

Seminar Notice

Partitioning Bengal in 1950s

Properties:

Speaker

Anwasha Sengupta
Assistant Professor,
Institute of Development Studies Kolkata



Date and Time

6 October 2023, 3.30 PM

Venue

Seminar Room, Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

In partitioned subcontinent the minorities' rights to their private properties were variously compromised. On one hand the incoming refugees posed a threat to the propertied minorities; on the other hand, the administrative and the legal regime worked in tandem to dispossess them of their properties. In the first part of the paper, I study three legislations that, arguably, were instrumental in alienating the religious minorities of East Pakistan and West Bengal from their properties. Either justified by national need, or by the rehabilitation requirements of the refugees, these laws in effect took away the properties from the minorities. Such legislations, thus, concretised the brute majoritarian logic of partition: India for Hindus and Pakistan for Muslims.

The second part of the chapter focuses on the strategies of the propertied minorities in retaining some control over their immovable assets. I pay particular attention to the process of property exchange in this section. I argue that such strategies, while reproducing the logic of partition, were also possible ways for the religious minorities to reap some benefits from their properties that they could no longer control.

Sd/-
Simantini Mukhopadhyay
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK