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ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AMONG THE NANDI

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OSAAK A.L.A. OLUMWULLAH

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ABSTRACT

This is a study in the destruction of natural economy. It is a study of the ways in which the Nandi were colonized and the impact of capital on them economically. An attempt has been made to answer questions like how were their lives affected economically in the first three and half decades of colonial rule?

The questions have also been discussed. Did the capitalist penetration interfere with the Nandi pre-capitalist social lives remain unchanged? This is a wider sense implies change and formation. What were the consequences of this penetration and change and continuity and this has been analysed within the parameters of the penetration of the Nandi pre-capitalist social formations by the capitalist mode. This is more so because economic transformation of pre-capitalist economic structures and their relations with capital and the colonial state, that is within capitalist relations of production. Economic transformation in this context is therefore seen as the destruction of natural economy as a result of the penetration of commodity relations in a more or less systematic fashion.

This work is five chapters. Chapter one is essentially a statement of the problem. Here identification has been done of the problems experienced in any attempt to analyse colonial change. The conceptional and theoretical frame-work for the study has been given. A discussion of three aspects of change: the structure and size of economic production, the nature of the distribution of the
What is needed for the history of Nandi - and most urgently - social product and the location of control over social processes is a comprehensive survey of the area not only in the colonial period has been made in chapters two and three for both the pre-colonial but also in the pre- and post-colonial periods. This work, unfortunately and colonial period.

and sadly so, falls far short of this as it deals only with a short of

Two questions have also been discussed: Did the capitalist the colonial period. It is quite a sad affair to realise that while penetration interfere with the Nandi pre-capitalist social other communities have had their past dealt with and almost properly formations? What were the consequences of this penetration and the documented the Nandi seems to have been relegated into a seemingly consequent interaction between the pre-capitalist and capitalist permanent cold storage of negligence.

modes? This is basically a question of the articulation of the

When I picked on the title of this work, I did not have the modes of production and answers to it form the basis of chapter slightest idea of the problems I was to encounter. As it eventually four.

came to deem on as I found that I was trying to climb a ladder from the middle, a ladder that had neither base nor end. As Van Zeelandberg points out in the introduction to his book "colonial capitalism and Labour in Kenya 1879-1940", "the problem of perspective in historical studies is crucial because as historians we provide the intellectual base from which future generations will view their present and future from a knowledge of their past". The Nandi have fallen victim to the lack of a knowledge of their past.

This lack of a knowledge of the past raises a very serious question in the mind of anyone who is trying to venture into writing the most recent history of these people. This is the question of source. It is quite clear in my mind that one of the many criticisms that will be levied against this work is my over-dependence on