

# PEEPING AT A COLONY FROM A COLONY : *Africa in Bengali's Perception*

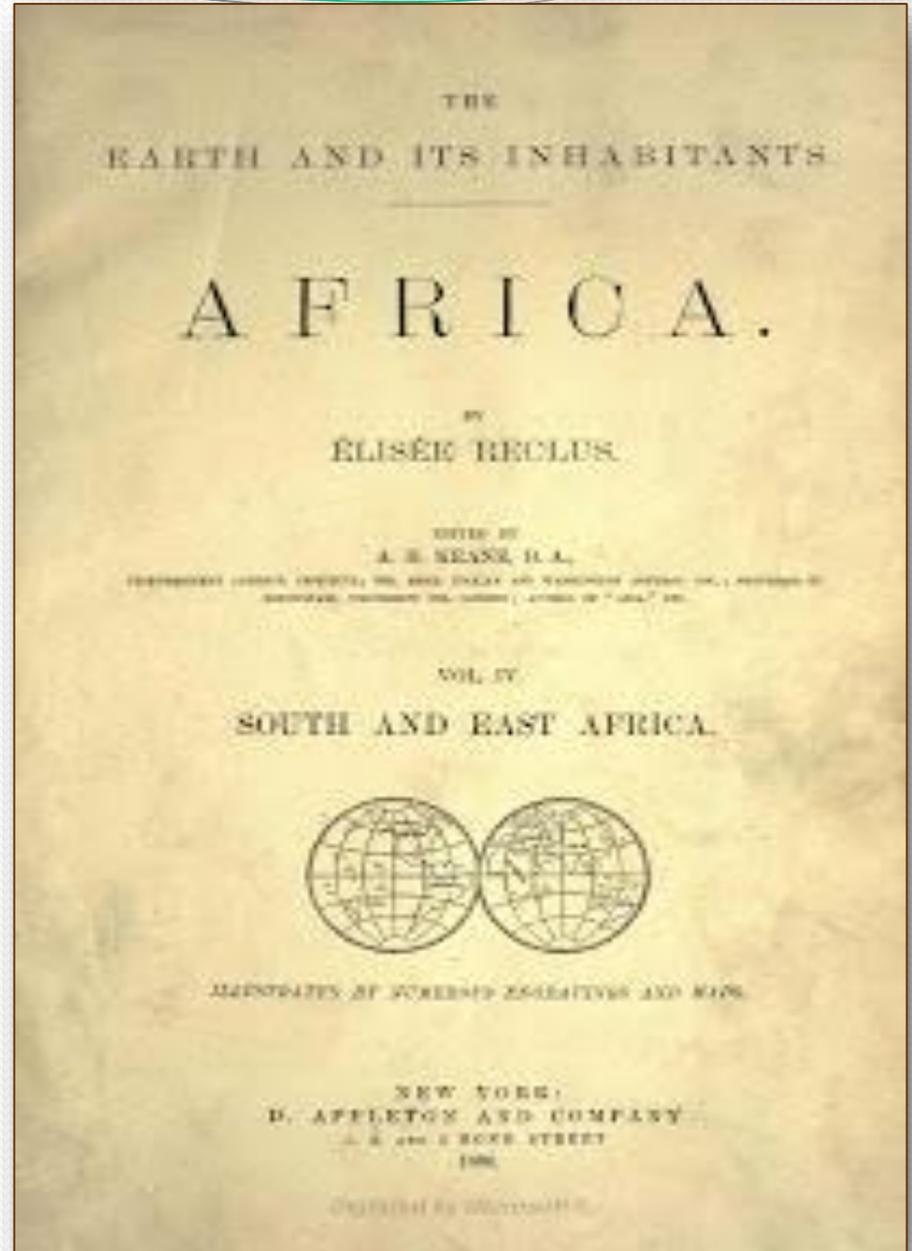


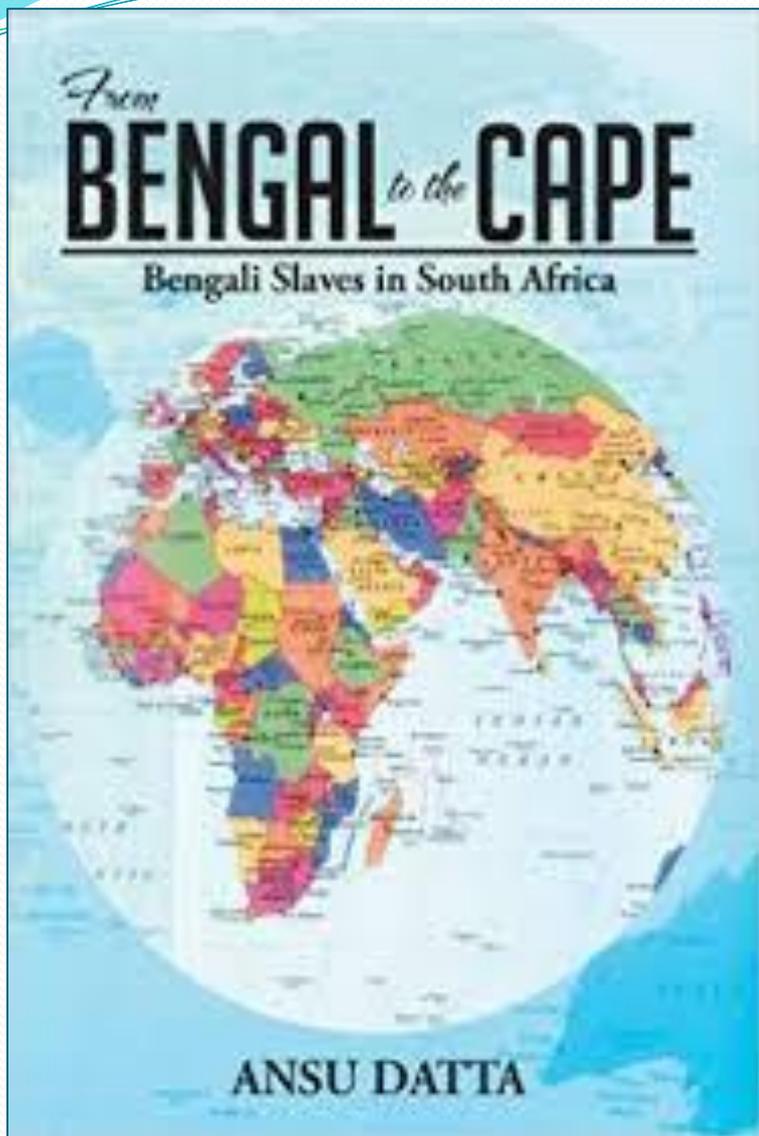
**Dr. Sukanya Sarkar Sasmal**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Department of History**  
**Sarojini Naidu College for Women**  
**West Bengal State University**



