

Orissa and the re-organisation of States

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ABSTRACT

This research paper will focus on the Reorganisation of State and Political development after 1956 in Orissa. The States Reorganisation Commission was set up in 1953 to examine issues of reorganisation. At that time the Oriya people prepared different memorandum, petitions and submitted to the State Reorganisation Commission for the amalgamation of their dismembered territories. But ultimately the report of State Reorganisation Commission which was published in 1955 frustrated the people of Orissa. One of the most important issues had been that of reorganising the states. During the British period, there were practically two Indias, one British India and the other Indian India. Indian India was ruled by the native princes, who were hundreds in number while British India was divided into administrative provinces which were done by the military, political or administrative exigencies or conveniences of the movement. Up to 1937, British India had a unitary government in which the centre was all important. Though the provinces were given the right to self-government under the Government of India Act, 1919 for finance they were dependent on the centre. Though the Government of India Act 1935 established the principle of federalism also known in British India as 'diarchy', but the outbreak of war centralized the administration.

Key Words : Orissa, Reorganisation of State, Singbhum, Seraikella and Kharsawan

On August 15, 1947, British India was granted independence as the separate dominions of India and Pakistan. An important change since 1947 has been integration of the princely states into India. 'The constitution of India which went into effect on January 26, 1950 made India a sovereign, democratic, republic and a union of states (replacing provinces) and territories. The states would have extensive autonomy and complete democracy in the union while the union territories would be administered by the government of India. The Constitution of 1950 distinguished between three types of states.¹

Part A states which were the former governors' provinces of British India were ruled by an elected governor and state legislature. The Part-A nine states were Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh (formerly central provinces and Berar), Madras, Orissa, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh (formerly United Provinces). The Eight Part-B states were former princely states or groups of princely states, governed by a 'rajpramukh', who was often a former prince, along with an elected legislature. The 'Rajpramukh' was appointed by the President of India. The Part B states were Hyderabad, Saurashtra, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU), and Rajasthan. The Part-C ten states included both the former chief commissioners' provinces and princely states, and were governed by a chief commissioner. The chief commissioner was appointed by the President of India. The Part C states included Delhi, Kutch,