

LAND SYSTEM AND LAWS IN MYSORE STATE

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PART I

LAND SYSTEM

The reorganization of the States on linguistic basis in 1956, brought together the Kannada-speaking areas. The old Mysore State consisted of 9 districts.¹ Bellary district was transferred to Mysore from Madras State, in 1953.² The areas added from Madras State in 1956 were South Canara District and Kollegal Taluk of Coimbatore District. Coorg was a separate administrative unit till 1956, when it was merged with Mysore. The districts transferred to Mysore from former Hyderabad State were: Raichur, Gulbarga, and Bidar. The inclusion of North Canara, Dharwar, Belgaum and Bijapur from erstwhile Bombay State completed the present outline of Mysore State.

Early Systems

Poligars

The Vijayanagar sovereigns extended their power practically in the whole of south and undoubtedly held sway over the whole area of the old Mysore State. When they extended their power, it was the policy of the Vijayanagar Kings to reinstate the defeated Rajas in the conquered areas, in their ancient possessions, on the condition that they remained vassals and paid tributes. In the civil administration of the conquered areas they went a step further and appointed their trusted servants to manage the uncultivated waste country. They were instructed to clear the jungles and to bring the land

¹ They were Bangalore, Chikamaglore, Chitaldurga, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga and Tumkur. The earliest date one could fix regarding the history of the State is 1507, in which year Cham Raj rose to power. It is presumed that the kingdom emerged during the later days of the Vijayanagar empire, the Royal family being initially referred to as 'Wodeyar' or the lord of 33 villages.

² When the Telugu-speaking areas of Madras were separated in 1953 to form Andhra State, Bellary which was Kannada-speaking, was added to Mysore State.