## Jacques Élisée Reclus

**The British planters in Natal imported Hindu coolies from Bengal to cultivate their fields.**  
➤ They were preferred than 'Hottentots' and other tribes for their mildness.





Ansu Datta's(2013) research explored a hitherto little researched area of transoceanic slave trade between Southern Bengal and the Cape in the Republic of South Africa. This migration took place between roughly the 1650s and about the middle of the nineteenth century until the slave trade was finally abolished. This book highlighted new social formations in the Cape society, especially among the Coloured in South Africa.





*The baby cap and piece of lace was knitted by a slave named Melati in the 1830s.*



*The two items form part of the Jeffcoat Collection and the note accompanying the cap reads: "Knitted by a slave of my grandmother's and worn by me in 1838".*

THE  
INFLUENCE  
OF  
TROPICAL CLIMATES  
ON  
EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONS.

OR  
**Tropical Hygiene;**  
OR THE  
PRESERVATION OF HEALTH  
IN  
ALL HOT CLIMATES,  
(where the human race.)

By JAMES JOHNSON, M.D.

Author of "The Influence of the Atmosphere on the Health and Functions  
of the Human Frame," and Editor of the *Medical Repository*  
of *Quarterly Journal of Medical and Surgical Science.*"

SECOND EDITION, GREATLY ENLARGED.

Read Hygiene with much advantage than. Year.

Study well the above,  
Should as its motto, justly deserve to be  
And realize that all you want to be. Anathema.

LONDON:

WILEY & SONS, 15, N. B. STREET, AND 4, MARK LANE; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS,  
AND ALL BOOKSellers.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY HENRY L. B. BARNES,  
STATIONER.

1848.

Both Africa and Bengal were looked down upon by their colonial masters as stereotyped tropical lands of inferior people and unendurable climate.

Most early medical texts were based upon experience of Bengal.

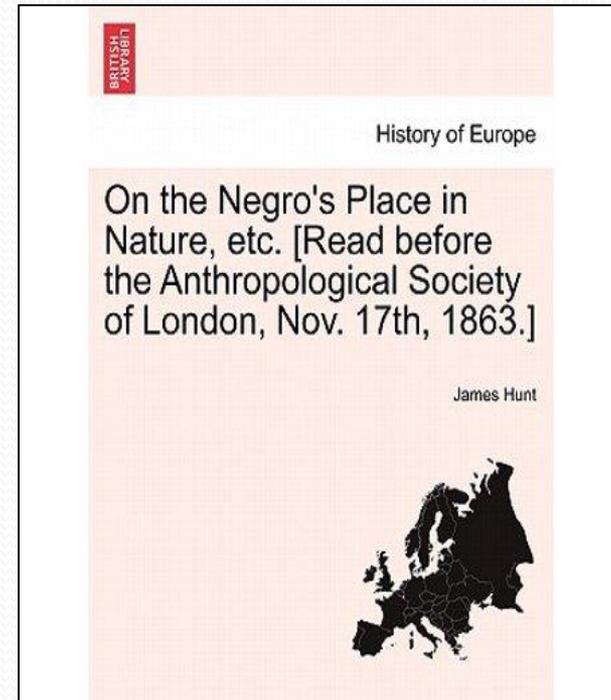
Some of the British medical experts turned their eyes to Africa in search of a similar negativity.



