

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled “**VIOLATION, RESISTANCE AND REPRESSION: A STUDY OF CRIME, PUBLIC DISORDER AND CONTROL IN COLONIAL NORTH BENGAL (1864 - 1947)**” submitted by me under the Guidance of Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of North Bengal, and Dr. Sudip Khasnobish, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Rajganj College, is a bonafide research work. I also declare that it has not been submitted previously in part or in full to this University or any other University or Institution for the award of any Degree or Fellowship previously.

Tushar Kanti Barman
15/09/2023

Tushar Kanti Barman

Department of History

North Bengal University

Raja Rammuhanpur, P.O. NBU

Darjeeling, PIN. 734013



RAJGANJ COLLEGE

Ph.: (03561) 254356

Estd : 2009

(Affiliated to North Bengal University)

P.O. Rajganj, Dist.: Jalpaiguri, PIN- 735134

e-mail : rajganjcollege@gmail.com, Website : www.rajganjcollege.in

Ref. No.

Date.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the present thesis titled “**VIOLATION, RESISTANCE AND REPRESSION : A STUDY OF CRIME, PUBLIC DISORDER AND CONTROL IN COLONIAL NORTH BENGAL (1864 - 1947)**” is the result of the original research carried out by Tushar Kanti Barman under my supervision and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, neither this theses nor any part of it forms the basis of any research degree either in this University or anywhere else.

September 11, 2023

Sudip Khasnobish

Dr. Sudip Khasnobish

Assistant Professor

Department of History

Rajganj College

DEPT OF HISTORY
RAJGANJ COLLEGE, JALPAIGURI

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Accredited by NAAC with Grade A

Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya
Associate Professor
Department of History



ENLIGHTENMENT TO PERFECTION

Raja Rammohunpur, P.O. NBU
Dist. Darjeeling - 734013, West Bengal (India)
Phone : 0353 - 22580998(O), Mobile : 9434167083
E-mail: dahliapost@gmail.com

Ref. No.

Date.....

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the present thesis titled “**VIOLATION, RESISTANCE AND REPRESSION: A STUDY OF CRIME, PUBLIC DISORDER AND CONTROL IN COLONIAL NORTH BENGAL (1864-1947)**” is the result of the original research carried out by Tushar Kanti Barman under my supervision and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, neither this theses nor any part of it forms the basis of any research degree either in this University or anywhere else.

September 11, 2023

Dahlia Bhattacharya

Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya

Associate Professor

Department of History

University of North Bengal

Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya
Associate Professor
Department of History
University of North Bengal

Document Information

Analyzed document	Tushar Kanti Barman_History.pdf (D173955904)
Submitted	2023-09-15 13:41:00
Submitted by	University of North Bengal
Submitter email	nbuplg@nbu.ac.in
Similarity	0%
Analysis address	nbuplg.nbu@analysis.arkund.com

Sources included in the report

- W** URL: <https://criminologyweb.com/cesare-lombroso-theory-of-crime-criminal-man-and-atavism/>, 1
Fetched: 2023-09-15 13:41:00

Entire Document

VIOLATION, RESISTANCE AND REPRESSION: A STUDY OF CRIME, PUBLIC DISORDER AND CONTROL IN COLONIAL NORTH BENGAL (1864 - 1947) A THESES SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL FOR THE AWARD OF DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY BY TUSHAR KANTI BARMAN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF DR. DAHLIA BHATTACHARYA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL-734 013 & CO-SUPERVISOR DR. SUDIP KHASNOBISH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY RAJGANJ COLLEGE, JALPAIGURI, WEST BENGAL- 735 134 SEPTEMBER, 2023

