



Changing Tribal Life in British Orissa

By Kanchanmoy Mojumdar

Kaveri Books, New Delhi, 1998. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. First edition. 15 x 23 cm. The book traces the British Government's policy towards the aboriginal people of Orissa, particularly the Kandhs, and the reaction it caused in the people. The British effort to "tame" the tribals by armed measures was followed by their effort to "civilise the savages" by education and widen the scope and scale of their acculturation with "civilised" people in the neighbouring tracts. This caused a great change in tribal life, society and polity. Tribal reaction to this externally-induced change varied between stubborn resistance and grudging acquiescence, depending on the pace and extent of the change. The policy of "civilising the savages" was later changed to the policy of conceiving "tribalism", the Government realising the damage done to tribal tradition and psyche. The study of the British tribal policy is worthwhile because the main problem faced by the administrators then persists even today : The problem of how to improve tribal life without causing, as an inevitable outcome, progressive detribalisation; how to modernise tribal life without destroying in the process the distinctive features of tribal tradition and culture. Contents: Preface; 1. Tribal History of Orissa : Perspective,...



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