gampola and Kotte Kingdoms. In the same time, there are other monarchical governments in the Asian countries such as Thailand, Burma; they had an advanced agricultural capacity. Those countries also have been maintained Kingship and similar governance system. There for, they could successfully sustain and maintained monarchical governing bodies in their politics. But, simultaneously, in Sri Lanka could not happened same thing in this society.

Dmbadeniya Kingdom also did not succeed for a long period. Due to internal conflicts that Kingdom was rapidly collapsed. In 1270 Vijayabahu IV succeeded in Dambadeniya. After Two years his accession, he was killed by his commander in chief but Vijayabahu brother Buwanekabahu I (1272 – 84) assassinated the commander with the help of the North Indian Rajput armies and ascended the throne (W.I.Siriweera – 2002).<sup>36</sup> Internal unity and integrity as well as loyalty of the Kings, ministers and officers has been declined and they were cheated each others on their benefits. This incidents shows that closed officers were acted as opportunist. Therefore, Dmbadeniya Kingdom again shifted to Yapahuva by Bhuvanakebahu I. Yapahuva was only Sinhala Kingdom by the time has been threatened from the subordinated Kingdoms from South West and North in the country which is dominated by Pandya Kings. All those shifting process that rulers were carefully handled and safe guarded of the tooth relic which is symbol of the ancient monastically governance in Sri Lanka. Kotte Kingdom was one of the important establishments of Sinhala Kingdom in Western part of Sri Lanka. After declining of the previous Sinhala Kingship and Kingdom, this Kingdom leaded by elite King called Weera Alakeshwara who is Wanchipur citizen in India. During the period of Kotte that existing socio, cultural and economic back ground has been completely changed. The reasons behind the decline or strengthen of the later royal Kingdome were different from earlier facts which was caused to declined royal government. Alakeshwara who is a prominent trader, and had mercantilist ideology was builds strong trade relationship with Sri Lanka. He was a minister and advisor to the Vikramabahu III in Gampola Kingdom. During the period that global trend of mercantilism has been spreads all over the world. The main reason behind the establishment of Kotte Kingdom was prevention of attacks and aggression from the Jaffna Kingdom. Alakeshwara has tied security strategies for Kotte Kingdom against for enemies. He has constructed a massive Sinhala army including Tamil solders. He could successfully defeated attacks that carried out from Jaffna Kingdom under the leadership Aryan Chakrawarthi. It has mention in Niyangamaya (Sellipiya) letter that established 17<sup>th</sup> year of Vikramabahu III regimes (Rev. Sumedananda - 2007).<sup>37</sup> However, Kotte kingdom was become a most prominent place under the kingship of Prakramabahu VI. He builds Kotte as a capital city also he devoted to build up economy and sustained Buddhism as well. Kotte is located in close proximity with costal belt that gave significant attention for the traders. Under the Prakramabahu IV that whole country taken in to one umbrella and re -established peace and hormones. He could expand his power beyond the North Kingdom in Jaffna. Prakramabahu VI was act as a real Sinhala King in ancient monastery in Sri Lanka. But he also victimized due to external threat in 1440.

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<sup>36</sup> W.I.Siriweera. 2002. History of Sri Lanka, From Earliest times up to the Sixteenth Century, Dayawansa Jayakody & Company, 101 & 112, Ven. S. Mahinda Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

<sup>37</sup> Rev. Ambalangoda Sumedananda, 2007. Ceylon History; Kingdoms of Seethawaka and Kotte, Taranga Publishers, 52/3, Sri Jayewardene Mawatha, Rathupaswala, Mudungoda.

