



Minorities and the State: Changing Social and Political Landscape of Bengal

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Minorities and the State discusses the plight of two numerically significant religious minority groups: Hindus in Bangladesh and Muslims in West Bengal, India.

The political vicissitudes in India and Bangladesh have stirred up questions relating to citizenship, nationality, and identity. In this volume, academics from India, Bangladesh, and Japan examine the formation of minority identity at the time of partition of India in 1947 and in subsequent decades. The articles emphasize the crises and coping strategies, migration, and state- and local-level politics affecting minorities.

By utilizing data from varied sources like field work, archival research, and secondary sources, this volume explores deprivation and different dimensions of minority life from political, economic, civil society, gender, and literary perspectives.

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Review

It stands out in this collection for the rigor of its research and the passionate clarity of its argument...these essays brings a new angle of vision to the debate about minority rights...the editors are to be congratulated for bringing together scholars who work on both Bengals in one of the first 'transnational' studies of South Asian minorities.

(Contribution to Indian Sociology, *Volume 50 (Issue 2)*, June 2016)

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About the Author

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Masahiko Togawa is Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Hiroshima University, Japan. He has written several books and papers on religion and society in West Bengal and Bangladesh. He is the author of *An Abode of the Goddess: Kingship, Caste, and Sacrificial Organization in a Bengal Village*; *Syukyoku ni Kousuru Seija* (The Saint who resists Religion, in Japanese); *Syncretism Revisited: Hindus and Muslims over a Sainly Cult in Bengal* (Numen); *Women within the Hierarchy* (Journal of the Japanese Association for South Asian Studies), and co-editor of *Gram Bangla: Itihas, Samaji o Artniti* (in Bengali). He is a member of the executive board of the Japanese Association for South Asian Studies (JASAS).

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Economy of Vested Property Act in Rural Bangladesh. Besides, he has written extensively in Bengali on economic and political issues. He is the elected President (2010 11) of Bangladesh Economic Association.

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