



POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE ANDAMANS: A BIOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a biographical analysis of political prisoners in the Andaman Islands. The Andaman Islands, located in the Bay of Bengal, served as a significant site for the incarceration of political prisoners during various periods of colonial and post-colonial history. Through a comprehensive examination of the life stories and experiences of these prisoners, this study aims to shed light on their motivations, ideologies, and the impact of their imprisonment on their lives. The analysis draws on historical records, memoirs, and interviews to construct a detailed narrative of the political prisoners in the Andamans. The findings provide insights into the diverse backgrounds, political affiliations, and struggles endured by these individuals, contributing to a deeper understanding of the history of political dissent and resistance in the Andaman Islands.

KEYWORDS

Political prisoners, Andaman Islands, biographical analysis, colonial history, post-colonial history, motivations, ideologies, imprisonment, political dissent, resistance.

INTRODUCTION

The Andaman Islands, situated in the Bay of Bengal, have a significant historical association with the imprisonment of political dissidents and activists during various periods of colonial and

post-colonial rule. The incarceration of political prisoners in the Andamans played a crucial role in the suppression of dissent, the consolidation of colonial power, and the struggle for



independence. However, the biographical details and experiences of these prisoners have often remained unexplored or underrepresented in historical narratives. This article aims to address this gap by conducting a comprehensive biographical analysis of political prisoners in the Andaman Islands. By examining their life stories and experiences, this study seeks to provide insights into their motivations, ideologies, and the impact of imprisonment on their lives. Understanding the individual narratives of political prisoners is essential for a nuanced understanding of the history of political dissent and resistance in the Andaman Islands.

METHOD

This biographical analysis relies on a multi-faceted approach to collect and analyze data related to political prisoners in the Andamans. The study draws upon a diverse range of primary and secondary sources, including historical records, government documents, memoirs, letters, and interviews with former prisoners and their families. These sources provide rich and firsthand information about the lives and experiences of political prisoners.

The research process involves an extensive review and analysis of relevant historical records, which may include prison registers, official correspondence, and court documents. These sources offer valuable insights into the political affiliations, activities, and charges against the prisoners. Additionally, memoirs and personal accounts written by former prisoners provide a unique perspective on their motivations, ideologies, and the challenges they faced during their incarceration.

To complement the archival research, interviews are conducted with former prisoners or their surviving family members. These interviews provide a personal and intimate understanding of the prisoners' lives, shedding light on their motivations, experiences, and the long-term effects of their imprisonment. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent and confidentiality, are strictly adhered to during the interview process.

The collected data, both from archival sources and interviews, are systematically organized and analyzed. Themes and patterns related to the prisoners' backgrounds, political affiliations, motivations, and the impact of imprisonment on their lives are identified and examined. The



analysis aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the biographies of political prisoners in the Andamans, capturing the diversity and complexity of their experiences.

The limitations of the study include the availability and accessibility of historical records and the potential biases in memoirs and interviews. However, efforts are made to triangulate information from multiple sources to ensure reliability and accuracy in the biographical analysis.

RESULTS

The biographical analysis of political prisoners in the Andaman Islands revealed a diverse range of individuals with varying backgrounds, motivations, and ideologies. The study identified several key findings:

Backgrounds and Political Affiliations:

The political prisoners in the Andamans came from diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds. They represented various political ideologies, including nationalists, revolutionaries, freedom fighters, and activists advocating for social and political change. Their motivations for dissent and resistance stemmed from their commitment to ideals such as independence, equality, and justice.

Imprisonment and Struggles:

The prisoners endured significant hardships during their incarceration in the Andaman Islands. They faced brutal conditions, including forced labor, physical abuse, isolation, and limited access to basic necessities. Despite these challenges, many prisoners exhibited remarkable resilience, fostering a sense of camaraderie and engaging in acts of resistance within the confines of the prison walls.

Impact of Imprisonment:

The imprisonment experience had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of the political prisoners. Many suffered physical and psychological trauma, which affected their health and well-being even after their release. The experience also shaped their future trajectories, as some prisoners emerged as influential leaders and continued to play prominent roles in political and social movements.

DISCUSSION

The biographical analysis offers valuable insights into the history of political dissent and resistance in the Andaman Islands. The diversity of the political prisoners' backgrounds and ideologies underscores the complex nature of the struggle



for independence and political rights. The study highlights the significance of individual narratives in understanding the larger context of political movements and their impact on society.

The findings also shed light on the oppressive tactics employed by the colonial authorities to suppress dissent and maintain control. The brutal conditions faced by the prisoners serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by individuals in the pursuit of political freedom and social justice.

Furthermore, the study reveals the resilience and determination of the political prisoners in the face of adversity. Their acts of resistance, solidarity, and perseverance within the prison walls demonstrate the indomitable spirit of those fighting for their ideals.

CONCLUSION

The biographical analysis of political prisoners in the Andaman Islands provides a deeper understanding of their motivations, experiences, and the long-lasting effects of their imprisonment. The study emphasizes the importance of recognizing and honoring the contributions and sacrifices of these individuals in the struggle for political rights and freedom.

The findings of this analysis contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the history of political dissent and resistance in the Andaman Islands. The individual narratives of the political prisoners highlight the diversity and complexity of their experiences and provide valuable insights into the broader socio-political landscape of the time.

This study serves as a reminder of the resilience, courage, and sacrifices made by political prisoners in their pursuit of a just and equitable society. It also underscores the importance of preserving and documenting these stories for future generations, ensuring that their contributions are not forgotten.

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