The Mizo Discovery of the British Raj

High in the eastern Himalayan foothills, people had a unique vantage point on the British Empire. *The Mizo Discovery of the British Raj* presents a history of Mizoram in Northeast India told from historical Indigenous perspectives of encounters with empire from the 1890s to the 1920s. Based on a wide range of research and enriched by sources newly digitised by the author through the British Library’s Endangered Archives Programme, Kyle Jackson sheds new light on the complex and violent processes of how and why diverse populations of highland clans in the Indo-Burmese borderlands came to redefine themselves as Christian Mizos. By using historical Indigenous concepts and logics to approach early twentieth-century imperial encounters, Jackson guides readers into a decolonial history of Northeast India, demonstrating the value of thinking not just about the histories of colonized peoples and concepts but also with them.

Kyle Jackson teaches at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was founded in 1823 ‘for the investigation of subjects connected with, and for the encouragement of science, literature and the arts in relation to Asia’. The Bayly Prize was created in 2018 by the Royal Asiatic Society to honour the outstanding contribution of Professor Sir Christopher Bayly (1945–2015) to the study of world history. It is awarded on an annual basis for a distinguished thesis on an Asian subject submitted to a British or Irish university in the preceding year. Dr. Kyle Jackson’s thesis *Colonial Conquest and Religious Entanglement: A Mizo History from Northeast India (c.1890–1920)* was shortlisted for the 2018 prize and subsequently accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press.
The Mizo Discovery
of the British Raj

Empire and Religion in Northeast India,
1890–1920

Kyle Jackson
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For Vanlalchhawna Hrahsel and Sanny Tochhawng
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3.6 ‘This was taken on the playground in front of the [Serkawn] school on 1st January 1913 and shows the boys who have come in hopes of being taken on as boarders . . . a good many each year go away disappointed.’ Used by kind permission of the Angus Library and Archive, Regent’s Park College, Oxford.

3.7 Lal Khambia Sailo, Aijal, 1897. Used by kind permission of the Angus Library and Archive, Regent’s Park College, Oxford.

3.9 ‘Evangelists in 1916’. In the front row, Chhuahkхama (leftmost) and Liangkhaia (rightmost) flank David Evan Jones and Katherine Ellen Jones in Aijал. British Library, London, BL EAP454/13/22/5. The date is from the original photograph held in the MPCSCA.

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5.12 A ‘Great Gathering’ at Serkawn, during the ‘revival’ of 1913. ‘There were 630 Christians present from all parts of the Hills’, emphasis added. Used by kind permission of the Angus Library and Archive, Regent’s Park College, Oxford.
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Abbreviations

ALA Angus Library and Archive, Regent’s Park College, Oxford
ASA Assam State Archives, Guwahati
BCMCA Baptist Church of Mizoram Centennial Archives, Serkawn
BL Asia, Pacific and Africa Collections, British Library, London
BL EAP Endangered Archives Programme, British Library, London
BU Bangor University, Department of Manuscripts and Archives, Bangor
C Census Department
CB carton box
CMA Calvinistic Methodist Archives, Aberystwyth
CRO Caernarfon Record Office, Caernarfon
CSAA Cambridge South Asian Archive, Cambridge
DA Denbighshire Archives, Ruthin
Edu Education Department
FRO Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden
G General Department
H Home Department
JMLA J. M. Lloyd Archive, Aizawl Theological College, Durtlang
KPUSC Kwantlen Polytechnic University Special Collections, Surrey
LSMTH London School of Medicine and Tropical Hygiene, Library and Archives Service, London
LUL Leiden University Library, Special Collections, Leiden
M Military
MPCSCA Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod Centenary Archives, Aizawl
MSA Mizoram State Archives, Aizawl
NAI National Archives of India, Delhi
NLW National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
Pol Political Department
List of Abbreviations

R  Revenue Department
RGSMA  Royal Geographical Society Manuscript Archive, London
SA  Shakespear Archive, Vienna
ULAM  University of London Archives and Manuscripts, London
WCAM  Wellcome Collection Archives and Manuscripts, London