直轄殖民地：1867年後的政府、法院與商業法

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1867年4月1日，海峽殖民地不再是英屬印度的屬地，而成為直轄殖民地，由倫敦透過殖民地部管治。新加坡以煙花和大會堂啟用典禮慶祝這次轉變。對於為此爭取了十年的商人而言，這標誌着由加爾各答管治的時代結束。他們認為加爾各答遙遠、不了解本地情況，而且漠視他們的利益。就金融中心的歷史而言，這次移交開啟了七十五年的時期。在這段時期，殖民地立法機關、經重組的最高法院和日益增多的條例，為新加坡提供了現代商業城市的法律基礎設施。

本章探討這套基礎設施。首先講述導致移交的種種不滿以及移交本身。接着描述直轄殖民地的憲制、立法局，以及殖民地藉以取得刑法典、程序法典、證據法典和商業法律框架的立法計劃。然後追溯法院和法律專業的發展，再轉而討論公司法和貨幣，最後評估法律作為殖民地商業資產的作用。

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本章延續A部分的論述。A部分追溯英屬新加坡的法律基礎至1824年的條約和1826年的特許狀。這些基礎為殖民地提供了主權者、法院和法律。直轄殖民地在此基礎上建立了一套法律制度，足以服務一個人口不斷增長的港口：整個殖民地的人口由1871年約300,000人增至1901年遠超50萬人，其貿易亦把它與世界經濟的每個角落連繫起來。

要點

新加坡商人於1857年請願，要求由印度管治轉為英國王室直接管治，理由包括貨幣政策、囚犯、警力薄弱以及加爾各答的忽視。1866年8月10日的《海峽殖民地法》（Straits Settlements Act）促成1867年4月1日的移交，設總督、由官員組成的行政局，以及官方議員僅佔微弱多數的立法局。殖民地於1871年以印度模式為藍本制定《刑法典》，於1872年9月16日生效，其後又制定刑事訴訟法典和1893年的《證據條例》，而商業法則繼續沿用英國法律。海峽殖民地最高法院於1868年取代司法法院（Court of Judicature），並於1873年成為上訴法院。海峽元於1867年成為殖民地貨幣，而1897年成立的貨幣專員委員會（Board of Commissioners of Currency）則自1899年起發行政府紙幣。

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