New Histories of the Andaman Islands

This innovative, multidisciplinary exploration of the unique history of the Andaman Islands as a hunter-gatherer society, colonial penal colony and state-engineered space of settlement and development ranges across the theoretical, conceptual and thematic concerns of history, anthropology and historical geography. Covering the entire period of post-settlement Andaman history, from the first (failed) British occupation of the Islands in the 1790s up to the year 2012, the authors examine imperial histories of expansion and colonization, decolonization, anti-colonialism and nationalism, Japanese occupation, Independence and Partition, migration, commemoration and contemporary issues of Indigenous welfare. New Histories of the Andaman Islands offers a new way of thinking about the history of South Asia, and will be thought-provoking reading for scholars of settler colonial societies in other contexts, as well as those engaged in studies of nationalism and post-colonial state formation, ecology, visual cultures and the politics of representation.

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New Histories of the Andaman Islands

*Landscape, Place and Identity in the Bay of Bengal, 1790–2012*

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Abbreviations

Archives
A&N Archives Andaman and Nicobar Administration Archives, Secretariat Complex, Port Blair
J&R Judicial and Revenue
CJML Cellular Jail Museum Library, Port Blair
CSAS Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge
IJC India Judicial Consultations
IOR India Office Collections, British Library
NAI National Archives of India, New Delhi
MLPC Personal Collection of Mukeshwar Lal
PCKW Personal Collection of Keith Wilson
RGS Royal Geographical Society
TNA The National Archives, Kew
V&A Victoria & Albert Museum

Abbreviations
AIA Andaman Indian Association
AA Andamanian Association
AAJVS Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti
IIL Indian Independence League
INA Indian National Army
JTR Jarawa Tribal Reserve
LBA Local Born Association
OBC Other Backward Castes
Glossary

allamey  
heat inducing red clay (Jarawa)

als  
narrow pathways along rice fields

atma  
spirits

Azad Hind  
Free India

Azad Hind Fauj  
The Indian National Army founded by Subhas Chandra Bose

balidan kar na  
to make a sacrifice

balidan vedi  
sacrificial altar

bash  
home/abode

bhakt  
devotee

bhakti  
devotion, faith

bhakti-r pukur  
pools of faith

bal jar, bou tar  
the assertion that ‘whoever had the strength to take a wife by force could do so’

Bharat  
India

bone  
light (Jarawa)

boneye  
illumination (Jarawa)

chaddha  
shelter or a place to reside (Jarawa)

charpoy  
bed

Dalit  
literally meaning ‘oppressed’, a self-ascribed political name embraced by communities considered ‘untouchables’ within the Hindu caste structure

desh  
land, country, native village, etc.

dhobi  
washerman, often a caste or occupational group in Indian society

durbar  
court

Dvadosh Ajna  
Twelve Commands

edang  
amulet (Jarawa)

enen  
outsiders (Jarawa)

Hamari Awaz  
Our Voice
haathe kaam, a lifelong commitment to work and devotion to
mukhe naam the name of Hari or God
Harinam the name of the Lord
heyolo forest (Jarawa)
Harimandir the temple of the Lord
inaka middle-of-nowhere (Japanese)
Isai Sena local name for Salvation Army
Jai Hind Victory to India! A salutation
jaydaad inherited property
junglee literally forest dweller but also connotes savage or uncivilized
kaidi prisoners
kala pani black waters (Andamans as a place for shameful banishment)
khadee/khari mangrove creek
khataknak zindagi dangerous life
khilafat literally from ‘khilaf’ (to rebel or go against) but also refers to the Khilafat Movement in India in the early twentieth century, where Indian nationalists expressed solidarity with the movement for the restoration of the sovereign rights of the Islamic caliphate following the defeat of Ottoman Turkey in World War I
kirtans devotional chants or songs sung by a group of believers
kisans peasants
kul lineage
kuchcha raw or mud-built when referring to houses
kuwey wild bore/pig (Jarawa)
Lok Sabha the lower House of the Indian Parliament
maati soil
machan scaffolding/platform
malik kashtkar compound of two terms: ‘malik’, meaning owner or proprietor, and ‘kashtkar’, meaning tenant, thus referring to tenant proprietors.
mandir temple
Mariamman local mother goddess bearing semblance with the more widely worshipped goddess Durga
Matuas an anti-caste Hindu sect founded in East Bengal in the late nineteenth century committed to values of egalitarianism, community solidarity and devotion
### Glossary

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matua Mahasangha</td>
<td>the Matua great congregation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazar</td>
<td>commemorative site associated with a holy Muslim individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mehtars</td>
<td>sweepers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messcott</td>
<td>from the English word ‘mess’ and ‘kot’ (house): mess house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mitti</td>
<td>soil/clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukti Fauj</td>
<td>another local name for the Salvation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukti Tirtha</td>
<td>pilgrimage of salvation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muluk</td>
<td>native land, village, country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paddas</td>
<td>neighbourhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palan poshan</td>
<td>nurturing and upbringing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>panchayats</td>
<td>local assemblies or councils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paramananda</td>
<td>eternal bliss, God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patwari</td>
<td>local rural land record holder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peti afsar</td>
<td>petty officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poribaar</td>
<td>family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pradhan</td>
<td>local village headman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pranam</td>
<td>salutations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>punya bhoomi</td>
<td>sacred land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pukka</td>
<td>brick built</td>
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<tr>
<td>purdah</td>
<td>veil/curtain</td>
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<tr>
<td>rashan</td>
<td>ration</td>
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<tr>
<td>ruuh</td>
<td>soul/sprit</td>
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<td>Shaheed Dweep</td>
<td>Martyr Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>sahitya</td>
<td>literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>sanskriti</td>
<td>culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>samaj</td>
<td>society</td>
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<tr>
<td>sanads</td>
<td>deeds of occupancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>sepoys</td>
<td>soldiers</td>
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<tr>
<td>shikar</td>
<td>hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shinbun</td>
<td>newspaper (Japanese)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaraj Dweep</td>
<td>Self-ruled Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sher sahib</td>
<td>derived from ‘tiger’ (sher), to mean European overseer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sikāman</td>
<td>sick man or convict in hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talabdar</td>
<td>orderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tapu</td>
<td>island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tehsil</td>
<td>local administrative unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tikatliv</td>
<td>ticket-of-leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>tikatwallah</td>
<td>self-supporter</td>
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<td>Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>uppa chaddha</td>
<td>invisible space where dead and spirits live</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Jarawa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>utsav</td>
<td>celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vigrahas</td>
<td>religious icon</td>
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<tr>
<td>waye-dama</td>
<td>light/heat (Jarawa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>wilpo</td>
<td>thatch/shelter (Jarawa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zameen</td>
<td>ground/land</td>
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<tr>
<td>zamindar</td>
<td>landlord</td>
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