



TRANCORE ARMY UNDER MARTHANDA VARMA 1729-1758



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ABSTRACT

Marthanda Varma, a powerful ruler of Travancore, succeeded his uncle, king Rama Varma, in 904 M.E(1729 AD.) During this period Travancore faced internal and external threats. Under his able guidance and leadership Travancore rose to prominence as a powerful military state. Travancore at the time of Marthanda Varma's accession to the Trippappur Swarupam Tiruvitamkode or later Travancore) presented a picture of disorder and confusion. There was no proper administrative machinery for the transaction of Government business. The finances of the kingdom were in an extremely un-satisfactory state. The authority of the king was nowhere respected. The Pillamar and the Matampimar had established themselves as a powerful force in the public life of the state and they were supported by the Yogakkar. In short, the feudal elements had the upper hand in the affairs of the state. The rivalries of European powers like the Dutch and the English made the situation more complex. Thus, on his accession to the throne, Marthanda Varma had to face a perilous situation.

KEYWORDS

Marthanda Varma, Travancore, threats, European powers, Rama Varma