

A CENTURY OF
GOVERNMENT
AND POLITICS IN
**NORTH EAST
INDIA**

(VOL. V — FREEDOM MOVEMENT)

V. VENKATA RAO



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A CENTURY OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN NORTH EAST INDIA

Vol. 5 : Freedom Movement (1885-1947)



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Dedicated to

Shri HITESWAR SAIKIA
Chief Minister of Assam

Satyam, Sivam, Sundaram

Preface

This is the fifth volume in the series on *A Century of Government and Politics in North East India*. In the preparation of this volume I received immense help from several persons in several ways. The present Chief Minister of Assam, Shree Hiteswar Saikia provided me with free accommodation in the Assam House, New Delhi for a period of two months and thereby enabled me to consult the material relating to Freedom Movement in Assam available in the Jawaharlal Nehru Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi. It may be noted that the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee donated all its records to the Nehru Library for the promotion of research.

Shree S. Subramanian, I.P.S., Director General of Police, Assam, was kind enough to permit me to consult the *Intelligence Abstract*, an indispensable source of information on Freedom Movement in Assam, published weekly by the Police Department. I found it to be an interesting document, edited by a competent senior officer on the basis of information secured from different parts of the Province. It is free from prejudices and predelictions.

The Home (Political) contains some documents not available in other places, on freedom movement. I consulted all the documents in the Home (Political).

The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee office also contains some documents which I consulted.

Although, I gathered my bricks from many a masons yard, the design and the construction are my own. The entire work was not read by any one excepting some 12 pages relating to the role of poetry by Prof. G.P. Sarma. Therefore, the readers of the book are requested to offer their comments on views, if any, so that I may incorporate them as far as possible in the next edition.

There are some books on the subject. But I honestly feel that they did not do full justice to the subject nor had they clear conception of they were writing about.

This work is being dedicated to Hon'ble Shree Hiteswar Saikia, Chief Minister of Assam in admiration and affection.

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A CENTURY OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

Vol. I : ASSAM (1874—1980)

V. VENKATA RAO and NIRU HAZARIKA

The first volume of this series emphasizes Assam, which is dismembered into three states and two union territories just to satisfy the political aspirations of the tribals. Also the language issue in 1960 was a reason for the dismemberment of the state. Besides, the medium of instruction in 1970, which created bitterness between the Assamese and the Bengalis, the foreigners issue in 1979-80 and several other problems in Assam have been delineated in detail.

Vol. II : MEGHALAYA (1874-1983)

V. VENKATA RAO et al.

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The Beginning of Paramountcy, which is to be found in the treaty of Yandoboo, 1826 has been discussed in this volume. Later the author passes over to the Tribal system and the powers of the Chief, the development of the Legislative etc.

Vol. V : FREEDOM MOVEMENT

V. VENKATA RAO

The fifth volume in this series emphasizes the role of Assam for ushering in the independence of India and the contribution of this part of India in her freedom movement. It has discussed about the rise of the middle classes, their inclination to English education and the gradual growth of Swadeshi Movement.

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