

Forgotten Patriots challenges the dominant historiographical narrative of India's struggle for independence, which is often centred around iconic figures, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose. This work shifts focus to the unsung heroes – ordinary men and women from diverse socio-economic, regional, and cultural backgrounds – whose contributions were equally instrumental in dismantling the British colonial rule. By examining the grassroots dimensions of the movement, this book highlights the decentralized, inclusive nature of the struggle, revealing a more nuanced and multifaceted narrative. Through a synthesis of oral histories, archival research, and regional perspectives, this book expands the historical record, emphasizing the sacrifices and perseverance of teachers, labourers, tribal leaders, social reformers, poets, and women. By highlighting figures, such as Kanaklata Barua, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Aruna Asaf Ali, and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, *Forgotten Patriots* underscores the democratic and collective ethos that permeated the independence movement.

It also delves into the moral dimensions of resistance, exploring the enduring hardships – imprisonment, torture, and death – endured by these individuals in the name of freedom. In doing so, the book not only commemorates their invaluable contributions but also offers a redefined understanding of India's path towards liberation, underscoring the power of collective action, resilience, and societal transformation. This book is essential for re-imagining the history of Indian Independence, offering important insights for scholars, activists, and those interested in the diverse forces that shaped India's fight for freedom.

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