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## **Book Reviews**

**Dr. Anil Kumar Sarkar (ed), *Historians and Historiography of Bengal and North East India: Dimensions and Perspectives*, Abhijeet Publications, New Delhi, 2015, pp.320, Rs.1160 (Hard Copy).**

This is a collection of very important essays by Dr. Anil Kumar Sarkar and the title is an enticing. The first article a keynote address by I. Sarkar is a historiographical account of Jagadish Narayan Sarkar, a historian of medieval India. The other historiographical writings included in this book are of Sesadri Prasad Bose, Chittabrata palit, Anil Kumar Sarkar and Deepak Roy. Articles focus on historians by P.K. Bhattacharya, Debkumar Sengupta, Tridip Mahanta, Sagar Baruah etc. Though they were not of the true historians in time sense but they were writing so many historical writings. Remaining articles consist of divergent aspects of socio-economic and political history. Among them some are of local and others are regional history.

The present book looks at some of the fundamental issues concerning the theme of Bengal and North East India through the ages. This is a welcome addition in the literature of regional histories. The researchers of these articles deal with micro history but not of micro cosmic history which is the recent trend among the present day historians. Though local history does not always need to integrate in broader perspective of a nation state. Some interesting articles like Dancing in Bengal, Institution of Kulinism and Tourism are of recent theme of research in history today as a part of socio-cultural history.

These writings will help us to understand the present ethnic identity among the tribes of North Bengal and North East India. This area remained turbulent since decade and decades. We hope the present scholars do more in depth studies of this region. It is welcome return of focus to area in the writing of Indian history. I shall, in this review, focus on the seminal overview essay, 'Historians and Historiography of Bengal and North East India: Dimensions and Perspectives.' The essay, which naturally draws on many of the detailed studies in the book, makes a very significant historiographical generalization, which is of great interest not only to modern Indian history scholars but to students of all branches of history.

Subhendu Bikas Satpathi  
Assistant Professor, Department of History (PG),  
ABN Seal College, Cooch Behar, West Bengal.