

**A  
POLITICAL  
HISTORY  
OF  
TRIPURA**

**J. GAN CHAUDHURI**

Tripura is an exotic geographical entity at the North Eastern tip of India. Having been ruled for centuries by native princes, it merged with the Union of India in 1949 and attained, in Jan. 1972, the status of a fullfledged State.

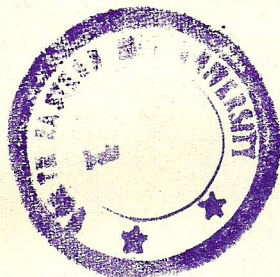
The present book is perhaps the first ever scholarly effort to highlight the major political turning events in the history of Tripura from its very beginning to the year 1985. The study is all the more significant as no Kalyan or Thucydides wrote the early history of Tripura. The treatise (Rājmālā), a voluminous chronicle compiled at the instance of the kings in fifteenth century, though a primary source, is incomplete, worn out, and contains a mass of unsystematic materials. The book contains nine chapters which would acquaint the readers with physical background of Tripura; its mythological rulers; immigration of Mongolian tribes from China and their settlements in North East and how the Tripuri tribe who settled in Tripura came to be known as Tripas and gave their name to the area and gradually extended their suzerainty and rose in prominence; intrusion of Muslims and their conflicts and wars for lands and elephants from 1240 to 1765 with the MANIKYA dynasty of Tripura and how the invaders influenced Tripura in several ways; period of peace under British rule and reforms of enlightened native princes till 1947; lastly growth of political consciousness among people, formation of political parties and election; exodus from East Bengal into Tripura and the resultant tribal reaction leading to the massacre of 1980 as well as trends towards independent tribal state.

Dr. Gan-Chaudhuri, a social anthropologist by training and vocation is particularly well qualified in making this study by his synthetic approach, a specialized work, comprehensible to scholars as well as general readers.

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# A Political History of Tripurā



Jagadis Gan-Chaudhuri



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Dedicated to my *Gurudeva*  
*Āchārya* Sudhir Ranjan Dās

## Preface

A *POLITICAL History of Tripurā* is a brief account of the major political events of Tripurā from its very beginning down to the bloody year of 1980. It hardly furnishes new information, but seeks to offer fresh interpretation to certain controversial cases. As such, it is not a mere résumé of the voluminous works on the history of Tripurā. It tries to focus on the significant turning-points of history. Political history being the central theme of the book, economic, cultural and social changes have been neglected here. But the political events of the neighbouring kingdoms of Āssām, Ārākān, Bengal, Cāchār, Coochbihār, Jaintiā and Manipur have been referred to, in so far as they have a bearing upon the history of Tripurā.

There is no intention here to claim that Tripurā is one of the oldest kingdoms of India, that she possesses a very glorious past, and that all of her kings were great heroes. There were both heroes and villains in the drama of Tripurā politics, past and present. Human greatness and weakness which have been shaping the course of history in all epochs and countries, have also determined the destiny of Tripurā from time to time.

I express my gratitude to the *Purva Suris*, who by recording the past events and incidents have greatly facilitated this work. Those few wise kings who were particularly careful to leave a written record of their dynasty and kingdom, rightly deserve an appreciation. I deeply acknowledge the debt I owe to Thakur Nagendra, Ch. Devvarman who very gladly showed me a rare document relating to the 1945 election to the Āgartāla Municipality. The officers and staff of the local Election Commissioner, particularly Shri Hiranmay Chakrabarti, Sri Mahananda Sarkar, Sri Pradyumna, Kumar Ray, Sri Sudhangsu Chaudhuri, Sri Chittaranjan Bhattacharya and Sri Ramani Dev have sincerely shown their useful co-operation and supplied the data of elections.

Many intricate issues of the Tripurā politics have been kindly explained from their respective angles by Sarva-Sri Ajay Dev-Verman, Aghor Dev-Varman, Amulya-Ratan Pal, Arbinda Chakrabarti, Bires Chakrabarti, Birban Vijay Majumdar, Brajes Chakrabarti, Buddha Dev-Varman, Chittaranjan Das, Debabrata Datta, Debabrata Kalai Singha, Dasarath Dev, Jhune Das Karunamay Nath Chaudhuri, Murari Mohan Saha, Nagen Das, Nrupendra Chakrabarti Parus Chakrabarti,

Rabindra Kumar Chakrabarti, Rabindra Kumar Ranghkhāl, Rajkumar Kamaljit Singha, Sacindralal Singha, Satyarangan Chakrabarti, Sukhamay Sengupta, Sunil Dasgupta, Syamacharan Tripurā and Tarit-mohan Das Gupta, I remain a Common 'Catch' to all of them.

*Āgartalā*  
*Guru Purnima*  
*2nd July, 1985*

J. GAN-CHAUDHURI

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