

DELHI AND AWADH DURING 1857

STUDIES

IMAGES AND DOCUMENTS

Editor

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Religious Debates and the Making of 1857 in Northern India

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The great uprising of 1857 is an event which has attracted the attention of historians, members of the civil society and administrative officials who hold diverse views ever since it has taken place. Different views have been expressed regarding causes and character of this revolt. Various aspects related to the uprising have remained unexplored. The literature on the theme is daunting and large. Historiography of 1857 dealt with aspects of displeased army, endangered peasants, revenue or trading crisis, or religious threat. However, historians in recent times have paid more attention towards aspects like gender, marginals and tribal communities or popular resistance to political actions related to the events of 1857.¹

The present study evaluates an important perspective around missionaries' activities. It attempts to question the thinking regarding the role played by evangelical societies in influencing the colonial government. Every policy of the colonial government was seen in the light of the activities of the various chaplains and missionaries in the major towns of the upper Gangetic valley. Establishments of schools, hospitals, orphanages were seen as institutions meant for promoting the Christianity through the means of education, health and charities. There were some individual Christian preachers who were not supported