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## The kuki Revolt of 1860 -61 in Tripura

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### Abstract

Among the nineteen different tribes, the Tripuris are the largest tribe in Tripura in terms of numbers. According to Suniti Kumar Chatterjee 'Tripuris belong to the Bodo clan of Indo-Mongolian population. The Bodoras were spread throughout the Brahmaputra valley and formed strong organizations in North Bengal and East Bengal and spread throughout North East India. The Bodedas are the most important Indo-Mongol population in eastern India and the mainstay of the current population of these regions. Tripuris are divided into two groups - Old Tripuri and Desi Tripuri. The Purana Tripuris claim that they are the original inhabitants of Tripura and that the Kshatriya warriors are their ancestors. Purana Tripuri along with Devavarman are numerically superior to other tribes. Desi Tripuris originated from a mixture of Bengalis and Tripuris. Tripuris have their own dialect. This dialect, called Kok Barok, is part of the Bodo group of the Assamese Burmese branch of the Tibeto Burmese language family. It is the mother tongue of most of the tribes. Mother tongue of most of them. It has no written form.

**Keywords :** kuki Revolt, British soldiers, Led by Ratan Pooya, Hill Tribes, British Government

### 1.1 Introduction

There were nineteen tribal groups in Tripura. From the very beginning, the people of Tripura have lived to meet the socio-political needs of the rulers of Tripura. Not only that, they are also fighting for their rights. But the oppressive rulers in the state did not respect their hopes and demands. These reasons are different. The event created discontent among the various tribes and as a result there have been repeated riots and rebellions in the history of Tripura. People are forced to protest against their rulers to fulfill their demands. In the history of Tripura there have been many revolutions and rebellions and tribal leaders have helped the common people to meet their needs. These rebellions also originated in places where british influence was not effective and the places belonged directly to the monarchy. The areas with the most unrest and conflict are Sylhet, Chittagong, Kumulla, Cachar and Karimganj, Chakla Roshanbad. Many tribes rebelled against the rulers of Tripura such as the Kukis in 1860 and the Jamatiars in 1863. History has also witnessed various movements. For example, Swadeshi Movement of 1905 AD.

## **1.2 Kuki Rebellion (1860-61 AD)**

During the last few years of the reign of Ishanchandra Manikya, there was terrible disorder in the state of Tripura. The financial condition of Tripura state was deplorable. In this financial crisis it was not possible for Tripura to maintain adequate number of troops. As there is no designated prince, there are many conspiracies going on within the royal family regarding the succession to the throne. At that time Ishanchandra Manikya's guru was conducting the actual administration of the state Bipinbehari Goswami. By efficiently managing the revenue department, he was able to free the king from financial crisis. This increased his influence over the king. The king became completely dependent on him for the governance of the state. Guru Vipinbehari Goswami's strict rule led many of the royal family to be angry with him and began fueling the rebellion in the deep forests in various ways, claiming from their own property.

### **1.3 Increase in the tax burden of the hill tribes Riyadh's help in the attack of the Kukis**

During this period the tax burden of the hill tribes increased considerably. Apart from the increase in house contract tax, there was also a dry increase on bamboo, rubber, sesame and carpus. As a result, the people of the rear community suffered the most, because of their extravagance, they did not have financial solvency. On top of that, their house tax rates were higher than other communities. For this reason, they did not get any remedy despite repeated appeals. Many of them were forced to take loans from moneylenders. Crop production in the hilly areas was disrupted due to continuous years of no rain. As a result, the debt burden from moneylenders also increased. As the moneylenders demanded repayment, the Riang subjects became fed up and helped the Kukis attack.

### **1.4 Ratan Pooya led the Kuki attack**

When some men of the Tripura king raided the Dupamuha community for the purpose of collecting slaves, protests broke out among the Kukis of the community. This protest was exploited by some members of the Tagore class of the royal family of Tripura who were hiding among the kukis. They took this opportunity to incite the Kukis to attack and disrupt the Tripura kingdom to serve their own interests. In this attack by the Kukis, a large number of Karvara-afflicted subjects of Tripura State aided and joined them in the plundering.

About 400 to 500 Kukis entered Khandal Pargana under the leadership of Ratan Pooya after rampant plundering of Tripura and its surrounding areas. They destroyed 15 villages belonging to Chagal Naiya police station, killed 185 people and took 100 prisoners. Although all these villages belonged to British territory, most of them belonged to Tripura Raj's zamindari. At that time a brave man named Gunagazi collected a number of guns and men and stopped the progress of the Kukis. Meanwhile, the Tripura District Magistrate sent armed police after receiving the information about the attack. But before they arrive, the cookies escape into deep water. The Kukis looted gold, silver and iron from the villages.

