In the commercial world, the tea of India is generally termed according to their producing areas, viz., Assam, Darjeeling, Doars etc. Therefore, it is not easy to define and fix the exact geographical boundaries of the Doors with any degree of precision.

The term Doors has been derived from the Indian term 'duar' meaning door. The region is like the doorway to Bhutan from India. Hence the name is given to this long and narrow tract of the Himalayan foothills lying in the northern plain of West Bengal. The western part of this land lying west of the river Tista is known as the Teral, part of which has been included in the scope of this study for convenience. The Teral region, prior to the 18th century, was dense forest, lying practically over a no man's land marking the foothills of Nepal, Sikkim and British Territory. There were sporadic armed conflicts between Nepal and Sikkim in course of their attempts to plunder the Teral bases. In the late 18th century, the Sikkim government was drawn into a fight with Nepal and sought the help of the British, leading to
the Nepal War. After the cessation of hostilities, Nepal was reorganised as an independent State and Sikkim became a permanent allied territory to the British Dominion. Thereafter the Terai area has been apportioned between Bihar and Bengal, and the final delimitation of the boundaries has been effected according to the terms of the State Reorganisation Commission in 1955.

The Dooars area has also a chequered political history. Like the Terai, initially this was also a no man's land being covered with a dense forest and infested with wild animals. For quite sometimes in the past, it remained mainly under the domain of the Collectorate of Rangpur and Dinajpur and the Raja of Cooch Behar. This underdeveloped forest tract was occasionally raided by invaders from Bhutan, Nepal, Sikkim, Cooch Behar and even Kamrup. Naturally under such conditions, which offered no security to life and property, a sedentary habitation was not possible, although the terrain was very fertile with a good rainfall and having great agricultural potentials. The history of the annexation of this hortergeneous land group with its dense forest cover, wild beasts etc. within the Indian territory and its subsequent development into a tea growing area, is a fascinating study.
The past history of the Dooars has not yet been studied with clarity. It is clear, however, that the Dooars was originally a part of Pragytisha Kingdom of Assam, which extended as far west as the Karatoya river. Until lately, the kingdom was represented by the Maharaja of Cooch Behar and the Raikuth of Baikunthpur. One thing stands out from the past history is that these parts of North Bengal were never invaded by the Rulers of Delhi or by their governors in Bengal although Governor Hussain Shah invaded Cooch Beher in 1687.

There are differences of opinion on the motive force which resulted in the expeditions and conflicts leading to the formation of the Dooars territory largely out of hill bases of Bhutan. The theory of Bhutanese aggression over her weaker neighbours in the south has been advocated by some historians who hold that the emergence of the British Indian Empire had resulted from resistance to such external aggression of the neighbouring States. Another theory holds that the oppressive measures adopted by the last Moghul rulers resulted in the weakening of the empire and the British Government who subsequently settled in Bengal tried to expand the colonial empire on all sides, particularly in the north by taking advantage of the inefficiency of the Delhi rulers.
Yet another theory holds that Warren Hastings, who was a shrewd politician tried to open out trade contacts with Tibet and China through overland route across Bhutan. For this purpose, the early British rulers followed a policy of appeasement ceding large tracts of Darjeeling to Bhutan. When at last this scheme of trade contacts failed through, the British Government decided to consolidate her territories in North Bengal by dealing severely with Bhutan.

The political history of the Darjeeling is full of obscurity and no definite records prior to 1772 A.D., are available. From the earliest times the north-east Indian native states of Cooch Behar and Bhutan were continuously fighting with each other. The British, under their first Governor General Warren Hastings, were brought into the picture by an appeal for help from the Raja of Cooch Behar. The cause of Bhutan was taken up by the Regent Teshoo, the Lama of Tibet. Hastings thought it to be a good opportunity to open up contacts with Tibet and China and accordingly took a conciliatory attitude with Bhutan and a series of missions for negotiating peace between Bhutan and Cooch Behar were undertaken. Even the tracts known as Ambari
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Falakata and the area round the famous temple of Jalpeswar were ceded to Bhutan. But in 1792, Bhutan again tried to control the State of Bijnor which belongs to India and their interference continued till the beginning of the 19th century. Further missions were sent under Ishen Kanto Bose and Asley Eden. The latter was grossly insulted and was compelled to sign a document purporting to assign the Assam-Doors to Bhutan. The British Government decided to annex Amberi Falakata and Jalpeswar and to stop the annual compensation so long paid for the Assam-Doors. Since all those measures were refused by Bhutan, a proclamation was issued and preparations were made in November 1864 for the permanent annexation of Bengal-Doors. Although, elaborate preparations were made and a force of about 10,000 soldiers planned to advance in four different columns, the actual fight was not a long drawn affair because Bhutan could not offer any organised resistance. The end came with the signing of the Treaty of Sinchula on November 11th, 1865. It was agreed, according to this Treaty, that the whole of the tract known as the eighteen duars bordering the districts of Rangpur, Cooch Behar and Assam together with the Amberi Falakata Taluk and the hill country on the left bank of the Tista, up to such point as
might be laid down by the British Commission, appointed for the purpose, was ceded by the Bhutan Government to the British Government for ever.

The final annexation paved the way for establishment of security of life and property and gave a definite shape to an area which was so long obscure and ultimately provided suitable conditions for the foundation of tea cultivation in this region.