PREFACE

This Thesis entitled "British Trade to Mastery in Orissa, 1633 – 1803 A.D." enlightens the study of the influx of the European Companies and their trading establishments in Orissa. It has given emphasis on the trading competition of the prominent European factors right from the beginning to keep the vested interests in coastal regions of Orissa. It lays focus on the continuous struggle among the European Trading Companies to establish the trading settlements in order to procure profits in Orissa and Bengal.

The present study has focused the struggle for trading supremacy among the European Companies and reflected the survival of the English East India Company which was founded on Dec. 31st 1600 A.D. by the English Charter. The English factors at last settled in as merchants much before they appeared as imperialistic rulers in Orissa.

To understand the process and the growth of the commercial activities of the English East India Company, a micro study of different stages for the trading settlements of the British factory has been reflected. The thesis further pays attention the political conditions of Orissa with the decline of the Gajapati rule and the success of the Muslim invaders in Orissa. Orissa turned the battle ground of the Mughal and Afghans during the 16th century which ultimately shattered the political entity of Orissa.

The present study has taken up as analysis about the statuesque of Orissa under the Mughal Suba of Bengal. The activities of the European Companies for their trading transactions and the maritime trade have been thoroughly reflected in the study. It focused how the nature and character of the trade of the local merchants under went a change by the advent of the European powers.
The English East India Company at last got the reorganization of the survival of the fittest among the European Companies and converted the commercial hegemony into imperialistic power.

The pertinent issue which the present study focuses the conquest of the English in Orissa. The question of the acquisition of Orissa was that it assumed much strategic importance. The movement of the British troops between the northern and the southern dominions of the British was not possible with Orissa remaining under the subjugation of the Maratha rule. The British authorities became mentally prepared to resort to diplomacy as the only means to achieve their end that is the acquisition of Orissa.

At last, an attempt has been made in reflecting the Anglo-Maratha conflicts and the acute pressure of Marathas for the payment of chauth from the Nawab of Bengal. The present study has pinpointed the diplomatic activities of the British and the observation of the Maratha power which stood as an obstacle in the path of the realization of their ambitions for the acquisition of Orissa. The fruitful diplomacy and the thorough preparation of the English to conquer Orissa against Marathas bore the desired fruit on 14th Oct. 1803 which marked the date of the British conquest of Orissa after the fall of Barabati.

The thesis is meticulously prepared by the scholarly guidance, timely advice, continuous encouragement and untiring efforts of my revered supervisor Dr. K. N. Sethi, M.A, M. Phil and Ph.D. (J.N.U.) at the P. G. Department of History, Jyoti Vihar, Sambalpur, Orissa. At the outset, it is a fact that Dr. K. N. Sethi has rendered his kind consent to accept me as research scholar and focused sufficient spot light for this project. I convey my sincere gratitude and deep indebtedness for the dedication of his valuable time and keen interests for the preparation of the thesis at my difficult movements.
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