Note on Translation and Transliteration

Since the primary texts of this dissertation and a substantial amount of the secondary references are in Bengali, the work naturally involves extensive translations and transliterations. English translations of titles of primary texts and articles have been provided within third brackets while explanations of words relating to Bengali life and culture appear as footnotes. Translations of excerpts from primary texts, unless otherwise mentioned, have been done by me. As this is an analytical and a documentary work of an academic nature, the translations, as far as possible, follow the Bengali originals verbatim. I have tried, in spite of problems of archaism and triteness, to reproduce the exact content and to retain, as much as possible, the complex syntax of nineteenth century Bengali.

Roman transliterations of Bengali words and names are often problematic and confusing and are hardly made less cumbersome by the use of diacritical markers. For reasons of practical convenience, the thesis adheres to phonetics rather than following any particular set of rules for romanisation. Following the Chicago Style Manual, the thesis uses the current spellings for names of places (for eg. Kolkata) in citations. In the body of the thesis, I have retained the older name – Calcutta, as the city was commonly known and referred to, in all documents public and private, in British Bengal.

Matters of transliteration and an ‘Englishing’ of Bengali names have at times produced discrepancies in romanisations of personal names. For example, Akshay Kumar Dutta had spelled his name as “Ukkhoy Coomar Dutt” and Long’s bibliography refers to Ramkamal Sen as “Ram Comol Sen”. The thesis uses current and commonly used spellings for transliteration of personal names and (in cases where they
are different) the older, nineteenth-century ones in quotations and citations. It was a common practice in the colonial times, to separate into first and middle names, what was a continuously written personal name in Bengali. In such cases, where the person concerned had used and is still familiarly referred to by a version that separates the first and middle names, for example Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose or Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, I have maintained these divisions. For others, like Upendrakishore Raychaudhuri or Ramendrasundar Tribedi, I have adhered to the original Bengali forms.