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RGF-NERC-ICSSR LECTURE SERIES-3

Nationhood and Statehood in India

A Historical Survey



B.N. Mukherjee

This volume is probably the first attempt to study in depth on the question of Nationhood and Statehood in India. It addresses three important themes, viz., Nationhood in the Indian Subcontinent, Statehood in Indian Subcontinent—The Background, and Statehood in the Indian Subcontinent—A Critical Survey of the Data. The author emphatically says, "A correct idea of the State is necessary for writing history. India is an ancient Country with an old nation by a young State."

Rs. 200/-

Professor B.N. Mukherjee, formerly the Carmichael Professor of Ancient Indian History and Culture of the University of Calcutta (1975–1999), is an internationally reputed Orientalist. He has made significant contributions in the fields of study of history and culture of early India, Indo-Iranian borderlands and Central Asia. Prof. Mukherjee has published forty-four research monographs (with three more in the press) and more than seven hundred research papers in journals in India and foreign Countries in Asia, Europe and America. The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (London) made him its Honorary Fellow in 1983. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquary (London), an Honorary Life Member of the Greek Numismatic Society (Athens), an Honorary Fellow of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (Dakha). In 1992 the President of India conferred on him the Padmasree Award for his “outstanding contribution to numismatic studies.”

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Foreword

The present study is based on the text of three lectures delivered by Professor Brattindra Nath Mukherjee at the North Eastern Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR-NERC) in October 2000. These lectures are sponsored by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi. Incidentally this is the third lecture series organised by the NERC-ICSSR under the rubric RGF-NERC-ICSSR Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lectures. We are thankful to Professor Mukherjee for kindly accepting our invitation to deliver these lectures.

Professor B.N. Mukherjee is a distinguished historian and held the position of Carmichael Professor of Ancient Indian History and Culture, Department of Ancient History and Culture; University of Calcutta during 1975–1999. Professor Mukherjee discussed the *Nationhood and Statehood in India: A Historical Survey* in three lectures namely: Nationhood in the Indian Subcontinent; Statehood in the Indian Subcontinent; and A Critical Survey of the Data. Needless to say that the lectures evoked tremendous interest among the scholars at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong where Professor Mukherjee delivered these lectures.

We hope that these lectures in published form will definitely attract the attention of a much wider section of students, scholars and the enlightened general public.

ICSSR-NERC
January 2001

Imdad Hussain
Honorary Director

Preface

In 1999 I was invited by Prof. J.P. Singh, the then Hony. Director of the North-Eastern Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, to deliver the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lectures for the year 2000. I gratefully accepted the invitation.

I chose **Nationhood and Statehood in India-A Historical Survey** as the subject of my lectures. I delivered three lectures in Shillong in October 2000. The topics of my lectures were "Nationhood in India", "Statehood in India-the Background" and "Statehood in India-A Critical Survey of the Data".

The present monograph represent these lectures. Here, however, the second and third lectures have been incorporated in one chapter (II). An epilogue (chapter III) has been added. Another relevant topic has been discussed in an appendix (I).

Full information on a book or an article has been furnished at the time of its first citation. So no separate bibliography appears in the present monograph. However, for the sake of convenience of the reader, a list of abbreviations has been included.

I am obliged to the authorities concerned (including Prof. I. Hussain, the present Hony. Director and Dr. C.J. Thomas, the Deputy Director of the Centre) for organising the lectures and for publishing the monograph.

Calcutta
1.12.2000

B.N. Mukherjee

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List of Abbreviations

- AHNE* Hall, H.R., *The Ancient History of the Near East*, 11th edition, London, 1950.
- CI* Mukherjee, B.N., *Concept of India*, Calcutta, 1998.
- Commentary* Mukherjee, B.N., *Commentary on the Political History of Ancient India*, by H.C. Raychaudhuri, 8th edition, New Delhi, 1996 (See also *PHAI* (8)).
- DC* Piggott, S. (editor), *Dawn of Civilization*, London, 1961.
- DS* Majumdar, R.C. (editor), *The Delhi Sultanate*, Bombay, 1960.
- EHSS* Shashi, S.S. (editor-in-chief), *Encyclopaedia of Humanities and Social Sciences*, vol. 43, New Delhi, 1992.
- ESS* Seligman, E.R.A. (editor-in-chief), *Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences*, vol. XIV, reprint, New York, 1957.
- FNIS* Mukherjee, B.N., *Foreign Names of the Indian Sub-continent*, Mysore, 1989.
- GPT* W. Ebenstein, *Great Political Thinkers—Plato to the Present*, 3rd edition, reprint, Calcutta, etc., 1969.
- HFMI* Majumdar, R.C., *History of the Freedom Movement in India*, vols. I–III, Calcutta, 1962–63.
- HHW* Roberts, J.M., *The Hutchinson History of the World*, London, 1976.
- HIOH* Elliot, H.M. and Dowson, J., *The History of India as Told by its Own Historians*, vols. I–VIII, reprint, Allahabad, 1964.
- HPT* Gettel, R.G., *History of Political Thought*, 15th Impression, London, 1951.
- PHAI(8)* Raychaudhuri, H.C., *Political History of Ancient India*, with a *Commentary* by Mukherjee, B.N., 8th edition, New Delhi, 1996.

- PP *Political Philosophers*, New York, 1947.
SI Kulke, H., (editor), *The State in India, 1000–1700*,
Delhi, 1997.

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