### **1.5 Various forces induce attacks on Kukies**

In order to discredit the Raja of Tripura to the British authorities, the Kukis and their allies, the Riangs, did not confine their attacks to the state of Tripura and invaded British territory. The opponents of the King of Tripura lured the Kukis to cross the Tripura state and attack the zamindari of the British territory of Tripura state. Moreover, the Kukis were instigated by the indebted Riangtrai to attack the moneylenders of Khandal.

### **1.6 Punishment of Kuki Sardar by British soldiers**

After these attacks, the British government appointed a superintendent for the hill region, whose main task was to help the British military by providing detailed information about these attacks. In January 1861 AD, a group of British soldiers led by Captain Raban raided the village of Ratan Pooya, a dangerous chieftain, to punish him. However, instead of fighting them head-on, the people burnt down their villages and took shelter in the deep forest. While Captain Ravan was busy raiding Kuki villages, a group of Kukis

attacked Udaipur. They destroyed a large market at Chandrapur near Udaipur and burnt three villages. One and a half hundred men were killed and two hundred captured in their attack. The so-called monarchy of Tripura is secretly a number of ryat subjects Participated in looting and was involved in murder. On receiving the news of this incident, the king of Tripura sent a group of soldiers from Agartala to Udaipur. A group of British troops also entered Tripura state from Tripura district. Departs for Udaipur. Some Kukis were killed in a skirmish by British forces with the fugitives. The rest took shelter in the deep forest. 1860 AD Ishanchandra Manikya's rebel brother Nilakrishna Tagore, Krishnachandra Tagore and others were arrested by the British authorities on suspicion of involvement in the Kuki attack, but were eventually released due to lack of sufficient evidence. 1861 AD Some people were arrested in Comilla on suspicion of involvement in the Udaipur incident, but they were also released as the Tripura government did not cooperate with the British government in this regard.

### **1.7 The British government concluded an agreement with Ratan Puia to pacify the Kukis**

The British government was very upset with the King of Tripura for the above incident. The incompetence of his rule only increased these nuisances and the absence of adequate border guards allowed the Kukis to cross the borders of the Tripura state and enter British territory. It was also rumored that if such incidents continued, the British authorities would be forced to make Hill Tripura a part of the British Empire. The Tripura government cooperated with the British government in securing the borders of the British territory and Tripura state. For this purpose, the British authorities appointed Captain Graham as the superintendent for the hill region in 1861 AD. Sent to Agartala in the first week of August. Captain Graham met the Raja of Tripura at Agartala to discuss border protection and arranged for the Raja of Tripura to meet the Commissioner at Comilla. give The Raja of Tripura agreed to adopt certain measures directed by the British authorities in regard to border security. In addition to this system, in order to keep the cookies quiet, the Superintendent of Chittagong Hill Tracts in 1862 AD. Kuki strikes a deal with Sardar Ratan Pooiya. According to this agreement, it was decided that the British Government would pay Ratan Puiya an annual reward of four hundred rupees for maintaining peace in the Frontier Province. Agreements were also made with the chieftains of Howlang and Silo through Ratan Pooiya, and it was decided that each of them would be paid Rs.800 as a punishment reward. As a result of adopting these measures, the northern part of the British territory was somewhat secure, but there was no significant change in the internal conditions of Tripura.

### **1.8 conclusion**

It would be wrong to call the Kuki invasion of 1860-61 AD a mere invasion. The raids involved the moneylender-indebted ryot subjects of Tripura and a class of subjects of the tax-burdened Tripura state who urged the Kukis to invade Tripura. Also, some disgruntled members of the royal family were involved in this incident. Their combined operations transformed the Kuki invasion into a public revolt. As the motive behind the Kukis' attack was plunder, they led by Ratan Puia, carried on unbridled plunder of Tripura and its neighboring regions, entered the Khandal Pargana and destroyed 15 villages, killed 185 people and took 100 prisoners. But as the tax burden on the hill tribes increased, the Rieng community suffered the most and the moneylenders were fed up with the pressure to pay off their debts, they helped the Kukis to attack. The combined efforts of all of them turned this cookie attack into a public revolt. Therefore, it is appropriate to call it a rebellion of the people instead of a mere robber king.

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