

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE GEOPOLITICAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLITICAL CENTER OF THE "ATADASRATA" KINGDOM AT "UDUNDORA" DURING THE 12TH CENTURY AD IN ANCIENT ROHANA

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This research investigates the geopolitical factors that influenced the establishment of the political center of the "Atadasrata" Kingdom at "Ududora" during the 12th century AD in Rohana. After the death of King Vijayabahu I (1050–1110 AD), political turmoil led to the division of Sri Lanka into four political centers, namely Rajarata, Dakkhinadesha, Dolosdahsrata, and Atadahsrata. The administrative and political center of the Atadahsrata Kingdom was established at Ududora, known today as Galabedda Archaeological Site, which belongs to the Siambalanduwa Divisional Secretariat in Monaragala district. Most previous historical studies on the establishment and displacement of political centers have predominantly focused on political factors; thus, it has been difficult to identify the most accurate historical picture. The multidisciplinary approach employed in this study facilitates the analysis of the complex interplay between geography, politics, and socio-economic factors, shedding light on the broader context in which the administrative center was established. Through historical analysis and spatial examination, the study identifies Ududora as an ideal location due to its geographical attributes within a protected area. Its situated in the wet zone of Sri Lanka's intermediate climate zone, the region consists of abundant water sources, such as the Hadaoya, which originates from Maragala Mountain. Furthermore, the presence of ancient temple ruins, inscriptions, and archaeological evidence throughout the area suggests long-term habitation, including a sizable population during the historical period. The agricultural potential of the region, coupled with its strategic position for trade with both the eastern and southern ports of the kingdom, further enhances its economic significance.

Keywords: Geopolitical factors, Political center, Atadasrata Kingdom, Ududora, Rohana

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