



OF HILLS AND PLAINS OF NORTH BENGAL

A Panoply of
Socio-Economic, Cultural and
Political Issues

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Shesadri Prosad Bose

Situating Autochthonous and Immigrant Tribal Populace in the Context of Colonial Era in Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar Districts

In the domain of regional historiography, issues pertaining the ethnic identity got primary simultaneously with the developmental agendas put forwarded in the post-colonial era India. Further with the emergence of 'History from below', process of de-elitization of social sciences began. 'About the same time a leader of the 'dares Salaam School of History' voiced a similar dissatisfaction with the received version of national histories in newly independent African countries "We would end with the singularly useless 'history', celebrating individuals, narrating their biographics and heroic acts or, at the most, erecting movements for valiant tribes. These would leave the large mass of our people out of history, without history."¹

As the most oppressed people habitats are particularly in the Third World countries, so from the ideological platform much more incisive researches were being carried out about the marginalized sections of the society. In this context tribes got a primacy in the academic fields.

In colonial period particularly since 19th century, British anthropologists, administrators treated tribal habitats as separate