

The Development of The Legal System
In Penang From 1786 Till 1957

By

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INTRODUCTION

This project paper aims to study the growth *and* changes in the legal system of the ~~S~~State of Penang. It covers the period from 1786 till 1957. The project paper is presented in 5 chapters excluding introduction and the conclusion.

The objective of this study is to trace the various stages of political status that Penang had undergone and to consider whether these has affected the legal system in Penang from time to time.

Chapter 1 provides the historical background to the coming of the British in Penang. In this chapter, the writer will explain how Penang was obtained from the Sultan of Kedah, the terms of the Treaty and the lex loci of Penang at that ~~and the lex loci of Penang at that~~ time.

Chapter 2, will deal with the administration of Penang from 1786 till 1807. It will discuss how Francis Light administer Penang, his principle and procedure, types of cases that had been dealt with, the formation of courts and their jurisdiction.

CHAPTER 1

Arrival Of The English In Penang

England, like other European countries such as Portugal and Netherlands, wanted to monopolise trade in the East. Thus, in 1600, a royal charter was granted to establish a company called the English East India Company, which based in India. The main purpose of the company was for trade but the company also carried out functions which covered military, politics, law and administration.

The English East India Company sent a few expeditions to seek for a new area which was situated on the trade route of India-China. In August 1771 the ^{expedition} ~~expectation~~ headed by Captain Francis Light stopped at Aceh and Kedah. The Sultan of Kedah then, offered Kuala Kedah to the British but on terms that the British must assist Kedah to fight against Selangor.

Francis Light wrote a letter to the English East India Company about the offer. In his letter, he explained that the Sultan of Kedah had agreed to give permission to the British to occupy a stretch of land that consist of Kuala Kedah, the southern part of Kedah and Penang Island. This was subject to the condition