

Book Review

Joydeep pal, 'The History of the Multi Avenues of Revenue Management and Settlement Operation System of Cooch Behar State (1913 – 1936) - A Study of the Monarchical Achievement' Sopan Publisher, Kolkata , Jan, 2015 , pp. 330, Rs.500 (hard copy)

Regional history gained a momentum in the recent past , specially in historical analysis . A number of books , monographs , articles on regional history has already been published in academic field . Historical analysis particularly economic historical analysis ushered an era of new thinking in research explanations . Actually economic history defines the ups and downs of a particular period based on national , regional perspectives . In this connection first of all an example can be noted , which shows a graphic picture of the economic condition of a monarchical reign . The Colonial period witnessed a sharp turn of economic flexibility from region to region , because during the so called period a traditional monarchical structure prevailed in the local area which moulded the situation on its own way . The explanation of the economic history of Cooch Behar in the form of revenue management and settlement work provide a new term , character and meaning in the consolidation of the history of the glorious past . Among the number of secondary source material on Cooch Behar, the book entitled 'THE HISTORY OF THE MULTI AVENUES OF REVENUE MANAGEMENT AND SETTLEMENT OPERATION SYSTEM OF COOCH BEHAR STATE (1913 – 1936) - A STUDY OF THE MONARCHICAL ACHIEVEMENT' , by Joydeep Pal is an outstanding work on revenue and settlement work of the Princely State of Cooch Behar from 1913 to 1936 . This book contains two sections , one dealt with various revenue system and second one dealt with settlement operation process of the period .

Among the two sections , number one vividly discussed on the three aspects of revenue management , viz; Land revenue , excise revenue and stamp revenue process of the monarchical period . Basically during the reign of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan(1913 -1922) and also during the reign of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan {1922 - 1936(minor)}.Some important initiatives were taken by the State authority in the field of revenue management . A systematic procedure has been reflected in this section of the work . Similarly in the second part of the book an attempt has been made by the author to record a chronological figure of settlement work of the said period . This one dealt with kistwar (cadastral survey) and khanapuri system (preliminary record writing) of work .

In spite of the above mentioned objects this work is still silent on the vivid discussion of the condition of economic stability of the kingdom . In the context of the book some particular object has been noted on the first part of the work . More or less this book is a valuable document on the

regional history of revenue and land settlement system of Cooch Behar after H.N. Chaudhuri's work , The Cooch Behar State and its land revenue settlement). This work may be categorised as an important source material for research scholars , historical fact finders , readers those who wants to know new things and upgrade the research area with new interpretations . Royal History of the Princely State of Cooch Behar explore glorious achievements of the rulers in each and every section of work , extended to a wide range from ancient to modern period . However , this work is a part and parcel on the period of study in the context of revenue and land settlement system of the princely state of Cooch Bahar .

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