Introduction 1 1 Introduction The experience of North Bengal on the two interrelated issues of crime and public disorder with the mechanism of control emerges as a significant area of study. The present work deals with the history of various crimes, criminality, public disorder and its control in the districts of Northern part of Bengal during colonial rule. The North Bengal then came under Rajshahi Division which includes eight districts of Northern Bengal i.e. Rajshahi, Rangpore, Malda, Dinajpur, Pabna, Bogra, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and to some extent with the Princely State of Cooch Behar. The chronological framework of the study is related to the professional police organization under Police Act of 1861(Act V/1861) which laid down the concept of particular crime and made a definition of crime and standardization of crime statistics not only at the province but at the district level. The period 1864-1947 preceding the terminal points for the study; because the new system of police and judicial administration was introduced in Burdwan, Bankura and Birbhum districts from 1st October 1862 and the remaining districts of Bengal with the exception of Darjeeling were brought under the new system on 1st January 1864 and it was introduced in Darjeeling district towards the middle of 1864. The other terminal year has a special significance due to the year of independence and partition; consequently a new set up of law and order had been implemented in 1947 onwards, hereafter the work ends with the last part of colonial rule. From geographical coverage, the area of study is strategically located with Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim in the North, the Gangatic Bengal on the south, Bangladesh and Assam on the East and Bihar on the West. Traditionally the river Ganga divides West Bengal into south Bengal and North Bengal divided again into Terai and Dooars regions. There were administrative divergences in different areas; such as special administrative systems prevailed in

Tushar Kanti Barman
15/09/2023

Sudip Khasnobish

HEAD
DEPT OF HISTORY
RAJGANJ COLLEGE, JALPAIGURI

Dahlia Bhattacharya

Head
Department of History
University of North Bengal
Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya
Associate Professor
Department of History
University of North Bengal

PREFACE

Crime, criminals and its control is an important gateway to write socio-economic and political history. The proposed study entitled “*Violation, Resistance and Repression: A Study of Crime, Public Disorder and Control in Colonial North Bengal 1864-1947*” is an attempt to concentrate a serious inquest on micro history hitherto unexplored and devoid of levity. The primary purpose of this work is to investigate the interaction between crime, public disorder and its control within the framework of the nature of social tensions and popular forms of resistance in colonial North Bengal. Here an attempt has been made to examine the evidences of socio-economic crimes and violent activities that gave rise a new genre of crime and criminal groups that the British dubbed ‘public disorder’. In fact, the authorities in Northern Bengal considered the repression of dacoities, rural violence, loss of life and property, and popular resistance to the government to be of the utmost importance. As a result, the British were forced to acquire a total monopoly over the legal means of coercion. Nevertheless, protection of property and person has also steadily increased in Northern district of Bengal.

Hence the study emphasis to identify the complex mechanism through which the state and the ruling classes defends, repressed and punished criminal and control the wave of crime. In doing so, it would also need to understand the role of law and the judicial system. It also makes an effort to examine the effectiveness of the colonial bureaucracy in controlling crimes and punishing the criminals within a nutshell. Moreover, an account of crime and control in colonial Bengal can be of a help to guarantee a better understanding of the nature of British colonial North Bengal and the complex way of its interaction with the countryside and its people. The historical and quasi historical word that the researcher has consulted in the preparation of the dissertation has been mentioned in the glossary.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I feel immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my generous supervisor Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of North Bengal and Co-Supervisor Dr. Sudip Khasnobish, Assistant Professor, Rajganj College; under their supervision the entire dissertation has been carried out. Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya whom I can call a friend, philosopher and guide. Her valuable guidance, suggestions, constructive criticism, an endless stream of articles and intensive encouragement and co-operation throughout my research work was infinite. I am also grateful to my Co-Supervisor Dr. Sudip Khasnobish for his valuable advice, friendly support and inspiration. In fact, without their strong endorsement such investigation could not have taken the present shape.

In this arduous venture, I wish to offer my special gratitude to all of my respected Professors of the Department of History, University of North Bengal for their encouragement, valuable suggestions and mental support throughout my career. I especially express my grateful thanks and appreciation to Former Professor Anita Bagchi, Department of History, University of North Bengal, for her motherly and caring nature that provided me immense mental support to every sphere of life. Along with her, my gratitude also goes to Dr. Sudash Lama, Dr. Varun Kumar Roy, Former Prof. Bijoy Kumar Sarkar of the Department of History, University of North Bengal for their cordial support with necessary facilities and information to carry out the present investigation. I am also indebted to Dr. Amrita Mondol, Dr. Tahiti Sarkar, Dr. Verma Priyadarshini and Dr. Dipsikha Acharya of the Department of History for providing me inspiration and help in many ways.