According to Valentine in his book has pointed out that Prakramabahu VI crucially defeated a massive invasion which was come from King of Kanara in 1440. He defeated King Aryan Chakkarawartha who has been dominated in North Kingdom for a long period. Important point was that he could defeat North Jaffna Kingdom from Kotte. One of the successes of the Prakramabahu VI was, he was highly concerned about Buddhism and Sinhalese. He could utilize Buddhism and nationalism for enhance of his power. His power approach could hold United Kingdom entire Sir Lanka. His governing activities were governed according to Buddhist advises. Good example is his Royal advisor was prominent Buddhist monk called Thotagamuwe Sri Rahula Thero (Rev. Thotagamuwe Sri Rahula) (Rev. Sumedananda – 2007).<sup>38</sup> After his death, Kotte become a worst place due to internal issues and divisions. There are many hostilities has been emerging among the Sinhala rulers regarding power. Therefore, unity and integrity has been declined. First time, Europeans were invasion in Sri Lanka under the Kotte Kingdom in 1505. During the period that global political and economic changers were started in Europe and their ideologies has been influenced to beyond the Europe. According to American Heritage Dictionary has been given a definition, the policy of extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or by the establishment of economic and political hegemony over other nations (American Heritage - 2009).<sup>39</sup> Imperialism is one of the most threaten factor collapsing ancient government system in 17<sup>th</sup> century. By the time, Kotte has become central point on trade, therefore, many rulers and external attractions was indicated in this regard. There was a prominent rebellion was happened under the King Vijayabahu. The palace rebellion of 1521 –the ‘Vijayaba Kollaya’ or the ‘Spoliation of Vijayabahu’ accelerated the decline of the city of Kotte and the city entered a gloomy period of its history (W.I.Siriweera – 2002).<sup>40</sup> It was famous robbery which result was strong hostilities were risen within a royal family. Simultaneously, Vijayabahu brother Mayadunne launched a war against him. Result was Vijayabahu and his Kingdom and governance was heavily depended on Portuguese supports due to internal threat. Many Sinhala rulers were blamed to Vijayabahu that he was victimized under the Portuguese military. Dharamapala who is Buwanekabahu grand son had most liberal oriented ideology that he was Final King of Kotte which is most controversial character in Ancient governance history in Sri Lanka. There was a contradiction in between modernity and conservative ideology. Therefore, Some Sinhala Kings were tried to Killed King Dharamapala by strategically but he could escape under the protection of Portuguese. External power tried to catch the people like Dharamapala because they had another idea to encroach and establish their power in Sri Lanka. He was become a puppet ruler of the Portuguese in Sinhala Kingdom.

First time, Portuguese gradually handed over Kotte power and expanded their hegemony in Kotte and costal belt under the Dharamapala. Portuguese had constructed an outer wall encircling Pita Kotte to strengthen the defense of the city. De Couto states that” This defile our people (the Portuguese) had fortified with vallation of thick wall at each end, two walls besides that ran across this defile , one outside , and the other nearer in and this passage was called Prea Cota

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<sup>38</sup> Rev. Ambalangoda Sumedananda, 2007. *Ceylon History; Kingdoms of Seethawaka and Kotte*, Taranga Publishers, 52/3, Sri Jayewardene Mawatha, Rathupaswala, Mudungoda.

<sup>39</sup> The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Updated in 2009. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company

<sup>40</sup> W.I.Siriweera. 2002. *History of Sri Lanka, From Earliest times up to the Sixteenth Century*, Dayawansa Jayakody & Company, 101 & 112, Ven. S. Mahinda Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

