The 'Quit India Movement' of 1942 was the most powerful mass movement in twentieth-century India. During this movement, British administration ceased to exist in most parts of India, and Eastern U.P. was no exception. Mass mobilization took place not only through the initiative of elite, urban politicians, but also through that of aggrieved and oppressed peasants, workers, youths, women, and other sections of the society.

The mass movement of 1942 occurred more than 60 years ago. So, in the light of current available sources, I have tried to make a fresh assessment of the movement inspired by the work of Georges Lefebvre: *La Granole Peur de 1789* (1932 French ed.) and later its English translation *The Great Fear of 1789: Rural Panic in Revolutionary France* (1970), and George Rude’s work *The Crowd in the French Revolution* (1959), the masses and the mass movement are seen in a new perspective. This work emphasizes on the history of people’s resistance and protest against British imperialism. Our concern is not about the idea of ‘spontaneity’ as propounded by Francis Hutchins. I am also not concerned about the success and failure of the movement as argued by some historians. Linlithgow himself felt that it was the greatest mass upsurge since 1857. The mass movement had an adverse impact on the British Administration and had aroused fear and anxiety in the minds of British in India. ‘Fear bred fear’ as said by Lefebvre in context of the French Revolution was characteristically evident in Eastern U.P. during 1942 as well. I have tried to identify the participants on class, castes, and gender basis.

Present work tries to answer some new questions. Like French revolution here also masses from both the town and the countryside contributed in the August movement of 1942. But how were the masses composed that paralyzed the British administration? Who led or influenced them? And many other questions...

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