

Acknowledgements

This collection of essays was made possible by the wonderful, multidisciplinary education in history and literature which I received at the University of Chicago. It is a pleasure to thank my living teachers, Herman Sinaiko, Ronald B. Inden, Ralph W. Nicholas, and Clint Seely, and to remember and acknowledge my debts to those who have died before I could finish this book, Karl Weintraub, Bernard S. Cohn and Edward C. Dimock, Jr.

I am especially grateful for the friendship of two people whom I have known for many years. My wife Jayme knows how to give me encouragement and support (and distraction) when I most need them. Aditi Nath Sarkar has been a colleague, editor, and critic since graduate school, and without him these essays would not have been the same. I dedicate this book to them both.

I want to thank several other friends and colleagues whose help has been important to me in deciding on a plan for research, especially in the period before

and just after I found an academic position: Michael Fisher, Geraldine Forbes, Frank Conlon, and Tirthankar and Mandakranta Bose.

I also want to thank colleagues and friends in Kolkata and Dhaka who have provided advice, guidance, food, criticism, and splendid gifts of conversation over the years, who also have helped me formulate my subjects, find sources, and interact with their colleagues, and who have saved me from some mistakes and helped me recover from many more: Tarun Mitra, Benoy and Tripti Chaudhuri, Rakhahari and Bandana Chatterjee, Gautam Bhadra, Lakshmi Subrahmanian, and Tapati Guha-Thakurta in Kolkata, and in Dhaka Anisuzzaman, Perween Hasan and Kazi Zaheduddin. I also owe a special debt for both the hospitality and the careful scholarship of Mahit Ray of Krsnanagar, Nadiya.

At the Department of Liberal Studies of Western Washington University, I have been given consistent support to do multidisciplinary scholarship and to teach multidisciplinary courses; I would like to thank my Chairs, Bill Stoeber and Rob

Stoops, and Rodney Payton, Andrea Gogrof-Vorheese and my other colleagues in the department, and my students.

I owe a special debt to editors of volumes in which two of these essays appeared in earlier versions, Rahul Peter Das, and Stewart Gordon, who have helped me to formulate problems, pointed me towards a wider range of scholarship than I otherwise might have found, and saved me from many errors. In the separate acknowledgments for each essay I also thank colleagues who invited me to participate in panels at which I gave earlier versions of these essays, and people who gave them the benefit of careful readings; among them all I would like to thank especially Peter, Mike and Stu (again), Indira Peterson, Kumkum Chatterjee, Catherine Asher, Rachel McDermott, Nita Kumar, and anonymous reviewers for *Modern Asian Studies* and *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*.

I am grateful for permission to use and to copy material from the following institutions: the West Bengal State Archives, The Asiatic Society, the National Library, and the Bangiya Sahitya Parisat in Kolkata, the National Library and

Archive of Bangladesh, and the Manuscript Collection of the Dhaka University Library in Dhaka, and the British Museum. I am grateful for a grant from the American Institute of Indian Studies which allowed me to begin this research in 1982-83, and to the Bureau for Faculty Research of Western Washington University for grants for travel to India and Bangladesh.

. Finally, I am grateful for permission to reprint five of the seven essays of this volume, and I would like to thank my publisher, Alope Roy-Chaudhuri and Chronicle Books for accepting this project and for their patience and careful assistance. I have taken this occasion to correct mistakes, update references, and clarify some arguments. One previously published essay has been substantially revised. Responsibility for the mistakes which remain of course is mine.