

Left Mobilisation in Three Districts of West Bengal, 1947-1977 Nadia, Midnapore, Birbhum

Presented By: Anwasha Sengupta and Atig Ghosh

Discussant: Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya is Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya commenced the discussion with comments on the significance of pitching locality at the focal point of the papers. He then raised some important questions in the course of the discussion. Firstly, he probed into the notion of familiarity and its effects on the revolutionary movement. In specific, he enquired into the ideological pinning of the movement and how it plays against this notion of familiarity and also, familial relationships at times; he also raises the question of class and generation in this context. Next, he made enquiries into the city-town/village binary and urged the paper to probe deeper into this centre-periphery relationship which has always had a narrative of originating in the city and moving towards the village or town. With respect to mentions of harvesting festival by Anwasha, he raised the question of dilution or contamination of the movement and if it can be seen as a Brahminical trait in the revolutionary movement. Lastly, he pointed out that the whole perspective can be turned around and seen from the light of how a particular locality or settings can effect a movement.

Iman Mitra noted that in case of familiarity, the notion of memoirs play an important role. How then can such texts be read vis-à-vis governmental records which have a different narrative. Atig, while replying, mentions the difficulties of selection of governmental reports and records as texts since they are oftentimes a personal account. V. Ramaswamy, with respect to Anwasha's paper, observed the role of Manoranjan Byapari and his accounts of CPI's treatment of refugees in the camps. The next observation was regarding the role of *VisvaBharati* in Shantiniketan in the local movements and the silent relationship between the commoners and the academia. Atig responded that there have been people who have taken part in the left movements of the region. Prabhu Mahapatra, with reference to peasants' upsurge in France during the French Revolution, questions into the differences of class structure to explain the dynamics of the movement. The question was directed towards Atig who replies that the movements were different and in the case of *Naxalbari* movement, there was an element of excess.