
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH EAST

B. C. Bhuyan

THE BOOK

The North East India is a land of diverse elements. Since independence the entire region has been witnessing movements, both peaceful and violent. Therefore, this region has been witnessing reorganisation taking into consideration the political aspirations of different ethnic groups living in this region. New demands for autonomy/ statehood are still in the offing. Many other issues such as the role of regional political parties, the working of the Sixth Schedule deserve special consideration in the eyes of the politicians as well as the administrators.

The present volume is a collection of papers presented to a seminar on the Recent Trends in the Political Development of the North East organised by the Political Science department of Diphu Government College in November, 1986 under the auspices of the Indian Council of Social Science Research.

Experienced scholars, political scientists and politicians have presented papers on different themes selected for discussion in the seminar. It is hoped that this volume will surely throw some light on some of the political developments which are hitherto quite unknown to the political scientists, scholars remaining outside this region.

THE EDITOR

The editor of this volume Dr. Bhuyan teaches Political Science in Diphu Govt. College and has got his Ph. D. degree on the study of the Working of the Karbi Anglong District Council. Dr. Bhuyan is a member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Political Science Association.

ISBN. 81-7117-069-2

Rs. 175

Political Development of the **North East**

VOL I

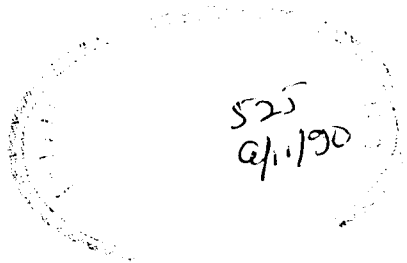
Dr. B.C. BHUYAN



OMSONS PUBLICATIONS

915.1117

First Published 1989



© Author

ISBN 81-7117-069-2



000525

Published by R. Kumar for Omsons Publications
T-7, Rajouri Garden, NEW DELHI
Printed by P. Kumar for Sangita Printers
Maujpur, DELHI-53.

Contents

	<i>Pages</i>
<i>Forward</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Editor's Note</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>Chapters</i>	
1. Inter-State Relations : Boundary Disputes in North East India.	1
2. The Ahom—Naga Relations (1228 to 1838)	15
3. Regional Political Parties and State Politics in North-East India.	23
4. Leadership and Role of Political Parties in the North East.	45
5. The Plains Tribals' Council of Assam : A Regional Political Party.	55
6. Role of Regional Political Parties in Assam : A Retrospective View.	61
7. Role-Perception and Political Behaviour of the Ruling Elite During the Movement against Foreign Nationals in Assam.	73
8. The Demand of Autonomy/Statehood in N.C. Hills and Karbi Anglong : An overview.	79

9. Demand for a Union Territory comprising Cachar and Karimganj districts—An analysis.	95
10. On Udayachal Movement.	103
11. Sub-National Movement in Assam.	127
12. Tribal Movement for Autonomous State in Assam.	137
13. Tribal Culture of the North East India An Outlook on Integration Between Hills and Plains.	151
14. Along the Dimasa Trail.	159
15. Distribution of Karbis in North East India.	
16. Election-Aprocess in the working of the Sixth Schedule in Karbi Anglong.	177
17. The Autonomous. Dist Council in Tripura: An Excursion into Recent History	193

Introduction

The present study is a collection of seventeen papers presented at the panel discussions of the seminar held in November, 1986 under the auspices of the Indian Council of Social Science Research.

Dr. Venkata Rao gives a historical account of the boundary disputes between Assam and its neighbouring states. Dr. A.C. Bhuyan in his paper entitled 'Ahom-Naga Relations' provides sufficient clues to our understanding of boundary problem between Assam and Nagaland.

Dr. B. Pakem in his paper 'Regional Political Parties and the State Politics in North East India' deals mainly with the question of political instability, the mushroom growth of regional political parties and the agitational and constitutional politics in North East India. Dr. Pakem concludes that agitational politics has become the order of the day in most of the states in the region. Dr. Bhaskaran Nair, in his paper, concludes that the regional parties play its role in articulating regional and sectional interests of people who find themselves deprived of their cultural and political identity. He stresses the necessity of their continued existence for the sake of the unity and integrity of the nation. Professor Niru Hazarika in her paper entitled 'The Plains Tribal Council of Assam' gives an account of the historical growth of the P.T.C.A. and its role in Assam's politics. Dr. Abdul Halim in his paper, gives a vivid account of the rise and fall of different regional political parties in Assam and its role in the politics of the state. Sri Hira Borpujari tries to formulate a conceptual

approach to the study of role perception of the ruling elite in relation to their pursued politics as well as their psychological attitude and political behaviour of the elite during the movement launched in Assam against the foreign nationals.

Dr. S. Jacob George gives an account on the autonomous state demand movement in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar districts of Assam and concludes that the creation of such autonomous states will not solve the socio-economic problems of the people. Dr. Sibapada Dey, in his paper, holds that geographically and historically Barak Valley had a distinct identity and it had always been neglected by the leaders of the Brahmaputra valley. He pleads for a union territory for the Barak Valley districts. Sri Samar Brahma Choudhury, in his paper, 'On Udayachal Movement' dwells upon the historical perspective of the plains tribals' aspirations for self determination and makes a strong plea for the creation of Udayachal State. Sri Hem Bordoloi maintains that the demand for Udayachal is unjustified as less than one third of the population of proposed state only are tribals. Bordoloi, however, justified the demand of the Karbis and Dimasas for an autonomous state. He stresses the development of tribal languages and Assamese being a vital link languages for the integration of the North Eastern region. Sri Monirul Hussain traces the history of the separate state movement in the North East with a particular reference to the autonomous state movement in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts.

Dr. Gopal Medhi lays stress on the better understanding of tribal cultures in order to bring about integration between hills and plains. Dr. Tonmoy Bhattacharjee wants to prove that the Bodos, Dimasas and the Tripuris belong to the same group atleast linguistically. Dr. Bhattacharjee, however, concludes that inflexible social rules of the Dimasas have brought them to a conflict with the most progressive modern world. Sri P. Phangso gives a historical account of the origin and

migration of the Karbi tribe of this region. He concludes that Karbi population has gradually been increasing in the autonomous district of Karbi Anglong in the last two to three decades. Dr. B.C. Bhuyan while dealing with the election process in Karbi Anglong gives a statistical account of the council election and points out the growing consciousness of the people in the elections. Dr. Mahadev Chakravarty is hopeful of the achievements that may be attained by the Autonomous District Councils in Tripura.