I owe a similar debt to a number of individuals who generously extended their cordial support. I am particularly grateful to Former Professor Debes Deb, Department of Zoology, University of North Bengal, who always encourage me in every aspect of life. My friends like Madhusudan Paul, John Biswas, Mithun Sarkar, Mampi Barman, Chanchal Mandal, Research Scholar, Department of History, and Pulak Roy, Librarian, Centre for Innovative Studies of University of North Bengal deserve special mention for their kindly cooperation and friendly support. I must also thankful to a friend Mr. Satyjit Roy, Branch Manager, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Siliguri, although he does not belong to academics but his contribution is infinite to complete this work.

I would like to convey my special thanks to Nimai Mandal and Banani Sarkar, Staff of Seminar Library, Department of History, University of North Bengal and all the staff of Central Library, University of North Bengal for their cordial support and provided required valuable data related to my work.

I am also indebted to the Staff of the following archives and libraries for their kind services:

Directorate of State Archives, Kolkata (43 Shakespeare Sarani Road, Bhawani Dutta Lane and Writers' Building section), Bangiyo Sahitya Parishad Library, National Library, Cooch Behar State Library, Jalpaiguri District Library, Alipurduar Edward Library, Malda District Library, Darjeeling District Library etc.

Finally, I am thankful to God that, my family supports was always with me in all aspects of my life and my deepest gratitude goes to my parents and relatives for their unflagging love and support throughout my life; without their sacrifice, completion of the work could have been impossible. Especially I must mention my uncle Mr. Nikhil Roy for giving me momentous encouragement and inspiration, lack of which this dissertation cannot be executed neatly.

The errors, if any, have been committed involuntarily, and the responsibility for all errors remains mine alone.

Tushar Kanti Barman
15/09/2023

Tushar Kanti Barman

Research Scholar

Department of History

University of North Bengal

GLOSSARY

<i>Adalat</i>	-	A court of justice
<i>Assamees</i>	-	Criminals
<i>Barkandaz</i>	-	Armed police guard
<i>Bazar/Hut</i>	-	Market/ Rural market or fair
<i>Chabutary-i-Kotwali</i>	-	Temporary police lock-up
<i>Chak</i>	-	Division
<i>Chhits</i>	-	Enclaves
<i>Chowkider</i>	-	Watchman
<i>Cutchery</i>	-	Public or private office
<i>Daffader</i>	-	Guard or public servant
<i>Darogah</i>	-	Head of the police Station
<i>Dasnami</i>	-	Literary ten names
<i>Desh</i>	-	Country
<i>Dewan</i>	-	Manager of an Estate or an indigo factory
<i>Dewani</i>	-	Civil
<i>Durbar</i>	-	Royal court

<i>Faujdari</i>	-	Criminal
<i>Firman</i>	-	Legal notice
<i>Gomastaha</i>	-	Agent or employee serving under a Landlord
<i>Goyenda</i>	-	Detective or spy
<i>Hajat</i>	-	Lock-up or prison
<i>Hakim</i>	-	A judge
<i>Hartal</i>	-	Protest strike, closure of shops and work places
<i>Jamader</i>	-	Police or jail subordinate
<i>Jotder</i>	-	Holder of a jote or a land
<i>Kaidi</i>	-	A prisoner or a convict
<i>Khasmahal</i>	-	Estates
<i>Kotwali</i>	-	Police lock-up
<i>Lathi</i>	-	A club or stick
<i>Lathial</i>	-	Clubman
<i>Mahajan</i>	-	Money lender
<i>Maulavi</i>	-	A learned Musalman or Musalman teacher
<i>Methar</i>	-	Sweeper

