

# **The historical analysis of Chola period in Sri Lanka**

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## **Abstract**

In the investigation of historical path of every country, a special interest is given to the foreign invasions and migrations. There are such occasions that determinedly caused a turning point in the prevailing condition of some countries. In consideration of the ancient history of Sri Lanka, there are many decisive examples which determined key turning points of the country's historical path and in this connection, Chola invasions are holding a particular attention. In the main policy of the Chola Empire which was started in AD 10<sup>th</sup> century, Sri Lanka was given an indispensable focus and it further proves by nature, objectives and results of the invasions. However, there are no sufficient studies that have been undertaken on this field and some research studies have not gone beyond the chronicle literature. In this connection, this study attempts to investigate the objectives, nature and results of the Chola invasions and to examine the administrative system which was set up by them in Sri Lanka. In determining the research topic, it is very important to analyze the historical facts which go beyond the traditional historical ways and study the relationship between foreign policy of Chola Empire and commercial activities. The Chola period from late 10<sup>th</sup> century to AD 1070 was taken in to consideration as the study period of the research. Field investigations, literature studies and comparative archeological sources and secondary sources were used as sources for the research subject. The study found that Chola invasion is not only an invasion of a country and in their focus, there were systematic commercial objectives. After the Chola period, Sri Lankan rulers have used the Chola practices in wealth accumulation. Moreover, Sri Lanka was given special attention compared to their other invaded countries. It was further found that the Chola Empire which was controlled by the Indian Ocean commercial trade is the first group that brought commercial trade into the Asia.