Colônia da Coroa: governo, tribunais e direito comercial após 1867: resumo

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Os mercadores de Singapura, insatisfeitos com a política monetária, os condenados, o policiamento fraco e o descaso de Calcutá, pediram em 1857 o domínio da Coroa e o obtiveram quando os Estabelecimentos dos Estreitos (Straits Settlements) se tornaram colônia da Coroa em 1º de abril de 1867, com base no Straits Settlements Act 1866. A colônia era governada por um Governor, com um Executive Council de funcionários e um Legislative Council em que os oficiais detinham estreita maioria e os membros não oficiais, entre eles, desde 1869, o primeiro membro asiático, Hoo Ah Kay, falavam pelo comércio. Sua legislação combinava códigos penais adotados da Índia britânica, a começar pelo Penal Code de 1871, com a common law e o direito mercantil ingleses em matéria civil e comercial, complementados por ordinances sobre falência, bills of sale e sociedades. A Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements, criada em 1868 e dotada de competência recursal em 1873, juntamente com o Privy Council em Londres, uma profissão jurídica em crescimento e um dólar lastreado na libra esterlina, emitido por um currency board desde 1899, deu à colônia uma infraestrutura jurídica e monetária em que mercadores e bancos confiavam. Essa

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infraestrutura fez do direito um ativo comercial da Singapura colonial, embora repousasse numa ordem colonial não democrática, cujos traços sobreviveram em parte no Estado independente.

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