(Pita Kotte) ( W.I.Siriweera).<sup>41</sup> However, latter, Kotte Sinhala Kingdom gradually declined and Kings Power shifted to Portuguese. Sinhala Buddhist Kings were expended their power in other areas. Finally, Kotte become a most unsecure place for the Sinhalese, therefore, they have been develop their power center I nearest Kingdom called as Seethawakapura by Dharamapala rivals Mayadunne and Rajasinghe. In the same time, udarata or Kandyan country (upcountry side) side was securely controlled by the up country elites. Kotte and Sitavaka Kingdom both together was controlled by Rajasinghe and he could expand his power beyond his boundary in 1550. But he was failed to establish strong administrative system which base on his Kingdom. Mean while, there are many disagreements and hostilities were arose among the local elites and divisional rulers. Veediye Bandara one of the youth princes was against Protégées and existing Sinhala ruler in Kotte Sitavaka Kingdom. From the beginning of 1552 to the end of 1555, Veediye Bandara was a volatile and wholly unpredictable factor in the Island's politics (K.M.De Silva - 2003).<sup>42</sup> Letter, he was arrested by the Sinhala ruler with support Portuguese. But he could escape from the prison. He was appear for the traditional king's generation and tried to re established Buddhist culture and power base in Western part in Sri Lanka. Due to internal threat, and desire of power that Mayadunne who was one of the rulers had build association with Portuguese, wanted to expand his power up to Kandyan Kingdom. Therefore, he was build temporary ally with Portuguese. However, Portuguese could successfully dominance in Kotte by the time. Due to lack of cooperation among the local leaders and elites in different regimes that Portuguese could successfully invasion and establish their hegemony in Kotte and Sitavaka. By time, internal compartmentalization already established by the extra ordinary powers such as Portuguese. One time, Rajasinghe was initiated an attack against Kandyan Kingdom but he was failed. After death of Seethawaka there was a huge power vacuum occurred. There was no one to take leadership and there was no any loyalty for the Kingdom. Within a short time since the death of Rajasinghe that Portuguese could destroy all the Sinhalese power and authority in Kotte Seethawaka Kingdom. Latter, Portuguese could develop their military strength in those Kingdoms and Seethawaka Sinhala Kingdom was completely collapse. Portuguese had only one target that was they wanted to expand their commercial activities and trade in entire Sri Lanka. They were started from costal belt and have expanded in to country side gradually. Finally, Kandyan Kingdom was remained as an only Sinhalese regime which has been threatening from the Portuguese and other external invaders.

#### **1.4 Declining and Disappearing of the Sinhala Kingship and Kingdom in the Ancient Politics**

Disappearing of the Sinhala Kingdom and governance was a result of the above long historical dynamic process. It was started from the last stage of the first Kingdom of Anuradhapura. Massive invasion by Kalinga Magha was noted bench mark on decline of the Kingship and governance process. Buddhism and agricultural social culture was given first priority of the Kings who were control previous Kingdom in Sri Lanka.. They always rebuild Buddhism and agricultural development in the country. Therefore, they could gain attractive attention from the majority Sinhala mass. But, later all the Kingdom and Kings were suffered many challenges especially, from changing pattern of the global politics and economy. All those previous Kingdoms were located in dry zone areas. Due to difficulties of agricultural activities that people were migrated to many place in time to time. Simultaneously, Kingdom also replaced. Finally,

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid

<sup>42</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road,

ancient Kingship and governance process have been faced serious threat under the Kandyan Kingdom.

Kandyan Kingdom was final Sinhala Kingdom of Sri Lanka. Entire history of Kingship and Kingdom and governments was undergone complicated issues. Kandyan Kingdom remained as an only Sinhala Kingdom m after collapsed of Seethawaka Kotte Kingdom. Due to physical safety of the Kingdom that Kandyan Kingdom was more secure from the enemies. In the Same time, Portuguese had dominated in low country side in Sri Lanka. They have been engaged in trade and commercial activities through main ports in Costal belt. Portuguese was established their governing authority under the brand name V. O. C. This V.O.C was leaded to expand Portuguese power in side of the country gradually. Economic interests of Portuguese had given priority regarding invasion of the upcountry Kingdom. Upcountry lands were commercially significant for the Portuguese. In 17<sup>th</sup> century governing system was concentrated in Kandyan country side. According to K.M.De Silva, Kandyan Kingdom itself as the last bastion of Sinhalese independence nevertheless the sporadic turbulence and spirited resistance of the low country was a striking contrast to the quiescence of the Kandyan Kingdom *vis-a-vis* the V.O.C during these decades (K.M.De Silva – 2003).<sup>43</sup> Nrendrasinghe was the final Sinhalese King of Sri Lanka. After his death that throne has passed to Sri Vijayarajasinghe who was come from Nayakkar dynasty from Madurai South India. First time Kandyan Kingdom and Kingship passed to South Indian dynasty and they have been established strong relationship with South India. Latter, both Kings Nrendrasinghe and II Wimaladharmasooriya were come from Nayakkar dynasty. Since 1739, Nayakkar dynasty dominated wholly Kandyan Kingdom.

