

**THE TALUQDARI
SETTLEMENTS
IN OUDH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649462117

The Taluqdari Settlements in Oudh by Rajkumar Sarvadhikari

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RAJKUMAR SARVADHIKARI

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* British Indian Association

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Nov 28 '3

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Sarvadhikari

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"Quoth Hudibras, 'I smell a rat';
Raipho, thou dost prevaricate."

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again:
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes with pain,
And dies among his worshippers."

CALCUTTA:
THACKER, SPINK AND CO.

1882.

SJ

P R E F A C E .



I HAVE endeavoured in the following pages to write a succinct history of the Taluqdari Settlement in Oudh. My principal object has been to narrate the history in the very words of the great Statesmen and Administrators who have been the authors of the settlement. My materials have been principally derived from Parliamentary Blue Books, Official Reports and Returns, and other State Papers. I have not hesitated to use the exact language of the documents, in my earnest wish to give a clear and authoritative exposition of the fundamental principles upon which the Taluqdari system is based. I have tried to present an impartial view of the great issue between the landlords and tenants in this Province. The passionate advocates of tenant - rights have, in their philanthropic desire to ameliorate the condition of the Oudh peasantry, scouted the idea of *ancient hereditary* rights in Oudh, and failed to evince due respect for the permanent proprietary rights guaranteed by the British Government. It is a mistake in principle, even as a political measure, to rob—in the language of a familiar proverb—Peter to pay Paul. The relations between landlords and tenants in this Province have been entirely misconceived. The Taluqdari system has been declared by high authority to be “the ancient, indigenious, and cherished system of the country.” “The feudal attachments of landlord and

tenant," as Sir George Couper justly remarked, "are not yet dead in the ancient baronies of Oudh." They are not only "not dead," but it can be unmistakably proved that the true spirit—the *ethos*—of feudalism is still in its pristine vigour in many parts of the *Garden of India*. Any attempt to destroy the authority of the taluqdars in their estates, and to disturb the filial relations that exist between them and their tenants, is a thing to be deprecated and deplored by all true friends of Oudh. The proper course of action of every one who has the lasting welfare of the Province at heart, should be not to attempt to undermine proprietary rights and to set the tenants against their landlords, but to convince *misguided* landlords that their interests are closely bound up with those of their tenants, and that their true strength lies in the happiness and prosperity of those who hold under them. To try to decry the Taluqdari system with a view to raise the present status of the *ryots* of Oudh, is likely to result in nothing more than in engendering bitter feelings between the landlords and their tenants, and thus defeat the very object our philanthropists set before them. Their aim should be not to sneer at the patriarchal institutions of India and to rudely shake the existing feudal organization of the country, but to endeavour to combine *order* with *progress*—the statical with the dynamical forces of society. Progress is then alone placed on firm ground, when it is based on *order*.

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THE
TALUQDARI SETTLEMENT

ERRATA.

Page 36, line 33, *for 'of,' read 'in.'*

Page 175, line 12, *for 'whole,' read 'noble.'*

manner as may seem fitting." It was announced to those landholders, however, who would make an immediate unconditional surrender, that their lives would be spared, "provided their hands are unstained by English blood murderously shed;" but it was declared that, "as regards any further indulgence which may be extended to them, and the condition in which they may hereafter be placed, they must throw themselves upon the justice and mercy of the British Government."

This Proclamation caused real alarm in the country. Not one voice was raised in its defence. It was sincerely believed that the Proclamation was of such a character that the flames of war would never be quenched in Oudh. It was severely censured by Lord Ellenborough, the President of the Board of Control. "Other conquerors," indignantly wrote this nobleman to Lord