



Congress Politics in Bengal 1919-1939

Srilata Chatterjee

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Description

Examines the nature of the interaction between institutional politics as represented by the Congress and popular politics in Bengal between 1919 and 1939.

Set against the backdrop of major developments in the nationalist movement in Bengal, this study focuses on the nature of the interaction between the Congress, which represented mainstream political nationalism, and popular social groups whose politics was largely disorganized. In particular, it assesses the impact that this interplay had on the nature of the Congress and the extent to which the provincial Congress organization was able to match its aspirations to those of the people, as it matured from a loosely-structured institution to an organized political party. Research on the nationalist movement prior to the advent of Subaltern Studies has chiefly concentrated on the activities of the movement's elite and leadership. In recent years, subaltern historians have instead focused on the activities of subordinate classes and groups, whose form of politics has been described as autonomous and independent of the elite. However, both lines of enquiry have neglected the areas of interaction and interdependence between these two realms of political activity, especially during the phase of Gandhian nationalism. In examining the nature of the interaction between institutional politics as represented by the Congress and popular politics in Bengal between 1919 and 1939, this book is a significant and original contribution to current research in the field.

Readership: A key text for academics, researchers and students of Bengal history and politics.

Contents

Acknowledgements; List of Abbreviations; Introduction; Chapter I. Bengal on the Eve of the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat Movement (1919-20); Chapter 2. Congress Organization in Bengal 1921-22; Chapter 3. Congress and the Masses: The Non-Cooperation and Khilafat Movement in Bengal 1920-22; Chapter 4. Congress in the Post Non-Cooperation Period, 1922-29; Chapter 5. Civil Disobedience Movement in Bengal, 1930-34; Chapter 6. Congress in Electoral Politics and After; 1935-39; Conclusion; Glossary; Bibliography; Appendix; Notes; Index

About the Author

Srilata Chatterjee has been a Lecturer of History at Behala College, Calcutta since 1996 and a Guest Lecturer at Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta since 1993.

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