From time immemorial, the land of Orissa has been one of the most important homelands of the Adibasis or the Scheduled Tribes. As many as thirty-two such tribes lived in Orissa. Of those the most interesting and numerous aboriginal tribe was the Bhuyans. The Bhuyans were most prominently found in the Feudatory States of Keonjhar, Bonai and Pal Lahera, although in almost all the States they were found in varying degree. The origin of the Bhuyans is buried in mystery, but their socio-economic life, and political system were very interesting. The cultural life of the Bhuyans was equally very rich. Their dance and music were exceptionally of high standard. Besides, their great cultural heritage, the Bhuyans played one of the most significant role in the political history of Orissa particularly in resistance movement during the British rule. Few scholars like, Banshidhar Mohanty, Jagannath Patnaik, Nihar Ranjan Patnaik have brought certain aspects of the Bhuyans in their scholarly works. But it is unfortunate that no adequate light has yet been thrown on the sensational history and culture of the Bhuyans of Orissa and an exhaustive study with
critical analysis on the history and culture of the Bhuyans of Orissa is still lacking. Hence, I have made an humble attempt in this work to furnish a detailed account of the Bhuyan tribe of Orissa.

Keeping all these aspects in view, six chapters besides an introduction and a conclusion have been included in the work. Those are: Origin and Genesis of the Bhuyans, Social Life of the Bhuyans, Economic Life of the Bhuyans, Religious Life of the Bhuyans, Ratna Rising of Keonjhar, and Dharanidhar Rising of Keonjhar.

This work is mainly based on primary sources. To the best of my ability all original materials available on the subject have been consulted. The records in manuscript form of the period were studied in Orissa State Archives, Bhubaneswar, West Bengal State Archives, Calcutta, Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar, Record Room of the Orissa Secretariat, Bhubaneswar, District Collectorate Record Rooms of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanja and Dhenkanal. Original materials namely Government records, reports, sanands, treaties, despatches, gazetteers and a few other contemporary works have
been consulted in the libraries attached to those institutions. The National Library, Calcutta, Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab State Library, Orissa State Secretariat Library, Orissa State Assembly Library, Parija Library, Utkal University, Library of Academy of Tribal Dialects and Cultures, Library of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research-cum-Training Institute located in Bhubaneswar have also been used for the purpose.

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