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Abhijit Gupta

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THE SPREAD OF PRINT IN COLONIAL INDIA

Into the Hinterland

Abhijit Gupta

Jadavpur University



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Abhijit Gupta

Jadavpur University

Author for correspondence: Abhijit Gupta, abhijit.gupta@jadavpuruniversity.in

ABSTRACT: This study focuses on the spread of print in colonial India towards the middle and end of the nineteenth century. Till the first half of the century, much of the print production in the subcontinent emanated from Presidency cities such as Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, along with centres of missionary production such as Serampore. But with the growing socialization of print and the entry of local entrepreneurs into the field, print began to spread from the metropole to the provinces, from large cities to mofussil towns. This Element will look at this phenomenon in eastern India, and survey how printing spread from Calcutta to centres such as Hooghly-Chinsurah, Murshidabad, Burdwan, Rungpore, etc. The study will particularly consider the rise of periodicals and newspapers in the mofussil, and assess their contribution to a nascent public sphere.

KEYWORDS: printing networks, newspapers, colonial Bengal, Bengali literature, provincial printing

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