

## **'The Marathas in Orissa, 1751- 1803'**

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The current research project entitled 'The Marathas in Orissa, 1751- 1803,' has conceived Maratha history in the eighteenth century in terms of two dimensions. First, there is kind of Maratha history of the eighteenth century which evolved in the territories called *swaraj* or the Deccan. The other is the kind of history, which evolved outside this territory. The history of the Marathas that evolved outside seems to have been considerably determined through a series of interactions with factors and forces specific to the regions or 'locales' where the Marathas extended their activities. This requires specific research attention. Such a study necessarily is based upon local sources or data and is expected to answer questions related to the nature of the Maratha rule in a region or 'locale', the issues they addressed and the types and nature of the local realities ('factors' and 'forces') they confronted and the way the local realities bore upon the Maratha rule. This may be seen as study of Maratha history from 'below' or from periphery.

The present research project identifies Orissa as a region for the purpose of this study from 1751 to 1803. The objective of the project is to examine the local aspects of the Maratha polity of the eighteenth century (in Orissa) through archival and non-archival sources. Whereas primary local sources have been used, most of which are archival, a great deal of emphasis has been laid, in this project, upon data collected from fieldwork and the literary sources as for example, Badgena's or Fakir Mohan Senapati's works. Works conducted so far and the kinds of data consulted have strengthened the initial assumption about the local dimension (history) of the Maratha polity of the eighteenth century and that such local sources and data, if used carefully, are capable of answering more intricate questions than are possible otherwise.