

CHAPTER 12

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Doctoral Theses

01. SHARMA (Nirmola)
Indian National Army and Indian Independence League in China (1942-45).
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Abstract
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This dissertation is a study of the political mobilisation of the Indian community in China during the Second World War under the banner of the Indian National Army (INA) and its political superstructure, the Indian Independence League (IIL). The INA has been largely studied from the perspectives of Southeast Asia and Japan. However, there is very less awareness that the INA had a considerable following among the Indians in China during the war period and was instrumental in the radicalisation of the immigrant Indian population comprising mostly of soldiers, policemen, watchmen, moneylenders, traders, merchants, and political exiles. It was among these Indian émigrés that the INA found its members and supporters in China. In China, branches of the INA were established in all the places which had Indian population. The political mobilisation of Indians in China has been one of the most understudied subjects of war period Sino-Indian interactions and has received little scholarly attention. This dissertation seeks to investigate multiple factors like the contemporary global geopolitics, the domestic political condition in India, the political situation in China among others to understand this mobilisation phenomenon. The support that the INA could garner in the Indian community was unprecedented in the case of the Indians in China. How did the INA manage to achieve this political cohesion? What were the salient features of the INA's political mobilisation phenomenon in China? It will further probe the grim repercussions that the Indians in China had to face at the end of the War as a result of their wartime political activities. This dissertation also seeks to answer the important question of what does the INA episode tell us about the nature of Sino-Indian interactions at a crucial period just before India's independence in 1947 and the Chinese Revolution of 1949.

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