<i>Mofussil</i>	-	Peripheral zone of the country/upcountry districts
<i>Muhuri</i>	-	An Indian clerk serving a public or private office
<i>Munsifs</i>	-	In-charge of revenue collection and civil justice
<i>Naib</i>	-	A Deputy Officer
<i>Nawab</i>	-	A Muslim Viceroy or Governor of a Province
<i>Nazir Deo</i>	-	Commander-in-Chief
<i>Nizamat</i>	-	Administration of police and criminal law
<i>Paharawala</i>	-	Guard
<i>Paragana</i>	-	Equivalent to present Block
<i>Parwana</i>	-	Order, written order
<i>Peshkar</i>	-	A native servant of a law court
<i>Phari/Furi</i>	-	Police outpost
<i>Pharidar</i>	-	Head of the police outpost
<i>Pike</i>	-	A footman
<i>Qazi</i>	-	A civil and criminal judge; under British rule the <i>Qazis</i> served as advisers to the courts on points of Mhhamedan law
<i>Raikat</i>	-	Chief of the fort
<i>Ryot</i>	-	A cultivator/ farmer

<i>Sadar Nizamat</i>	-	High Court of criminal justice
<i>Sadar</i>	-	Head quarter of district administration in colonial India
<i>Sannyasi</i>	-	One who has abandoned all worldly possessions and affections, a Brahmin of the fourth order, religious mendicant
<i>Sepoy</i>	-	A Soldier
<i>Sheristardar</i>	-	A native official of a court
<i>Shipahasalar</i>	-	Commander-in Chief
<i>Subah</i>	-	Estate or territory
<i>Talukder</i>	-	Holder of a <i>Taluk</i>
<i>Thanas</i>	-	Police Station
<i>Upazilas</i>	-	An <i>upzila</i> formerly called <i>Thana</i> , is an administrative division in Bangladesh, functioning as a sub-unit of a district.
<i>Zaminder</i>	-	Holder of an Estate
<i>Zilla</i>	-	District

LIST OF TABLES

	Page No.
1.1 Area and Population in Rajshahi District in 1911	38
1.2 Area and Police Stations in Rangpur District in 1931	41
1.3 <i>Thanas</i> in Malda under the Division in 1872	46
1.4 Area and Police Stations in Pabna District in 1931	52
1.5 Jalpaiguri District under Different Division	63
2.1 Important Indigenous Criminal Groups Operating in North Bengal: 1861-1915	106
2.2 Important Exogenous Criminal Groups Operating in North Bengal: 1861-1915	106-7
2.3 Number of Convicted Persons for Dacoities and Robbery Noticed in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Malda and Rajshahi during 1893-1902 and 1911-1921	126
5.1 Prison Statistics for the Cooch Behar Jail during 1875-1900	324

ABBREVIATIONS

BAAR	-	Bengal Annual Administration Report
BCJC	-	Bengal Criminal and Judicial Consultations
BJE	-	Report of the Bengal Jails Enquiry Committee
CID	-	Crime Investigation Department
Cr PC	-	Criminal Procedure Code
DI Rues	-	Defense of India Rules
DIIR	-	Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
DM	-	District Magistrate
DSP	-	Deputy Superintendent of Police
GOB	-	Government of Bengal
GOI	-	Government of India
IB	-	Intelligence Branch
ICS	-	Indian Civil Service
INC	-	Indian National Congress
IPC	-	Indian Penal Code

NAI	-	National Archives of India
NWP	-	North Western Provinces
PCR	-	Police Committee Report
SDA	-	<i>Sadar Diwani Adalat</i>
SDO	-	Sub-Divisional Officer
WBSE	-	West Bengal State Archives

LIST OF APPENDIXES

		Page No.
APPENDIX- I	Jail Statistics of India for the Years of 1885-1890, 1891-1900, 1901 and 1903	392
APPENDIX-II	Mortuary per 1,000 among Prisoners in the Jails in Presidencies, 1831-1854	393
APPENDIX-III	The Sickness and Mortality from Cholera among the Prisoners per 1,000 in Bengal, 1833-1900	394
APPENDIX-IV	Annual Mortality in the Jails of the Lower Province of Bengal during Ten Years from 1853-1862	395
APPENDIX-V	Jail Statistics of the Bogra District Jail during the Year from 1912-1921	396
APPENDIX-VI	Report on the Allegation of Torture by Police on the Political Prisoners	397

