

Fig.091 Illustration showing a native dressed up in the fashion of a colonize with as much of a hut and a stick. These are gifts given to him so that the invading power has a chief to interface with. But being natives not accustomed to chiefs, the latter is just treated as anybody else or even bullied.

Chiefdom Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Only colonizers designate chiefs among the natives so that they "communicate orders" to their tribesmen. The latter however garners "favors and influence but not respect" (Mukerjee 2003). There is in fact "no organised government" among the natives and the affairs are "regulated entirely by the older men and women". In the distribution of food "elders get the best share". When it is time to shift camp to some better hunting ground the opinion of the elders "weigh against that of the younger if they disagreed". But elders are not "tyrannical or selfish"; they just have had "a greater experience than the younger" natives. Also there are "no terms of address that imply any relationship of consanguinity" so that the latter learn to respect any elder. Besides "the respect for seniority" natives who possess "skill in hunting and in warfare, generosity and kindness, and freedom from bad temper" acquire "a position of influence in the community". Their opinion on any subject "carries more weight than that of another even older" native. Younger natives "attach themselves" to these personalities and are "anxious to please" them giving them presents or by helping them "in such work as cutting a canoe" and joining them in hunting. These personalities are "respected at the annual meetings of the different groups" and their influence spread beyond their local groups (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).