

THE MPACT OF CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES ON THE
INHABITANTS OF DARJEELING AND SIKKIM
HIMALAYAS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

A
THESIS
SUBMITTED

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Himalayan orogen, one of the highest continental relief, experiences a significant E-W rainfall gradient, houses several erosional hotspots, bears potential to change the chemical and sedimentary architecture of oceans globally. The river systems that drain through these mountains respond to continental scale epirogenic forces and to global climatic forcing. (2005). During the last 20 ka the rivers in Himalaya and adjoining continents have witnessed significant climatic changes ranging from widespread glaciation during the ~21-18 ka and followed by significant retreat and strengthened monsoon. This led to major shift in the hydrological regime of the rivers draining the Himalayas. Connected Histories of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and the Himalayas. British India's imperial projects took a "Tibetan turn" in the hill-stations of Darjeeling and Kalimpong in the late nineteenth century. on the entire region of eastern Himalayas and sub-Himalayan Bengal. Post colonial historians commented on this very nature of colonial historiography, where Europe remains as the sovereign, theoretical subject of all histories. Consequently, "Indian history" attains a subaltern status, by virtue of it and Europe acts as a silent referent in historical knowledge in the process of categorizing other's history as non-Western or third-world history. Post-independent Darjeeling witnessed a large volume of local writings on social and political issues. Darjeeling and collection of data was also done from the recorded data of District Hospital, Darjeeling and Primary Health care units in Darjeeling rural areas. Similarly collection of Blood group data was collected from Sub-Divisional Hospital, Kurseong and from the Blood donation camps organized by Red Cross Society, Kurseong. Newar (Pradhans) Newa or Nepami, are the historical inhabitants of the Kathmandu Valley and its surrounding areas in Nepal and the creators of its historic heritage and civilisation. (von Furer-Haimendorf, Christoph., 1956). Newars form a linguistic and cultural community of primarily Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman ethnicities following Hinduism and Buddhism with Nepal Bhasa as their common language. Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya, with their sublime snowy ranges and the tabulous Kanchenjunga, have no parallel in their physical charm and the mountaineering challenges it offer. Explorer and writer K.C. Bhanja has depicted the land and the people, the legends and expeditions, the religions and rituals of the region in authentic colours. He has delved deep into the mystique of the Himalayas, bringing out yet unknown historical facts and figures, including the expeditions by brave men who came here for the love of adventure and opened the virgin territory for others to see and enjoy. The mountains and lakes, streams and rivers, glaciers and avalanches, fauna and flora, monasteries and lamas, yaks and yatis come alive in his description. Detailed analysis of intensity for ten damaging historical earthquakes in the central arcuate belt between the Himachal and Darjeeling Himalayas was carried out in the backdrop of isoseismal eccentricity, source depth and Indian plate obliquity. Results indicate that the elongated axes of the isoseismals and strike of ruptures for shallow earthquakes are almost parallel with strike of the Himalayan arc, and clearly conformable with the obliquity. An empirical power law relationship between eccentricity and focal depth established under the present study illustrates that the deeper events are m