Kandyan Kingdom was most formal regimes in ancient Sri Lanka. King has become a most powerful figure in the governing system. Whole power was concentrated in King. Entire, social, political and economic sphere was dominated by King and his followers. Buddhism becomes a state religion which was sponsored by King. King was strong hold because he could utilize his power unanimously. Governing body of Kandyan system was comparatively advanced from previous Kingdom. King had a royal council for implementation of his commands. This council consisted of the two Adigars or Maha Nilame, the chief administrative authorities of the Kandyan Kingdom-the Disavas, the Rate-Ralas and the Maha Mohottala or chief secretary (K.M.De Silva – 2003).<sup>44</sup> It seems, there was a formal mechanism regarding governing system. King always had taken decisions through this governing body. Most of these officers were relatives of the King. They were elites in the Kandyan society. These officers were demonstrated their loyalty to King. Therefore, King was most strong in his decision making process. Feudal Social structure was established under the Kandyan Kingdom by this governance system. Social power also concentrated in King and his subordinates. Whole lands belong to the King and his followers. Therefore, they could easily controlled peripheral society without any disruptions. King has been maintained pro- aristocracy governing system. King had absolute power. Some time he was act as a judiciary and taken judgments for the punishment regarding ordinary people. Therefore, King was most powerful and created fearful picture among the people. All those matters were subject to the one factor that was Buddhism. King has to be always carefully handled religious factor by giving priority.

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<sup>43</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid

Jayadeva Uyangoda says, among the significant development is the state appropriation of Buddhist practices. The combination of the state's compelling need for legitimacy and mass domestication, and requirements of private renter capital, for state patronage, is the characteristics of this phase (Jayadeva Uyangoda – 2007).<sup>45</sup> By the time, Buddhist temples and Devala (The places which people who warship for the god) received considerable land properties from the King Under the Kandyan Kingdom, whole countries has been divided in to nine administrative divisions such as Rata (A considerable huge area) belongs to Rate Rala ( who was in charge officer for this administrative area). King had a formal line authority deploying his power through these followers. Those elite groups had received considerable properties from the King as remuneration on their services. It was a most centralized governing system was under the Kandyan Kingdom. It was an independent Kingdome in the Island. In the same time, Imperialism has been speedup over the Asia. Lenin I his theory of imperialism says, In order for capitalism to generate greater profits than the home market can yield, the merging of banks and industrial cartels produces finance capitalism—the exportation and investment of capital to countries with underdeveloped economies. In turn, such financial behavior leads to the division of the world among monopolist business companies and the great powers. Moreover, in the course of colonizing undeveloped countries, Business and Government eventually will engage in geopolitical conflict over the economic exploitation of large portions of the geographic world and its populaces (Paul Bawls – 2007)).<sup>46</sup> Kandyan Kingdom also has been faced European imperialism in end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Second invasion of Europeans called Dutch have invaded costal belt in Sri Lank by defeating Portuguese. There was a competition among global powers regarding balance on geographical capacity regarding capital market. These, invaders also had a different objectives and goals. Trade and commercial activities were prominent in their agenda. Sri Lanka was a significant for them to get the approach to South Asia. Desires of some, Sinhala Kings were wanted to defeat Portuguese; therefore they received support from Dutch against Portuguese. But, finally, Dutch also invaded not only costal belt but also country side Sri Lanka. There was an agreement signed in between Kandyan King and Dutch in 1766 regarding utilizing economics benefits. Therefore, implement power King and his power on Kingdom was limited by this treaty. Tactically, European could hand over some power in their hand without going for struggle. After the death of Rajasinghe II that Dutch policy was speedily spreads in to country wide over the costal belt. Europeans, they have been seeking new markets and raw materials and areas for their trade and commercial activities. Sri Lanka was a best place for the commercial plantation and commodities trade for the Europeans in Asia. Up country side was most attractive for the cinnamon and Coffee plantations and commodities. Therefore, Dutch were controlled law country lands for their exchange of trade.

