

FOREWORD

The primary object of this book is to give a critical account of the role played by Rash Behari Bose and Jyotindra (generally known as Jatindra) Nath Mukherjee in the revolutionary movement in India. Both of them are justly regarded today as the two most outstanding leaders thrown up by the revolutionary movement in Bengal during its first phase in the first quarter of this century. Though the career of the second was cut short by his glorious death in a free fight with the British on the bank of the Buri-Balam, the other lived long enough (though outside India) to carry on his life's mission almost to a successful end.

In spite of the attempts in some quarters to minimise the role of the revolutionaries in the history of freedom movement in India, their countrymen are now becoming gradually conscious of the deep debt of gratitude they owe to these heroes for the achievement of Indian independence. This book is sure to contribute to the growth of this feeling by delineating, in a critical manner and with the help of a vast mass of fresh materials not hitherto available, the wonderful capacity for organisation and work of these two eminent revolutionary leaders who dedicated their lives to the liberation of their country. Written in a pleasant and lucid style, the book throughout maintains a thoroughly dispassionate and critical attitude.

The value of the book is greatly enhanced by a critical review, in broad outline, of the revolutionary movement for freedom of India in the twentieth century.

The writer is well-known for her valuable contributions on allied subject in numerous publications, and I have no doubt that the present work will not only sustain her reputation but enhance it in a great measure. I commend the book to everyone who cares to take any interest in the true history of the attainment of India's freedom.

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The book has grown out of my studies and investigations into what is known as India's Revolutionary Movement undertaken about two years ago with the award of a Senior Research Fellowship offered by the Universities Grants Commission of India.

It is, in the main, based on original sources and records, both official and non-official, Printed and MSS. So far as official sources are concerned, the Intelligence Branch Records of the Government of West Bengal and the Home (Political) Proceedings of the Government of India preserved in the National Archives have been substantially ransacked for the purpose. As regards non-official sources the private letters and writings of the former revolutionaries, both Printed and MSS, and the contemporary Indian newspapers and periodicals have been largely utilised for the work. On many a controversial issue, truth has been elicited both by correspondence and personal contact with a large number of former revolutionaries who are able to speak from direct knowledge about particular incidents in the larger revolutionary movement of the country. Instead of indicating the sources separately at the end of the book, references to them have been made in the foot-notes on each page at the appropriate point. Reader's convenience is the chief argument for this method.

In the preparation of the work I have received encouragement and help from a large number of scholars and patriots, both of this province and outside, to all of whom my sincere gratitude is due. In this connection special mention must, however, be made of the facilities of work given to me by Dr. P. C. Chakravarty, Head of the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, and by Dr. Triguna Sen, the former Vice-Chancellor of the Jadavpur University. I am also much indebted to Dr. Tara Chand, the eminent historian, for kindly granting me access to some of the rare and confidential files now in his custody, bearing on the subject of my research. To Dr. R. C.

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