**JOHN CRAWFURD**



**Dr. Robert Felkin 1853-1926**



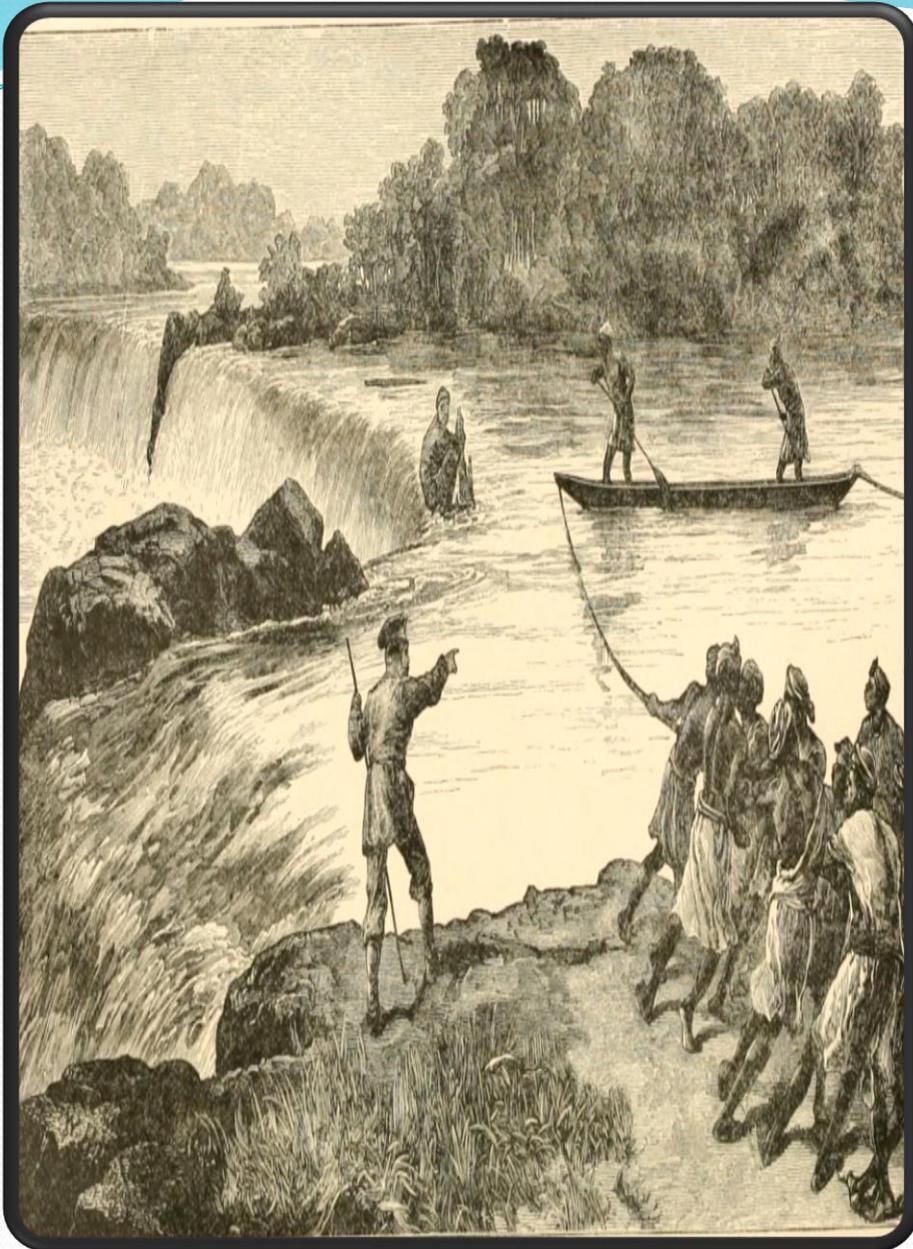
# Rule of Darkness

BRITISH LITERATURE AND  
IMPERIALISM, 1830-1914

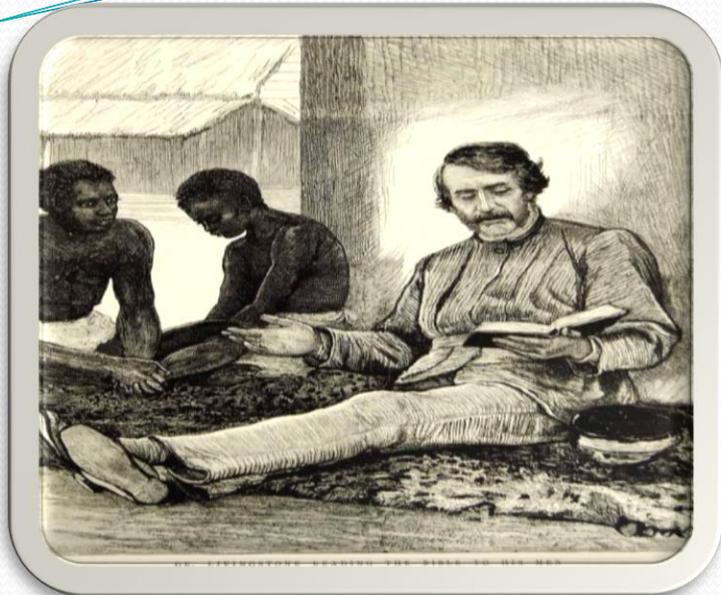


Patrick Brantlinger

Patrick Brantlinger asserts how British culture lent support to widespread belief in racial superiority, the need to transform "savagery" into "civilization," and the urgency of promoting emigration.



East and Central Africa attracted particular attention from the 1850s: driven by geographical curiosity, especially the search for the sources of the Nile, and by a quest for wealth.



A Complete Story of the Heroic Attempts to Civilize Savage Africa. **HEROES OF THE DARK CONTINENT** OF THE ILLUMINATION OF WILD REGIONS BY THE SUNLIGHT OF WONDERFUL EXPLORATIONS.

**HOW STANLEY FOUND EMIN PASHA.**

BY J. W. BUEL.

THE CIVILIZED WORLD has been waiting with longing anticipation for the RETURN OF HENRY M. STANLEY from his last expedition into Central Africa for the PRISONER OF EMIN PASHA. His mission for thirteen years to traverse the most unexplored regions, and to liberate those reported to be living in savage nature, long kept Europe and America in anxious expectation, so that the ultimate announcement of his safe return to civilization, attended with glorious success, has excited a WORLD-WIDE INTEREST. It is the most important event since the discovery of the continent of America, and the first step towards the redemption of Africa from the yoke of barbarism. It is the first step towards the redemption of Africa from the yoke of barbarism. It is the first step towards the redemption of Africa from the yoke of barbarism.