However, in the same time, there was another English trade company called English East India Company was established Madras in India under the hegemony of British. It was happen in 1762 that the Madras establishment of the English East India Company sent its first diplomatic mission to Sri Lanka under John Pybus (K.M.De Silva – 2007).<sup>47</sup> Pybus mission was crucial for the Kandyan Kingdom because Kandyan King was expected support from British for defeat and

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<sup>45</sup> Jayadeva Uyangoda, 2007. Religion in Context; Buddhism and Social , Political Change in Sri Lanka, Social Scientist Association, No. 12 Suleiman Terrace, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka.

<sup>46</sup> Paul Bowles (2007) *Capitalism*, Pearson: London

<sup>47</sup> K.M.De Silva. 2003. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza 2, Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

expulsion Dutch from Sri Lanka. Whole governance process has been gone radical changes under the Kandyan period due to Europeans invasions. British were tactically used internal complexity for their advantage. Kandyan Kingdom and King has been suffered on Dutch and their activities. King needed to expulsion Dutch from the country. There were compromises were happened in between British mission and Kandyan King. It was turning point regarding decline of the internal power of the Kandyan Kingdom and King. British gave their support for defeat Dutch with subjects to conditions. Under the subject to control of significant harbors which were main economic hubs in the country and Asia. In the same time, Kandyan Kingdom have been developed and maintains a pro- feudal social system. Society has been stratification in to several social layers. Upper cast class called as Kandyan Radala (elites) who engaged in governance activities. The main positions of administration such as Headmen, Mudliyors or Mohandiram and Dissawa who were in charge positions of the regional administrations of the King were belong to this upper class. There are many conflict and hostilities were erupted among those groups. Some time, some officers were against King as well. Existing feudal system was negatively impact on general mass as well as country governance in latter. British needed to change this system because it was pre condition for them to establish market oriented economy in Sri Lanka. Buddhism as a state patronage religion that Kandyan Kings were gave their priority to protect and sustain Buddhism and its symbols. Majority people were strongly attached with the Buddhism that Buddha's relic tooth was establish in special temple called Dlada Maligawa. King Narendrasimha was constructed present Temple of the Tooth. It was a remarkable symbol for the governing process in ancient history in Sri Lanka. King Kirti Sri Rajasinghe was built main Buddhist Vihara called Malwatta Vihara and Asgiriya Viharaya which is main Two Buddhist temples in Sri Lanka. These two temples have been influenced politics and governance of the country.

