

# TRIBAL MOVEMENT : INTRODUCTION (Part-2)

M.A.(HISTORY) SEM-4 PAPER ELECTIVE COURSE(EC):1

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# INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ It was said that though these revolts were neither numerous nor gravely frequent, yet there was scarcely any major tribe in middle or eastern India which at some time in the last 150 years had not resorted to launching movements to register their protest and despair.
- ▶ Some studies on tribal movements have been conducted and reported in North-East and Central India. However, there were an insignificant number of movements or none at all among the tribals of the southern states.

# INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ This is so because the tribes down south are too primitive, too small in numbers, and too isolated in their habitat to organize movements, in spite of their exploitation and the resultant discontent . L.K. Mahapatra also has observed that we do not find any significant social, religious, status-mobility, or political movement among the numerically small and migratory tribes.

# INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ Many of the various tribal groups in India revolted against the forceful and devastating intrusions into their life and region by the British and other Indians. The tribals had been living peacefully and in harmony with nature for hundreds of years in their own forests. The British came and introduced many changes in their way of life and also introduced outsiders into their turf. This reduced them to the status of labourers and debtors from masters of their own land. The uprisings were basically against this unwelcome intrusion, and a fight for their independence.

# INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ The tribals of India, like other social groups, participated in the anti-colonial movement. The tribal anti-colonial movements were of two types -first, the movements against their oppressors i.e. landlords, money-lenders, traders, thekedars (contractors), government officials and Christian missionaries and second, the movements which were linked to and merged with the Indian National movement.

# INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ The first type of movements can be termed as anti-colonial because these movements were directed against those classes which were the creation of British colonialism and who collaborated with the tribals. These classes were considered outsiders by the tribals. According to an estimate there were more than 70 tribal revolts over a period of 70 years (1778 to 1948). These revolts were anti-colonial in varying degrees.

# INTRODUCTION (परिचय)

- ▶ The main anti-colonial tribal movements and revolts were: The tribal revolts in Chotanagpur region – Tamar revolt (1789-1832), Kherwar movement of Santhals (1833), Santhal revolt of 1855, Bokta risings, Sardari Larai or Mukti Larai movement of 1858-95, Birsa Munda's movement (1895-1901), Devi movement in Gujarat (1922-23), Tribal movement in Midnapur (1918-1924), Jitu Santhal's movement in Malda (1924-32), Tribals and National Movement in Orissa (1921-.36) and Tribal movements in Assam in the late nineteenth century.