**HOSTILE MEN**  
**FEROCIOUS BEASTS.**  
**NEW THEIR PATH**  
**HEROES OF THE DARK CONTINENT**  
**WILD TRIBES**

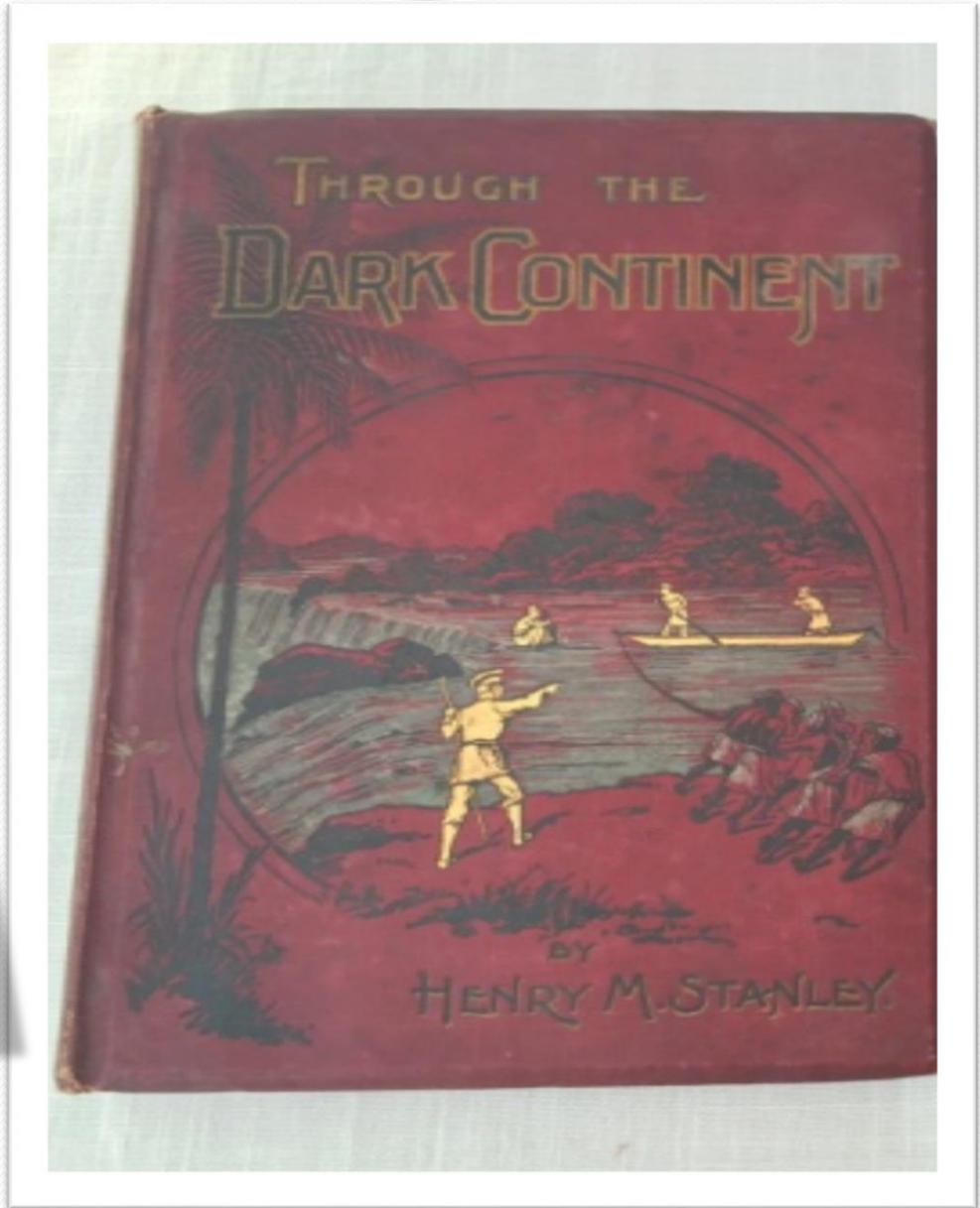
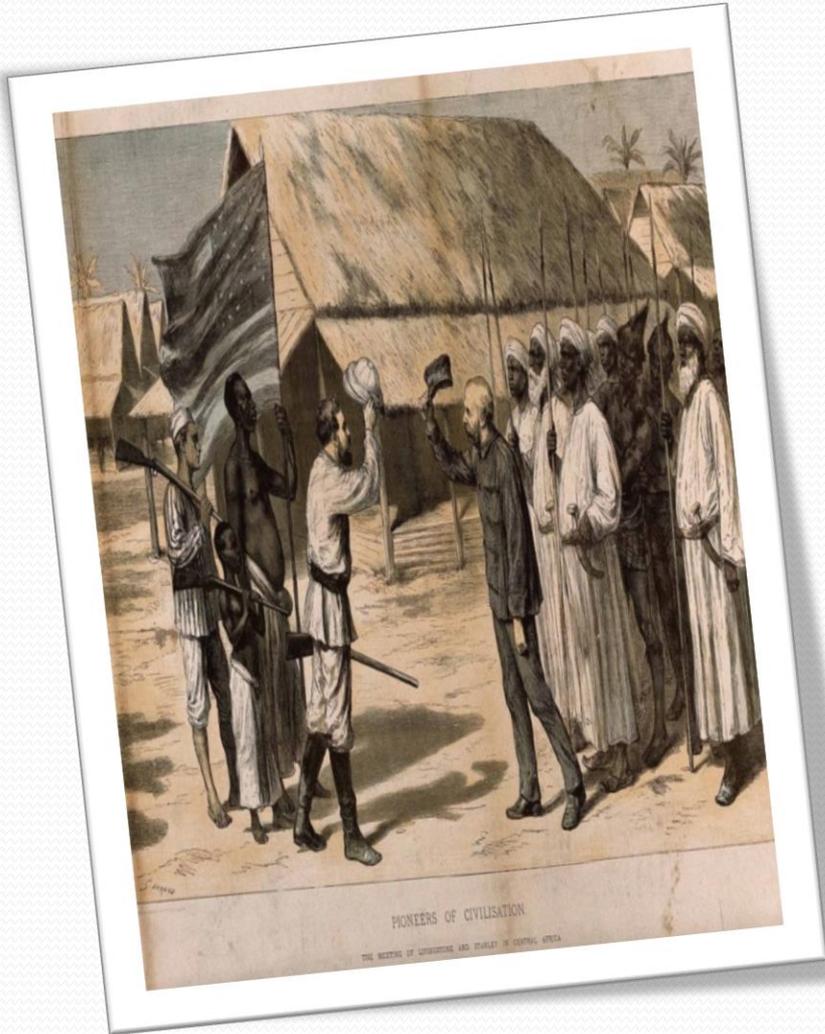
**IT GIVES THE UNWRITTEN STORY OF AFRICA.**