Majority Buddhist people were strongly attached with those temples and Dhalada Maligawa. Therefore, King necessarily had to give his attention for these two temples and Dlada Maligawa. British fully understood the social and cultural back ground o the country and accordingly they have launched their approach to Kandyan Kingdom. Initially, Gradually, British interests in South Asia especial Indian sub continent were up rise. Therefore, their interests with regard Sri Lanka also upraised. Internal conflicts and issues were gave support to British to overcome their objectives. Therefore, they needed to be established a new kind of balance of power in South Asia. Gradually, they were access in Sri Lanka and it costal belt as well as up country Kandyan Kingdom. They were used many strategies to gain power in their hand. Pilimathalawe was one of the highest officers and controversial character to the King of Sri Wikrama Rajasinghe who is final King of the Kandyan Kingdom. Pilimathalawe was tactically handled Kingship and Governance of the Kandyan Kingdom. Some time he was act as an agent of the British regarding transfer of the Kandyan power in to British hand. After death of Rajadhi Rajasinghe that Pilimathalawe facilitated to import a person from India for the Kingship. It was important that first time, Sinhalese Kingdom and Kingship transferred non Sinhalese King was erupted many structural and general issues in the society. Sinhala elite society and their administrative power did not accepted King who comes from India. It seems that Sinhala Kingdom and Kingship determined by the powerful officers in late period of Kandyan Kingdom. K.M.De Silva has mention that Pilimathalawe as a King maker of the Kandyan Kingdom. Final King was comes from India. Original name of final King of Kandyan Kingdom was Kannasami who is Dravidian origin and he renamed as Sri Wikrama Rajasinghe and was oath throne in Kandyan Kingdom. During period of Sri Wikrama Rajasinghe, some officers of the King had been engaged and

worked independently. They were engaged some compromised and agreements with British without knowing King. The most powerful person at court was the first Adigar, Pilimathalawe, a man of supposed royal decedent himself, who had signed the preliminary Treaty of 1795 and maintained the most cordial relations with the British (K.M.De Silva – 2005).<sup>48</sup> Classical elite theory emphasized that Power elites in their position of authority in key economic and political institutions, also their psychological difference and they have personal resources, for instance intelligence and skills, are utilizing for the interest in the government. Further, they are creating a ideology that the rest of the people or society are incompetent and do not have the capabilities of governing themselves. Therefore, a general ideology formed the elite are resourceful and will lead to make the government. But, in reality, the elite have the most to lose in a failed government.

Kandyan elite were most powerful on their social capital. They have been handled large portion of the lands in country. They have build patronage status but they did not consider their duty. They have been their class status therefore elite group didn't like to give their loyalty for out sided in their administrative process. Elite mean they were real power elite and have founded economic interests. It seems some elite officers were conducted their duties out of royal consent. They have built strong power and monopoly over the King by the time. Therefore, Centralized power of the King has been declined gradually. British, they have been used economic infests and their internal dissatisfaction of the local elites for their achievements. Pilimathalawe who is one of the powerful officers in late Kandyan Kingdom was targeted officer of the British. K.M.De Silva says Pilimathalawe would have known that British assistance would be forthcoming only on terms to be determined by them and that the compensation or advantages they sought in exchange for support in this venture would have been anything but satisfactory to the Kandyans (K.M.De Silva – 2005).<sup>49</sup> Pilimathalawe was maintaining a controversial policy regarding Kandyan Kingdom. He had a strong relationship with British. British policy with regard Sri Lanka significantly started from 1805 under the leadership of Governor General Thomas Maitland and Henry Brownrigge. They were expanded British policy whole Sri Lanka. There are many diseases and lack of transportation brought to delay access to Up country for the British. Kandyan Kingdom Geographically was protected due to hard geographical location such as mountains, valleys and thick jungles. There was a clear division among the Sinhala elites and mass regarding British approach. British were used alternative tactics to topple the Kandyan Kingdom without going struggle. One of the significant points regarding collapsing the Kingdom was hostilities among the King and his subordinates. Sri Wikrama Rajasinghe was failed to maintain proper governance habit in the Kandyan Kingdom. He could not treat Buddhism and his followers properly. Finally He becomes an aristocracy ruler in the Kandyan Kingdom. It was marked turning point with executed his prominent officer Pilimathalawe. By 1810 the King was strong enough to move against him and deprive him of all his office, which perhaps goaded him to the desperate course of raising a revolt against the King and plotting his murder (K.M.De Silva – 2005).<sup>50</sup> It was bench marked regarding internal clash in between King and his officers of the Kandyan Kingdom. All regional powers were hold by those elite officers and all of them were belong to Sinhalese upper cast. King was from South India and he did not respect his officers.

