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## PREFACE

The historical development of Gangtok, the Capital of Sikkim from an obscure beginning into a world of urban culture forms an interesting area of study. Gangtok could not remain isolated from the influences of the British Raj as she had to serve the exigencies of colonial pride and greed. The Government of India was interested in Sikkim for its own reasons and so different Political Officers were put to task to create a congenial atmosphere within the country for fulfilling British desires. In this process, Gangtok emerged out as a cantonment township followed by steady additions of other criteria of urban elements.

Historians, writers and researchers have expended labour to record the History of the Chogyal Dynasty and the political relations of Sikkim with her neighbouring countries. Recent research has also been done on the modern period of Sikkim's history with special focus on the administration of British. However, in all such labour Gangtok's importance has not been explored although it was the seat of British administration in Sikkim and the centre of Indo-Tibetan trade.

Therefore, in view of these facts I have made an humble effort to explore the unrecorded evidences of the modern history of the Capital of Sikkim, its growth and development as an urban centre emerging out as a natural corollary of colonial penetration.