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The Bengal Renaissance: Identity and Creativity from Rammohun Roy to Rabindranath Tagore

By Subrata Dasgupta

Permanent Black, New Delhi, India, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Scholars have long debated the very idea of a Bengal Renaissance. Their controversies have dwelt almost entirely over whether there was anything like a renaissance at all, and its significance or otherwise from social, political, and cultural perspectives. This book addresses the issue from a very different framework. Subrata Dasgupta an eminent scientist and author of a highly regarded intellectual biography of the scientist Jagadis Chandra Bose approaches the topic from the perspective of philosophy of science and the psychology of creativity. His intention is to show that the phenomenon of the Bengal Renaissance is characterized by a certain collective cognitive identity, which had its roots in the work of the British Orientalists, beginning with William Jones, and which took form amidst a small but remarkable community of highly creative individuals in nineteenth-century Bengal. The most notable figures in this creative community were the social reformer and savant Rammohun Roy; the poet Henry Derozio; the scholar-poet Michael Madhusudan Datta; the novelist Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay; pioneering scientists and medical men such as Mahendra Lal Sircar, Jagadis Chandra Bose, and Prafulla Chandra Ray; the mystic Sri Ramakrishna, the pedagogue Swami Vivekananda; and the...


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