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<sup>48</sup> K.M.De Silva, 2005. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijaya Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

Executed of Pilimathalawe was created strong silent hostilities among Sinhala elite group and declared their war against King. They allowed British intervention against King with regard removed the tyranny government. Feudal system and its aristocracy social structure need to be changed according to British requirement. Sinhala ideology gradually has been changed by the British through elite group in Kandyan Kingdom. Pilimathalawe nephew Ahelepola was appointed as Adikarama for Pilimathalawe position. Later Ahelepola openly opposed and against King Sri Wikrama Rajasinghe. One of the important examples of the tyranny government was that King took strong action against Ahelepola and his family. Kings aristocratic decision was gave death penalty for the Ahelepola family by tortured. It was a popular killing was socked the general mass and society. Killing of Pilimathalawe and Ahelepola family were created a strong objection among the Sinhalese Buddhist people and Kandyan chiefs also against the King. It was remarkable point that erupted open conflict in between King and Kandyan chiefs. Strategies of the imperialism had worked well. British had deployed their spies and other networks regarding de-establishing of the Kandyan Kingdom. British had several hidden connections with many Kandyan chiefs who were bothered about King Actions also had capitalist ideology. Molligoda who is one of the other chiefs in Kandyan Kingdom silently gave his support to British. Other Kandyan chiefs also have been suffered fear on Kings Behavior and decisions. Trust in between King and subordinates officers has been completely fallen. Elite's wanted to topple the King Administration therefore British used this occasion for take whole power in their hand. Crucial war against was declared governor general Brownrigge in 1814 with support of the Ahelepola. British used their maximum technological capacity to invasion Kandyan Kingdom in this war event. British could build cordial environment in Kandyan society they could not get strong objection from the general mass.

British army could deploy their artillery and other military capacity up country with support some Sinhalese chiefs. On the other hand, King had collapsed cordial relation with Buddhist monk and Kandyan people. He had lost good faith and trust from the ordinary people. By the time Sinhalese and Buddhist monks were dissatisfaction with the King that also great opportunity for the British regarding defeat of the tyranny King and give freedom for the Kingdom and people. But, it was strategically approach of the British used this internal complex environment for their purpose. Internal dissatisfaction of the noble group did not created objection regarding British attack against Kandyan King and his governing process. K.M. De Silva pointed out that John D, Oyly who is prominent person regarding built relationship in between Sinhala noble group and British. He had built an efficient intelligent network and was in communication with disaffected chiefs (K.M.De Silva – 2005).<sup>51</sup> British launched their second war against Kandyan King in 1814 with support five locally equipped militant regiments. It was declared 10 January 1815 and they have justified their war against Kandyan Kingdom as, that the war was being undertaken on behalf of the oppressed Kandyan people who were to be protected from the depredations of their ruler (K.M.De Silva – 2005).<sup>52</sup> Also, Sri Wikrama Rajasinghe was an unpopular King among the Sinhalese majority. On the other hand Sinhala élites were had launched a rebellion in several times against King. Among the top level officers have been compartmentalization by the King's action or British strategies. However British could defeat Kandyan King by obtaining support from the Sinhalese chiefs. Finally, British was introduced a

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<sup>51</sup> K.M.De Silva, 2005. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijaya Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

very famous treaty in between British and Kandyan higher chiefs. Final result was ended the line of the Kingdom of Kandy and King Rajasinghe was taken as a prisoner. By 2 March 1815 the islands sovereignty was under that of the British Empire. This unique treaty was not signed by the deposed King but by members of his court and other dignitaries of the Kandyan Kingdom. Because the king was hiding from the British, later he was captured and banished to Vellore in south India. (Lalith Gunawardana).<sup>53</sup> Up country convention was sign by 12 chief's behalf of Kandyan Kingdom and British Governor Robert Brownrigge was appeared behalf of the British emperor. First time, British emperor could successfully establish a British ruling system in all over the Sri Lanka.



