PREFACE

Most recent publications on the history of British Colonial rule in the Hill areas of North East India have virtually ignored the fact that almost everywhere the hill people took up arms to resist Colonial rule. Sir Alexander MacKenzie's *History of the Relation of the Government With the Hill Tribes of North East Frontier of Bengal* and Sir Robert Reid's *History of the Frontier Areas Bordering on Assam* gave little or no importance to the subject. Nor does Prof. H.K. Barpujari's three excellent volumes on British Policy in the North East Frontier devotes much space to tribal resistance. Works specifically on the Lushais such as Suhas Chatterjee's *Mizoram Under the British Rule* B.B. Goswami's, *The Mizo Unrest* are equally silent on the nature of opposition to British rule. Yet tribal resistance to imposition of colonial rule was at places intense and at others protracted. Thus with the exception of a recent study of the Jaintias, by Shoban N. Lamare *The Jaintia Resistance of 1860-1863*, the subject remains so far unexplored.

The present work attempts at a critical analysis of the nature and extent of Lushai resistance to the imposition of colonial rule. Resistance here is seen as opposition before the essential apparatus of colonial administration is fully introduced and takes shape; as opposed to rebellion which is action at a later date when administration is already in place. The confusing terms primary and secondary resistance is avoided. The work opens with an account of the frontier disturbances which ultimately led to the occupation of Lushai Hills. The next chapter analyses the beginning of the British Administration and the uprising of the Western Lushais which followed. It tries to show how demands by the British provoked the uprising. The result of the extension of the system to the Eastern Lushais is examined in the next. Particular attention has been paid to the methods applied by Robert McCabe to crush the Lushais. The fourth chapter examines the Pawi and Haulawng uprising. That fines and impositions were once again at the root of the troubles with the Lushais is to be seen in case of the uprising of the Kairuma group. The
importance of disarmament in the pacification process is also examined in the chapter. The beginning of British Administration and the impact on it of Lushai resistance is shown in the final chapter. The Introduction provides the necessary background to the study, whereas the Epilogue summarises the findings.

This work is based primarily on documentary sources preserved in the National Archives of India, New Delhi, Mizoram State Archives, Aizawl, District records office at the place and Lunglei; and Secretariat Records of Assam. Extensive use has also been made of memoirs, journals, and contemporary writings. A Select bibliography appended at the end of the volume.

This research work had been undertaken under the supervision of Professor Imdad Hussain, Professor in the Department of History, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, to whom I express my heartfelt thanks for his untiring guidance and endless inspiration.

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