

## PREFACE

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Orissa presents a picture of frequent resistance movements against colonialism and feudalism since the very inception of the British rule. As such it calls for a look at the changing agrarian relations under historical perspective to explain the causative factors for that movements. Hence the aim of the present work entitled " Political economy of Orissa, 1899-1936 " is to analyse the economic content of a rather political movement termed as freedom struggle. Therefore the object of the study is to draw the outline of change and continuity in the socio-economic life of the people of Orissa under review during these thirtyeight critical years.

Some micro studies of the period have already been undertaken by scholars like P.K. Mishra, S.C. Patra, Nivedita Mohanty, Purusottam Kar, etc. to focus various dimensions of popular movements in Orissa. While the present scholar has examined the existing literature he also searched out hitherto unexplored socio-economic data both from archival and grass-root level to explain the paradox of so called development of the underdeveloped economy of this province in colonial period. This paradox is supposed to be a constant factor behind the freedom struggle and peasant movements in the contemporary Asiatic colonies. It may be assumed that these two stands

of peasant movements and freedom struggle constituted an integrated picture of anti-colonial movements in Orissa too.

The present work is based on source materials collected from the Orissa state Archives, Bhubaneswar; Board of Revenue record room, Cuttack; the Collectorate record rooms at Cuttack, Puri, Balasore and Sambalpur; the National Library, Calcutta; the West Bengal State Archives, Calcutta; the National Archives of India, New Delhi; the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi; news paper reports; biographies and autobiographies of Political Leaders; Private Papers, biodata of freedom fighters collected through archival records as well as personal interviews; socio-anthropological studies of some sample villages etc. I am indeed thankful to the authorities of the above said record centres as well as the freedom fighters and villagers for their help for the work.

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