The Kandyan Chiefs who were signed the Convention in 1815

British needed to establish a new governance system by eliminating existing monarchical government in Sri Lanka. Therefore, it was clear that British gradually removed existing traditions, regulations and procedures of the Sinhala Kingdom. Hidden objection of the Buddhist people was demonstrated regarding 1815 convention. Rev. Wariyapola Sumangala who was prominent Buddhist monk was replaced English flag with Kandyan one. It was demonstrated Sinhalese Buddhist hidden objection to the British and their administration. Silva say, all strata of Kandyan society were involved that traditional monarchical forms, the one element of the old system, which the British quite deliberately eliminated, affected far more than merely aristocracy (K.M.De Silva – 2005).<sup>54</sup> Sinhala elites and their opportunist behavior have been used by the British for their achievements. However, dissatisfaction of the ruling system of Sri Wikrama Rajasinghe was affected up country ordinary mass and their elite's chiefs. But, unexpectedly, Sinhala elites and people were received negative impact on these disagreements in later under the British colonial government. British were ended Kingship and its whole features of the government from Sri Lanka while enhancing and formalizing same system in their mother country. Result was Sri Lankan people lost their own governing traditions and heritage and they remained compartmentalization society and various un- resolved issues due to British colonial administration system in Ancient politics in Sri Lanka.

## CONCLUSION

<sup>53</sup> Lalith Gunawardana, Ratama Rawatoo udarata Givisuma, the Island online edition, 2010 March 03, Upali News Papers PVT. Ltd.

<sup>54</sup> K.M.De Silva, 2005. A History of Sri Lanka, Vijaya Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2 Galle Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is a one of the countries in South Asia that had monarchical governing system in their ancient time. Chronologically, it had seven governing Kingdoms under the different kind of Kings Regimes. Majority people are Sinhalese therefore, the entire Kingdom were dominant by Sinhalese Kings. Governing system and other social and cultural fields were influenced by Indian closed proximity during the period of ancient politics. Therefore, nature and safe of the society and statecrafts and government was influenced by the India. Since, First group of Indian migrate people as establish first Kingdom in Sri Lanka. Later Kingdoms were influenced by Indian origin dynasty in latter history this country. The “nation” concept of Sinhala also builds those leaders who come from India. Therefore, Origin of the Sinhalese was go back to ancient settlement in Sri Lanka. Whatever, there was a volatile situation all the Kingdom until disappearing of Kingship and Monarchical government from the country. All the Kingdoms were faced a common problem that is internal divisions or weak unity among the royal families or dynasties. Therefore, external invasions could easily invade the country. Mainly, internal disputes and conspiracies and competencies among the main two dynasties were prominent to destabilize the Sinhalese Kingdoms. On the other hand, ancient King and his governing process strongly combined with Buddhism and its policies. Buddhism was influential factor regarding Sri Lankan governing process. Religion was a one of the influential measures with regard success and failure of the King and his governance process in ancient politics. Due to internal disputes and competitions that many external hostilities were occurred regarding Kingship and government process. Latter, imperialism and colonialism were one of the important factors regarding destabilized of the Sri Lankan governance process. Specially, since 17<sup>th</sup> century many Western nations such as Protégées, Dutch and British deployed their expansionism beyond the Europe. Finally British could overcome Indian subcontinent on their commercial purposes. Sri Lanka was victimized on this imperial expansionism in South Asia. Finally, all those Western nations have been used weak points of the ancient rulers for their achievements. Internal disputes in between King and his subordinate’s local elites were provided better opportunities for the British to escalate their power and hegemony in whole country in late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The process of Kingship and royal governance system was abolished by the British from Kandyan Kingdom compromisingly without going confrontation. Result of this colonization that Sri Lanka becomes a British colony and it has permanently lost their ancient heritage on Kingship and governance.

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