

PREFACE

Discontentment of the peasants against the high trend of revenue of the British was a common feature of the 19th century India. The peasant unrest of Assam draws attention not only of all the parts of India, its echo was reflected even in the Imperial Legislative Assembly of Britain too. The uprising was aimed at not for freedom from the colonial yoke but for emancipation from exploitation and revenue-hike.


The present work deals with the peasant unrest and uprising in the three erstwhile districts of Assam province, viz. Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong from 1858 to 1894. The year 1858 has been taken as a starting point because it has a special importance in the history of British India. After the 'Great Mutiny' of 1857, Assam like other parts of India went into the hands of the British Crown in 1858. The Colonial Government decided to augment revenue on land from this year with a view to removing the loss of the 'Mutiny' of 1857. This year may be termed as the '*Confrontation Year*' between the peasants and the Government which continued up to 1894 and even after that.

Recent studies on the peasant unrest of Assam have fetched some aspects into focus and some of them have been referred to here at proper places. The specific period (1858 – 1894) has yet not been studied notwithstanding lots have been done in this field. It is because of this that it has received not due attention as is given to the same phenomena in other parts of India. This study is an endeavour to give as far as possible, a comprehensive and critical, easily accessible, discernible and a crystalic picture of a series of complex scenario.

The proposed study is chiefly built up on the primary as well as the secondary sources, both published and unpublished, the details of which are appended in the bibliography.

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