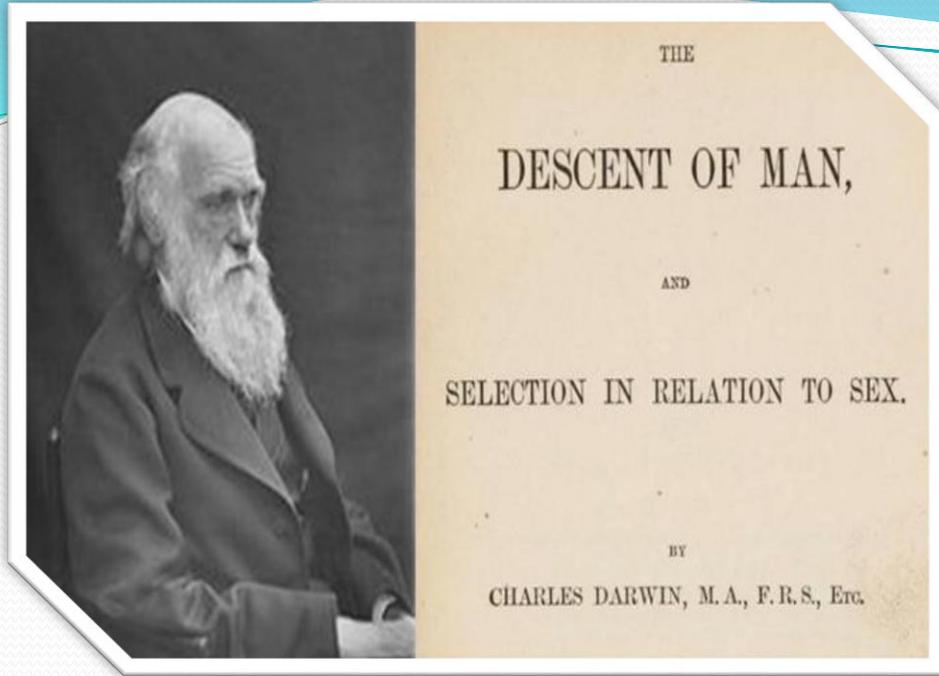
A POPULAR ACCOUNT OF MISSIONARY TRAVELS AND RESEARCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA. BY DAVID LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON: JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, 1801.

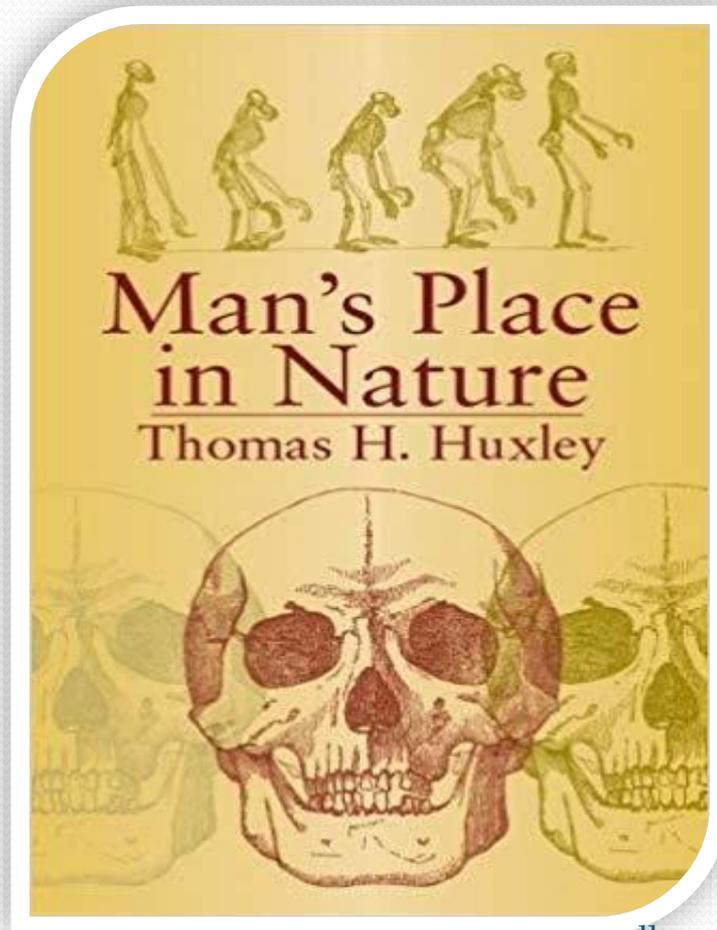
The right of Translation is reserved.

