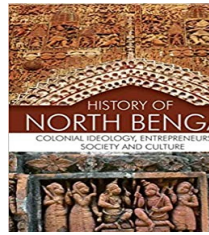


## Book Review



**Anil Kumar Sarkar and Supam Biswas: *History of North Bengal: Colonial Ideology, Entrepreneurship, Society and Culture*(New Delhi, Abhijeet Publications, 2020, pp. 244,Price:960/p INR)**

Dr.Bipul Mandal<sup>1</sup>

This book focuses on the History of North Bengal: Colonial Ideology, Enterpenuorship, Society and Culture from the days of medieval time to the first decade of the twenty-first century. The North Bengal region has multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-cultural characteristics. The British administrators, missionaries, travelers and other anthropologically oriented individuals collected data from this region and written the history. After independence, many researchers have spent their precious time studying the history and brought a lot of insights into this, on various aspects, issues and challenges of this region. Academicians may be well acquainted with the geographical division of North Bengal but may not be the general readers. Presently, the eight districts of North Bengal are today called by the lovers of North Bengal as ‘Eight Sisters’- Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, and Malda.

When Baktiyar became successful in establishing the power of the Delhi Sultanate in Bengal, the history and culture of this area opened a new chapter. They established the cities or towns of Gour and Pandua which had created a tremendous impact on the life and Various activities of the people of this region. These cities of Gour and Pandua are presently situated in Malda district which is within the geographical jurisdiction of our area of study. After contact and interaction of Islam, the existence of a cultural system in all respect gave birth to a change and created new ideas which are of far-reaching

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consequences. The Sufi saints played a vital role to spread Islam and created a tolerant atmosphere between Hindus-Muslims.

The area of North Bengal an undivided Bengal covered the area of Rajshahi Division, (Dinajpur, Pabna, Bagura, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri, Maldah, Darjeeling) Cooch Behar Princely state, some parts of Purnia District in Bihar, Districts of Goalpara and Kamarupa (partly) of Assam. Akshay Kumar Maitreya has mentioned that the Rajshahi Division is known as North Bengal comprising the Districts of Rajshahi, Maldah, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bagura and Pabna. At that time, the study of the history of North Bengal, its Socio-Cultural practice gained much importance in the context of the history of Bengal with the sincere effort of some contemporary Scholars.

Immediately after the great partition of 1947, North Bengal took the shape of a verbal geographical area. North Bengal is still its remarkable Socio-cultural feature, and identity cannot be denied. In recent times so many Scholars of different fields are trying their best to explore and highlight the issues of North Bengal.

After independence, in North Bengal Changes happened to come on different aspects. With time, tremendous changes have taken place in this region (North Bengal) in respect of Socio-economic, political and cultural fields. The demographic character, social structure, political environment, cultural identity question, the racial stratification, backwardness of the area (North Bengal) in respect of communication, education, treatment and other essential services, all these things will contribute sufficiently to the socio-cultural and political movements in North Bengal. However, references are very well mentioned at the end of each chapter. Some statistical data, maps, few tables and an extensive bibliography add the value of the work. Anil Kumar Sarkar and Supam Biswas deserve appreciation for finding and delving deep into this challenging task. Finally, the volume is a welcome edition for scholars to explore new areas of research. So, this book will help the teachers, interested readers, research scholars, and field workers to have more information on the History of North Bengal.