

Acknowledgement

It was my native village (Chhoto Chowkir Bos), situated in the Western Duars where I was brought up with several tribal communities and had the privilege to keenly observe the cultural similarities among the Mech, Rabha and the Koch (Rajbanshis) people. In my Post Graduate study I got more interest about the culture of these tribes when I again had an opportunity to be acquainted with other Mongoloid communities of Northeast India, Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal. Under such a background, it may be noted, an idea to explore the issues of socio-cultural change of the tribal communities developed and the present work is an outcome of it. I am grateful to Dr. I. Sarkar, Reader, Department of History, University of North Bengal who always encouraged me and supervised the present work in the style as it has been shaped in its present form.

The idea of communal unity among the tribes in certain stages together with their socioeconomic changes are the essential pre-conditions for the formation of a political structure of a community. Again process of cultural changes, state formation and the changes in the mode of production are interrelated in terms of development of the community. This relationship and its comparison with tribal and non-tribal state formation process of pre-colonial India and elsewhere are the main focus of the present work.

It is a fact that a research work of this nature can not be completed by a single individual and this is true in my case of research work. I enjoyed enomours help and cooperation from different corners and without which I might not have completed this work in due time. At the outset I must aknowledge the co-operation of Prof. Kunal Chattopadhyay, Prof. Himadri Banerjee, Dr. Rila Mukherjee, Prof. Sukla Das, Prof. Chittabrata Palit, other colleagues of the Department of History, Jadavpur University, who clarified many points to understand the process of state formation. In this respect I must record the help I got from the articles and observations published by the North East India History Association. A few of them are not only releavent but also have widened my vision as to the theme of research. I would also record here the inspirations of the teachers of the department of history, University of North Bengal, who some way or other inspired me for the study of this region in particular and I have no hasitation to record that such a congenial situation prompted me to explore the history of the Tista-Brahmaputra valley.

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