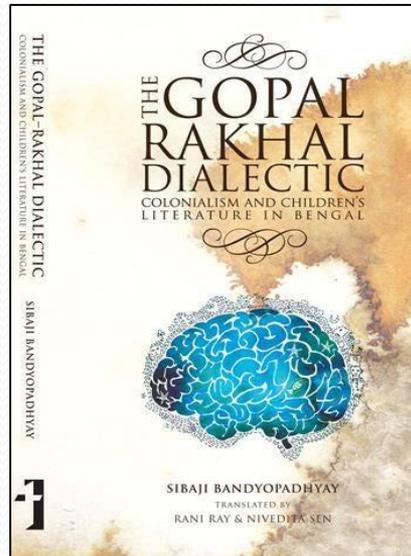
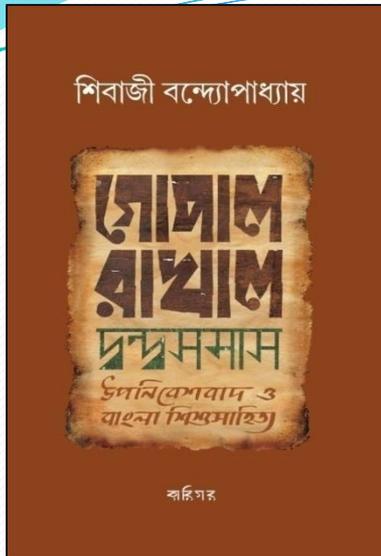




- Proximity between the Africans and the chimpanzee and gorilla was highlighted.

• Investigations of prehistory and anthropoid apes presumed that Africans, Australians, or other primitive peoples are the missing link between the apes and civilized or white people.





The myth of Dark Continent which originated in the Victorian England disseminated in the British Empire as a part of colonial ideology.

Pyarimohan Sengupta- *Kafrider Desh Africay* in Bengali in 1922 following *Adventures in Africa by An African Trader*, written by William H.G. Kingston (1883).

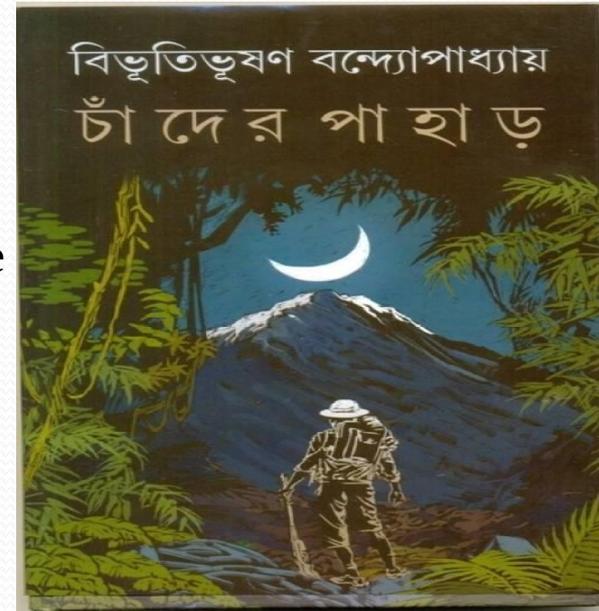
Jyotish Chandra Chakravorty tried to expose the cannibalistic nature of the Africans in *Rakkhuse Africa*.

Satyacharan Chakravorty -*Rakhaser Desh* (1926) (*The Land of Demons*) wrote, ' Ever since the white men had come from Europe and started settling, they(Africans) started improving, but old habits die hard'

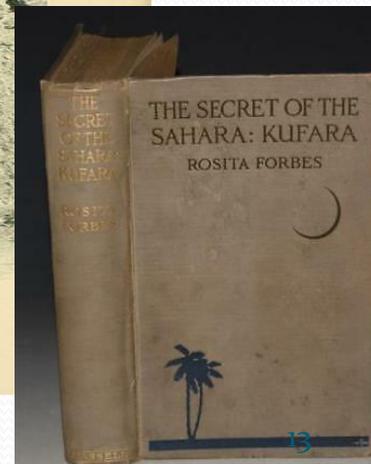
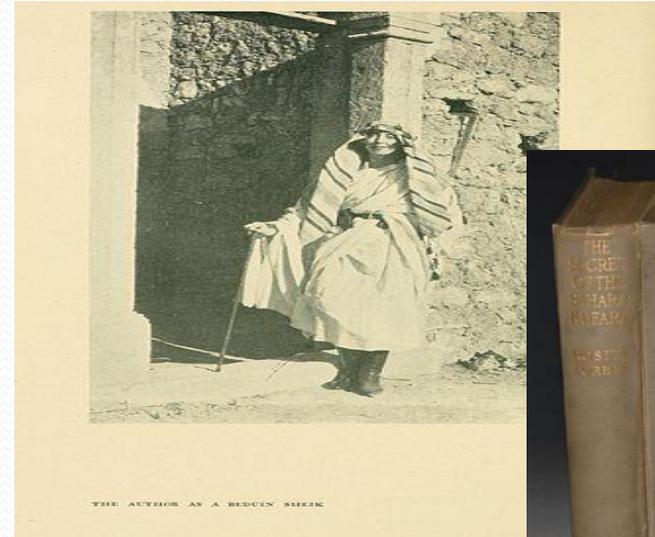




‘The Richtersveld mountain range is not like the Indian divinely souled Himalaya. Its soul is as barbaric and savage and has an uncontrollable lust for human flesh like the country’s primitive tribes- Masai, Zulu, Matabele etc’



*Sir Henry “Harry” Hamilton Johnston. British explorer, botanist, linguist and colonial administrator, one of the key players in the “Scramble for Africa.*

