

# THE ESCALATION OF MOVEMENTS AND TURMOIL: PEASANT UPRISINGS IN INDIA 1910-1947 INFLUENCED BY THE *KISAN SABHA*

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## Abstract

Whenever a protest or uprising occurred, it could be said to be due to the limit of tolerance having been exceeded. Whether it was in Vietnam, as outlined by James Scott in *Moral Economy of the Peasant*, not just focusing on the oppression of land, but also the constant shortage of money for the peasants. Not only were they in need of more land and modern agricultural practices, but they also required more money in general, to pay the state sanctioned fees for celebrations and payments to church; Or if it was in Mexico and Bolivia, as presented to us by Gerrit Huizer and Rodolfo Stavenhagen, "*Peasant Movements and Land Reform in Latin America: Mexico and Bolivia*"; here the people were in need of their own rule, and new land reform policies to be introduced. These situations have all been brought on by constant oppression by the officials of the land, or by the Colonial Officials. In the same matter, Colonial India began to slowly come to its senses in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the first uprising began to occur in Bihar in the 1890's, Punjab in the 1920's, and Bengal in the 1930's. Although there have been many uprisings in various parts of the country, I will be focusing on three distinct geographical areas. For this argument, these three areas were the pinnacle of importance. The Province of Punjab<sup>1</sup> was at first, able to live with the terms set out by the Colonial rule, there were rebellions and revolts, but nothing significant, until the end, when major uprisings occurred against British Colonial rule, and the introduction of the India- Pakistan partition Plan, the Mountbatten Plan<sup>2</sup>.

**Keywords:** Peasants Protests, Colonial uprisings, Ideological movements.

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<sup>1</sup> I should clarify that at the Punjab that is spoken of in this essay is the Punjab as a whole, not the one that is now partitioned in Pakistan and India.

<sup>2</sup> Moraes, F.R. *Jawaharlal Nehru: A Biography*. New York: Macmillan, 1956. Pg181. & Chaudari, Nirad. *Thy hand, Great Anarch!: India 1921-1952*. London: Chatto&Windus(1987)pg. 819