

P R E F A C E

In 2014 Darjeeling Terai or Siliguri Sub-Division completed her one hundred and fifty years of its existence and on this occasion this study presents the history of the Darjeeling Terai, its development and transformation during the period of 1864-1994. The history of the Darjeeling Terai is a relatively neglected area of research. Though important scholars and academicians have contributed in the studies of urbanization of Darjeeling hill town and some popular writers in local magazines and periodicals have focused on the development of Siliguri town but the writings do not deal with the historical angle regarding the development of the Darjeeling Terai during the colonial and post colonial period.

The proposed studies addresses to the issues of push and pull factors for immigration in this area during the Colonial and post Colonial period, the introduction of a settled agrarian structure by the Colonial Government, rapid expansion of tea gardens and growth of modern educational institutions. It also touches the changes in politics from national movement, Tebhaga movement to Naxalbari movement in post colonial period. It also highlighted the ethnic movements like Uttarkhand and Gorkhaland which demanded a separate state.

The objective of the work is to investigate the historical transition of Darjeeling Terai in social, economic and political aspects. The partition of 1947 and the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 and the Chinese aggression of 1962 in this area have not received enough attention by the

scholars. The transfer of the lands from the son's of the soil to the migrants in this region has created a long term ethnic problem which has not been investigated so far. The historical and quasi historical work that the researcher has consulted in the preparation of the dissertation has been mentioned in the glossary.

The proposed study intends to understand the transformation of Darjeeling Terai in society, economy and politics which has been largely unexplored area of study.