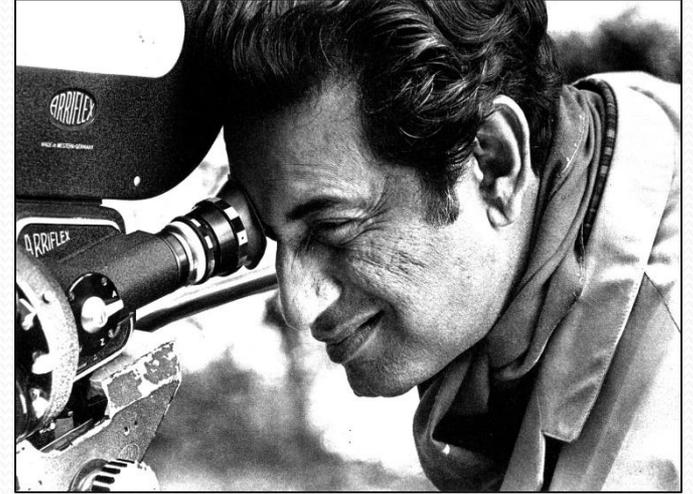


*Sir Harry Johnston  
1922*

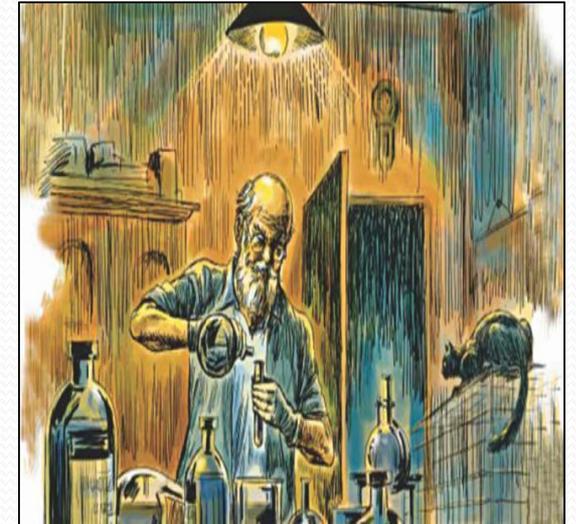
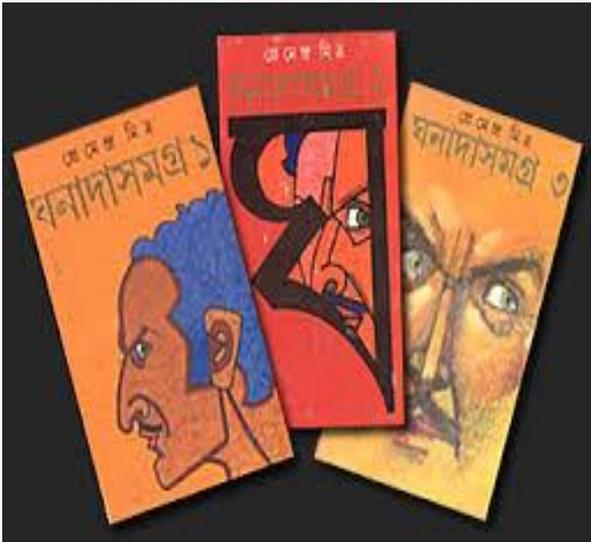


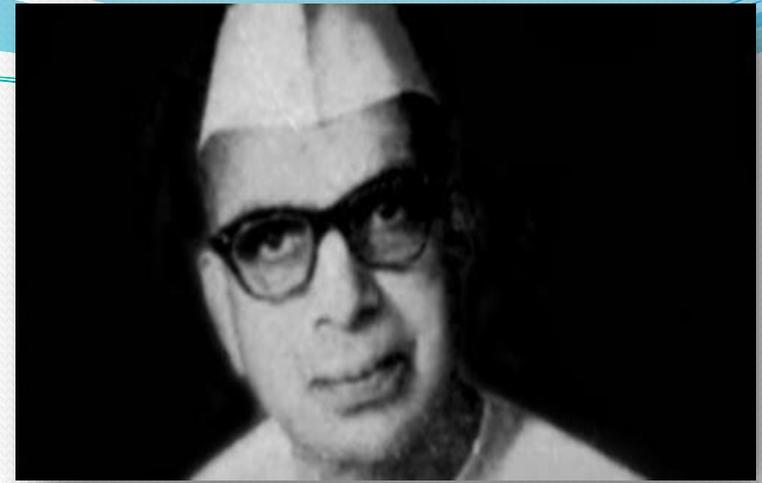
PREMENDRA MITRA

In most of the bengali science fictions myths about Africa created by the European powers coexisted with knowledge of science.



