

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present work focuses on the **Revisiting Anglo-Koch Relations 1773-1947 (A study of the Anatomy of Indirect Rule in Cooch Behar)**. This research work is a critical study of the British relations with the Princely State of Cooch Behar during 1773 to last decade of British regime. Instead of concentrating of official British Policy statements alone, this work analyses the underlying patterns and effects of British Indirect Rule on the Cooch Behar rulers and State, and on how the British and Cooch Behar rulers themselves functioned.

By any means, Cooch Behar was a very ancient state and the Cooch Behar Raj was one of the most powerful Kingdoms in this region. Ancient name of Cooch Behar was Kamata Koch Kingdom, which was founded by Viswa Singha and consolidated by Nara Narayan who was the most powerful ruler of this Kingdom. After Nara Narayan, the Rajas of Cooch Behar maintained old traditions and customs in their independent territory with out bothering about changes elsewhere. But the system was broken in the 1773, when the British, in their bid to develop the resources of the Native State for the sustenance of imperial economy, and to integrate this State into a single politico-economic unit, adopted a policy of "Indirect Rule" through the political Agents.

From 1773 to 1947 was the period of 'Indirect Rule' in Cooch Behar, when for the first time; Political Agents were stationed at Cooch Behar, the State

Capital. The Political Agents came with definite instructions to introduce reforms, to develop the resources and thereby to change the State so as to bring some form of uniformity between it and the rest of India.

The work is based primarily on archival sources preserved in the National Archives of India, New Delhi; the West Bengal State Archives, Kolkata; North Bengal State Library, Cooch Behar, District Judge Court, Cooch Behar specially the Secret Reports which the political Agents sent regularly to the Bengal Government. These reports throw light on the 'Annual Administrative Report' of the State. These have, of course, been supplemented by other published documents, Gazetteers, Records, Service-Records, News Papers, Journals, Books and so on.

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