

**THE  
CHAKMA  
REFUGEES  
IN  
TRIPURA**

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P.K. DEBBARMA  
SUDHIR JACOB GEORGE

## THE BOOK

This study 'The Chakma Refugees in Tripura' while analysing the concept and principles of migration provides a comprehensive account of the Chakmas during the pre and post partition era and also deals with the problems confronted by the Chakmas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts after the emergence of Bangladesh and the consequent compulsions which led to their entering the Indian State of Tripura as Refugees in 1986. The study also attempts a detailed analysis of the problems faced by the Chakmas as refugees in Tripura and the impact and the consequences of their continued presence on Tripura, the North-Eastern Region and India. It highlights the need and importance of finding an early and just solution to the Chakma problem, both in the interest of India and Bangladesh and above all the Chakmas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

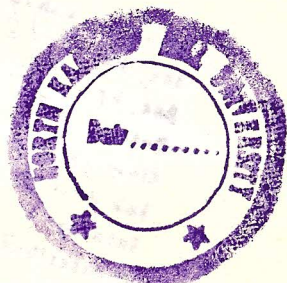
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# THE CHAKMA REFUGEES IN TRIPURA



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# Contents

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PREFACE	vii
1. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES OF MIGRATION	1
2. THE CHAKMAS: A BRIEF POLITICAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL HISTORY	19
3. CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS AND THE CHAKMAS	32
4. THE CHAKMA REFUGEES IN TRIPURA	53
5. CONCLUSION	83
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	96
INDEX	100

## Preface

This study while analysing the concept and principles of migration, provides a comprehensive account of the Chakmas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Besides detailing the ancient history of the Chakmas, it also gives an account of their life in the Chittagong Hill Tracts during the pre and post-partition era besides dealing with the problems confronted by them after the emergence of Bangladesh.

The Chakmas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts have been compelled—due to the policies being followed by the Bangladesh regime in the Hill Tracts—to move into the Indian State of Tripura in 1986, and have since then been residing in camps set up by the Tripura Government, as refugees. The study also attempts an analysis of the problems being faced by the Chakma Refugees and deals with the impact/consequences of their continued presence in Tripura, not only on the State but the North Eastern region and rest of our country.

The study is divided into five chapters. Chapter One analyses in deals with theoretical perspectives of migration. Chapter Two is a brief description of the socio-cultural history of the Chakmas. The Chakmas believe that they are descendants of Bijoygiri, the eldest son of the King of Champaknagar near Malacca. However, the common belief is that the Chakmas who are today scattered in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Tripura are Arakenese immigrants as would be evident by their

dialect which is an admixture of Tibeto-Burman group of languages.

As the present Chakma problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh has its historical trend, an analytical study of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Chakmas both during the pre and post-partition era as also the post-Bangladesh era has been attempted in Chapter Three. Chapter Four of the study analyses the factors leading to the Chakma exodus from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh into the North-East Indian State of Tripura and its consequences on the State and the North-Eastern region.

Chapter Five, which is the conclusion, summarizes the study undertaken in the preceding chapters and highlights the need to arrive at an early negotiated political settlement in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to facilitate the early repatriation of the Chakma refugees sheltered in the South District of Tripura since May 1986.

We wish to thank the authorities of the Refugee Camps in South Tripura and also the Chakma inmates and their leaders for all the assistance and cooperation during the course of the field study. Thanks are also due to the staff of the North-Eastern Hill University Library Shillong, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Regional Centre Shillong and the Department of Political Science, North-Eastern Hill University Shillong for all the assistance and cooperation during the course of this study.

Shillong/Hyderabad

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SUDHIR JACOB GEORGE

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