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by Sanaul Haque

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IARCO RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Full Name: Md. Sakib Mia

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Title: The July Revolution of Bangladesh: Socio-Political Context and Its Impact on the Liberation Movement

Introduction (Research Problem)

The independence of Bangladesh in 1971 was the culmination of multiple political struggles, popular movements, and collective acts of resistance. While landmark events such as the 1952 Language Movement and the 1969 Mass Uprising have been widely studied, the July Revolution has not received comparable scholarly engagement. This neglect creates a significant gap in our understanding of how diverse forms of resistance shaped the trajectory of Bengali nationalism.

The July Revolution was not a spontaneous eruption but rather the outcome of accumulated frustrations over decades of systemic exploitation. Economic marginalization of East Pakistan, political exclusion of Bengalis from decision-making processes, and deliberate attempts to suppress linguistic and cultural identity created the preconditions for mass unrest [1], [2]. The revolution, therefore, was not only a political uprising but also a cultural assertion of Bengali identity and collective dignity.

Given its historical relevance, the lack of systematic scholarship on the July Revolution is striking. Without analyzing this episode, the intellectual and political genealogy of Bangladesh's independence remains incomplete. This research seeks to address that gap by reconstructing the causes, consequences, and enduring legacy of the revolution.

Existing Literature

The historiography of Bangladesh's independence is dominated by analyses of the Language Movement (1952), the Six-Point Program of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (1966), and the Mass Uprising (1969), each of which is considered a cornerstone of Bengali nationalism [1], [3], [4]. These studies emphasize the ways in which sustained political struggles consolidated the demand for autonomy and eventual statehood. Scholars have highlighted structural inequalities between East and West Pakistan, particularly in terms of resource allocation, political power, and linguistic recognition [5], [6]. Other studies have drawn attention to the dynamics of popular mobilization and leadership in shaping nationalist movements. While these contributions provide essential context, they often treat the July Revolution as a secondary episode or mention it only in passing [4], [7].

Recent scholarship has begun to recognize the revolution's relevance. Studies suggest that the uprising contributed significantly to political consciousness among ordinary Bengalis, particularly by fostering solidarity across class and professional groups [8]. The July Revolution has been framed as a critical juncture in the evolution of Bengali nationalism, while its neglect in mainstream historiography reflects broader patterns of selective memory in South Asian history [9], [10]. Nevertheless, there is still an absence of comprehensive, detailed inquiry into the event itself—its socio-political drivers, its immediate impact, and its long-term significance.

By situating the July Revolution within broader debates on resistance, collective identity, and liberation struggles, ¹³ this study aims to fill that historiographical gap and contribute to a more nuanced understanding of Bangladesh's independence trajectory.

Research Questions

1. What were the social and political contexts leading to the July Revolution?
2. How did the revolution influence Bengali nationalism and the demand for independence?
3. What was the role and significance of the July Revolution in the broader Bangladesh Liberation Movement?
4. How have the social and political changes stemming from the revolution been historically perceived?

Research Objectives

- To identify the social and political causes of the July Revolution.
- To analyze the impact of the revolution on nationalism and the independence movement.
- To assess the contribution of the July Revolution to Bangladesh's liberation struggle.

7 Methodology

Research Design: This study employs a qualitative research design.

Data Collection Methods:

- *Document and Literature Review:* newspapers, political pamphlets, government records, and published memoirs.
- *Semi-Structured Interviews:* At least 10 interviews with freedom fighters, political activists, historians, and eyewitnesses.
- *Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):* At least 2 FGDs with participants from different generations to capture both lived experience and collective memory.

Sampling Strategy: Purposive sampling will be used to select individuals with direct or indirect involvement in, or memory of, the July Revolution.

Data Analysis: Thematic analysis will be employed, combining inductive and deductive coding strategies to identify both expected and emergent themes from the qualitative data.

Research Topic Significance

This study examines the socio-political dynamics of the July Revolution in Bangladesh, an underexplored event in the nation's liberation history. Using qualitative methods, it investigates the revolution's causes, impact, and legacy, offering insights into Bengali nationalism and contributions to the broader independence movement.

Quality of Writing

The proposal is clear, precise, and academically rigorous. Language is formal yet accessible, with proper adherence to grammar, citation, and IARCO formatting standards.

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