

Peasant movements in West Bengal - their impact on agrarian class relations since 1967

University of Cambridge, Dept. of Land Economy - 3 Historic Peasant Movements In India

Telengana Movement (1946)

- This was the biggest peasant guerrilla war of modern Indian history affecting 3000 villages and 3 million populations.
- The princely state of Hyderabad under Asajhi Nizams was marked by a combination of religious linguistic domination (by a small Urdu speaking Muslim elite ruling over predominantly Hindu-Telugu, Marathi, Kannada speaking groups), total lack of political and civil liberties, grossest forms of forced exploitation by deshmukhs, jagirdars, doras (landlords) in forms of forced labour (vethi) and illegal exactions.
- During the uprising, the communist led guerrillas had built a strong base in Telangana villages through Andhra Mahasabha and had been leading local struggles on issues such as wartime exactions, abuse of rationing, excessive rent and vethi.

Description: -

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Communist parties -- India -- West Bengal

Land reform -- India -- West Bengal

Peasantry -- India -- West Bengal -- Political activity
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Image credit: VP Hindi While this might seem like a fair arrangement, it has to be borne in mind that it was the peasants and sharecroppers who had to provide almost all of the labour for sowing, reaping and harvesting the grain while the landlord class played no part, be it direct or indirect, in the production process.

India: The Influence and Impact of Naxalism on West Bengal Politics

Moin Zaidi, editor, A Tryst With Destiny: A Study of Economic Policy Resolutions of the INC Passed During the Last 100 Years New Delhi: 1985.

Agrarian problems and peasant movement in India

The Moplahs movement had been suppressed earlier using brute force.

Vol. 7, No. 3, Oct., 1978 of Social Scientist on JSTOR

The peasants who were not settled on it as sharecroppers became agricultural labourers. On southern India, see David Arnold, The Congress in Tamil Nad: Nationalist Politics in South India 1919-1937 Delhi: 1977 ; V.

The Agrarian History of South Asia: A Bibliographic Essay

Undoubtedly, since the onset of green revolution, there has been a substantial rise in food grains production from 47 million tonnes in 1947 to 135 million tonnes in 1981. The whole of Bengal and other provinces in 1930s witnessed widespread anti-British agitation in the name of Civil Disobedience under the aegis of Gandhi and the Congress Party.

Kheya Bag, Red Bengal's Rise and Fall, NLR 70, July

The village assemblies, whose meetings would be open to the public, were charged with drawing up development plans and distributing state and national funds. Then why should they hang around the babus, the big landlords, the owners and go against the poor peasants and labourers and thus make both sides hostile? The enfranchisement of the well-to-do peasants was followed by their appreciation of the value of their votes in electing office bearers of the Union Boards and other local self-government bodies.

West Bengal panchayat poll violence harks back to the state's rural political structure

What they fail to realize is that, let alone bring benefit to the poor peasant, such legal bars to the sale of land in the capitalist system will hamper the agricultural production itself.

Naxalbari Peasant Struggle: Contemporary and Observation

Afterwards, during the rule of the Congress government, when the Abolition of Middle Proprietary Act or the Zemindari Abolition Act was enacted — I told you about it earlier — poor peasants were deprived and others appropriated most of the lands in connivance with officials. Leading a revolt of disaffected Bengali Congress activists in late 1997, Mamata launched the Trinamool Congress as her own vehicle.

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