Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar Lectures on Indian History

The first volume published in the series is by Professor Maheswar Neog, entitled *Socio-Political Events in Assam Leading to the Militancy of the Māyāmariyā Vaiṣṇavas*. Some reference will be found there to the homage that the CSSSC desires to pay to Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar, who represented a generation in Indian nationalism, which came from countryside grassroots, spoke in the language of endogenous folk values as well as urban interests, and disseminated their understanding of the patriotic alternatives to imperialism through tracts referring to the social network of Indian culture, prior to its disruption by colonialism.

In the present lectures delivered on 6th and 7th January 1982 Dr Sumit Sarkar, Professor of History, Delhi University, and Secretary of Indian History Congress, one of our eminent historians, has presented a fresh survey of a considerable body of recent research and literature on popular movements against colonialisat measures in the 19th and 20th century. He does this in the historiographical context of different viewpoints, now in vogue; and states a general outline of the trends of popular protest as well as of political outlook, which may be found in what were previously considered as a mass of scattered agitations, uprisings and insurgencies.

Professor Sarkar’s previous work on the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal is well known. In the present volume he has shifted his historical view from that of a case study to a longer range. His interpretation will no doubt continue the debate on the significance of protest and insurgency, on the one hand; and “middle class” or bourgeois attempts to organise and co-opt the political movements of peasants and workers, on the other. One hopes that this volume will reach the widest possible groups of students, as well as those who are interested in the general aspects of modern Indian history.

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