

The background of the cover is a photograph of a dense forest. A spotted deer stands in the center of a dirt path, facing right. The forest is lush with green foliage and tall trees. The lighting is natural, suggesting a daytime scene.

**FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN SOUTH
ODISHA UNDER THE BRITISH RAJ
(A.D. 1858-1947): A STUDY**

Pramila Khadanga

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by

Pramila Khadanga

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This monograph is a part of the dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History, in the P.G. Department of History, Berhampur University, Berhampur – 760007, on the sixth of December 2019 under the guidance of following supervisor-

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SYNOPSIS

The very word 'administration' may be defined as the system of management of affairs of a state by the government machinery, whether that holds the de-facto or the de-jure power to govern over it. In the contemporary terms of modern history its meaning is more akin to a set of duly enacted 'law or statutes' and its execution by some 'officials' or by 'public institutions' upon which the power, authorities and responsibilities have been vested. Different factors of administration analysed through this study in historical perspective are: the authority to legislate, the subject matter of legislation, the extent of administration limiting or expanding the rights naturally enjoyed by the inhabitants. Not all of those legislations made during British Raj were drafted to serve commercial or revenue interest of the Colonial Government but quite a majority were made to brought orders in the system of management of the natural resources. The demand of timber for laying the rail-roads which claimed to be responsible for reduction of aged timbers was a sine-qua-non for bringing the society out of the darkness of history and may not be denigrated as manifestation of the vested interest of the Colonial Government for exploitation of its resources. South Odisha which comprises the undivided Gañjām and Korāput districts was then under the administrative control of the Madras Presidency. The policy of systematic forest conservation began very slowly in the region. Form 1850 onwards, some forest officers were employed under the Collector of Gañjām to exploit the forests for sleepers and firewood. In 1861 a 'forest tax' was introduced and forests were begun to work under the 'permit system'. Many forests were leased out to sleeper contractors who worked in an arbitrary manner. In 1879 the Conservator of Forests of Madras Presidency inspected the forests and classified them into four categories. After the passing of the Madras Forest Act 1882, it was implemented in the areas of south Odisha. As a conservation measure some areas were declared as reserved forest where the access of people to graze, cultivate or to fell trees was curtailed but their interests like collection of minor forest produces or the basic means of livelihood were often protected. Most of the unreserved forests were free from such encumbrances. Gradually the British became aware of the dangers associated with over exploitations of the forests, designed conservation measures. First of such measures was made in 1901 for 'fire protection' and the effort was later systematised in the form of 'Working Plans'.

After the creation of separate province of Odisha on the 1st day of April 1936 four divisions namely, Russelkondā, Chatrapur, Pāralākhemuṇḍi and Bālligudā were formed. Similarly, the forests of Korāput district which were once owned by the Mahārājā of Jeypore were brought under the ambits of the MFA, 1882. After independence, the Orissa Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1947 was extended to many of the ex-zāmindāri estates. Although the MFA was ultimately repealed by the Orissa Forest Act, 1972 it is witnessed to have borrowed most of the fundamental features of the MFA.

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7.2	Understanding the Forest Resources: An Aid to Policy Making on the Subject	Facets of Odishan History, Edited by Harihar Panda and Susanta Kumar Bag, ISBN: 9789391952006
7.3	Jayee Rajguru: A Conceptual Base of Guardianship of State Affairs	Saheed Jayee Rajguru, New Delhi, 2021
7.4	Jayee Rajguru-The Pioneer of Indian Freedom Struggle	Paik Rebellion – 1804 Jeyee Rajguru, The Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 2022.

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Abbreviations

AFO	Agency Forest Officer
BG	Broad Gauge
BOR	Board of Revenue
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
CESS	Centre for Economic and Social Studies
Cft.	Cubic feet
CIE	Companion of Indian Empire
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
Cm	Centimetre
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
DPF	Demarcated Protected Forests
DPW	Department of Public Works
EFP	Essential Forest Produce
EIC	East India Company
FECR	Forest Enquire Committee Report
FRI	Forest Research Institute
FSO	Forest Settlement Officer
FUO	Forest Utilization Officer
GND	Ghumsur North Division
GO	Government Order
GOI	Government of India
GSD	Ghumsur South Division
IESHR	Indian Economic and Social History Review
IF	Indian Forester
IFA	Indian Forest Act
IFR	International Forestry Review
IFS	Indian Forest Service
IG	Inspector General
IGF	Inspector-General of Forests
IPC	Indian Penal Code

ISO	Imperial Service Order
LSG	Local Self Government
MELA	Madras Estate Land Act
MFA	Madras Forest Act
MFP	Minor Forest Produce
MG	Meter Gauge
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
NTFP	Non- Timber Forest Product
OBE	Order of the British Empire
ODG	Orissa District Gazetteers
OFC	Orissa Forest Corporation
OHRJ	Orissa Historical Research Journal
OSA	Odisha State Archives
PA	Political Agent
PB	Periodic Block
PEAECR	Partially Excluded Area Enquiry Committee Report
PF	Protected Forests
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
PL	Protected Land
PWD	Public Works Department
RAAN	Regional Archives Accession Number
RCZG	Report of the Committee of Circuit on the <i>Zamindaries</i> and <i>Haveli</i> Lands Dependent in Ganjam
RF	Reserved Forest
RL	Reserved Land
RULNR	Research Unit for Livelihoods and National Resources
SFA	State Forest Act
Sq.	Square
TNSA	Tamil Nadu State Archives
VGR	Village Grazing Reserve
WC	Working Circle
WP	Working Plan
WPO	Working Plan Officer
WPR	Working Plan Report

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