SATYAJIT ROY





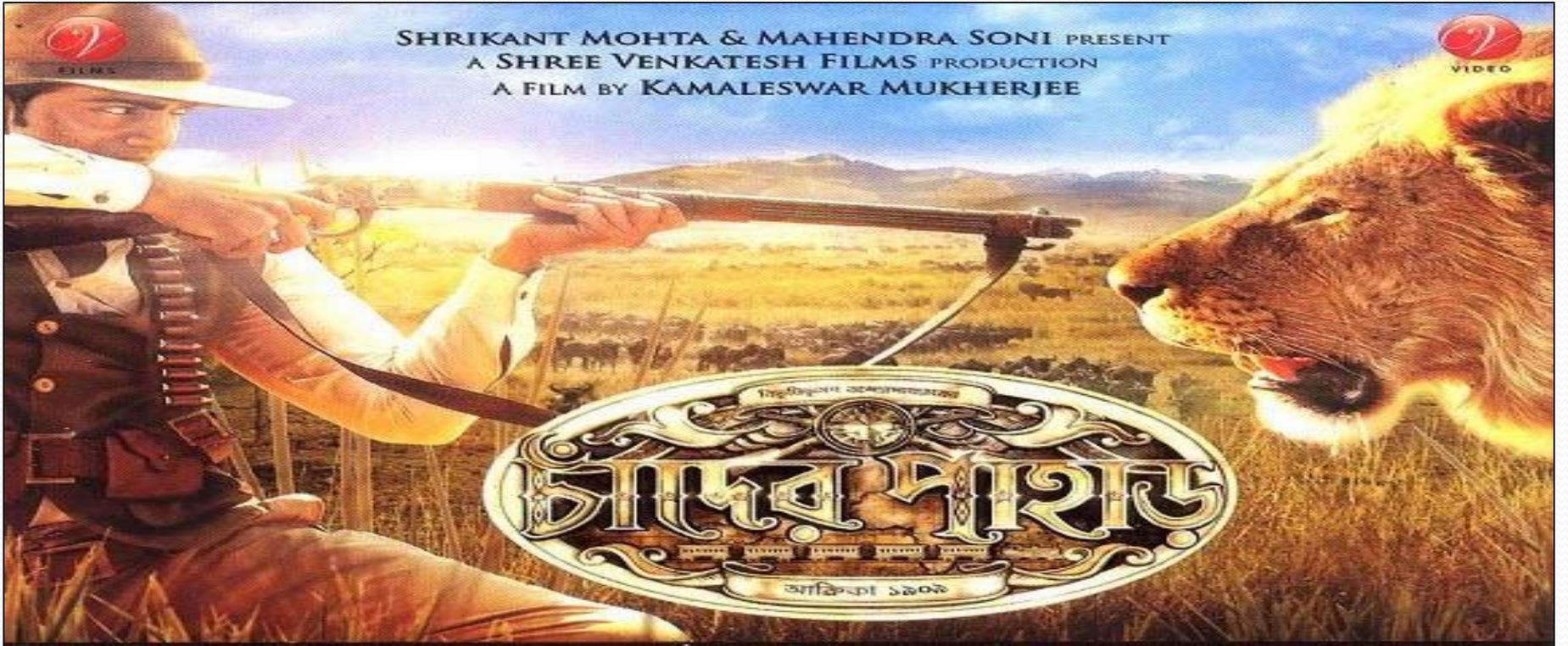
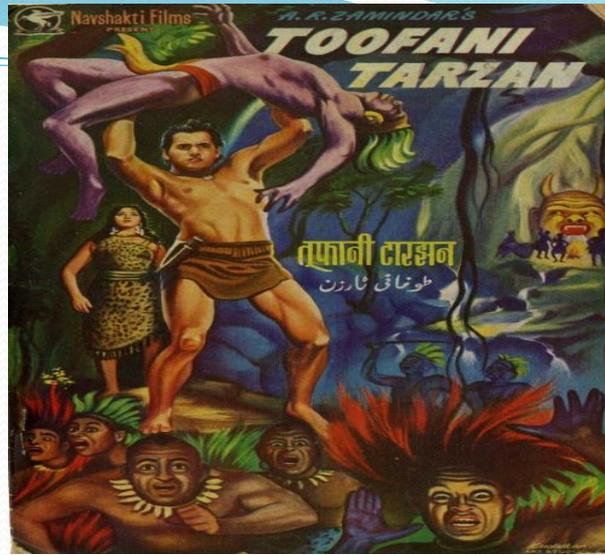
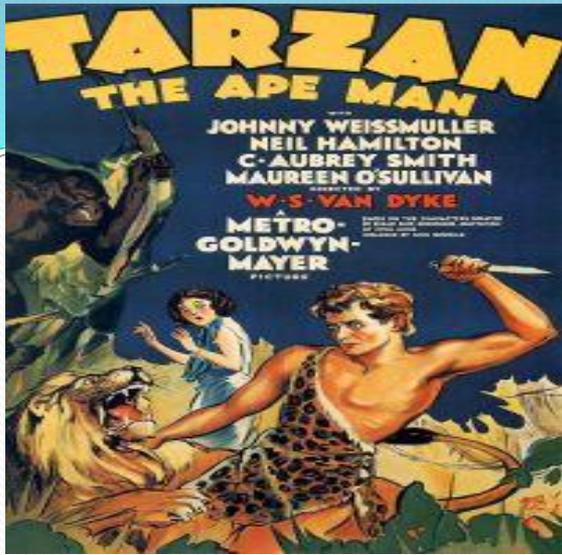
Congress leader Seth Govind Das, intended to establish a historical truth, that before the white merchants came to Africa, Indian merchants from Kathiawar had already established their respective trade relations with African tribes.

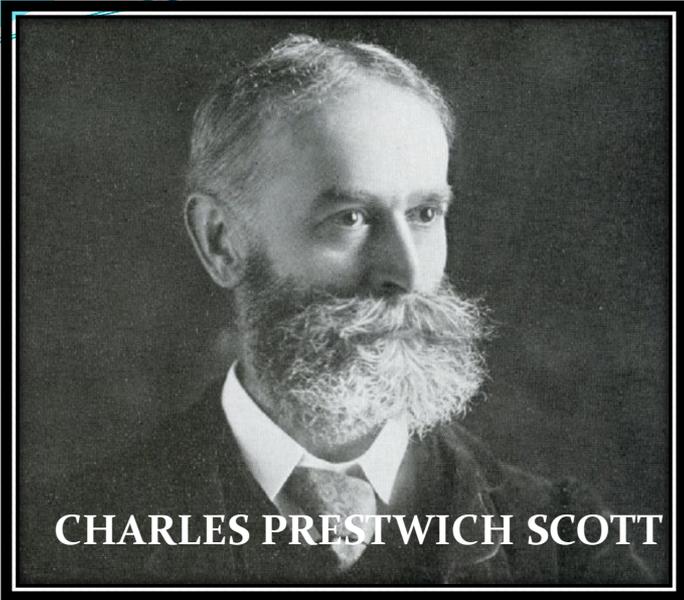
The first American adventure film *Trader Horn* (1931), shot on location in Africa, did not acknowledge this.



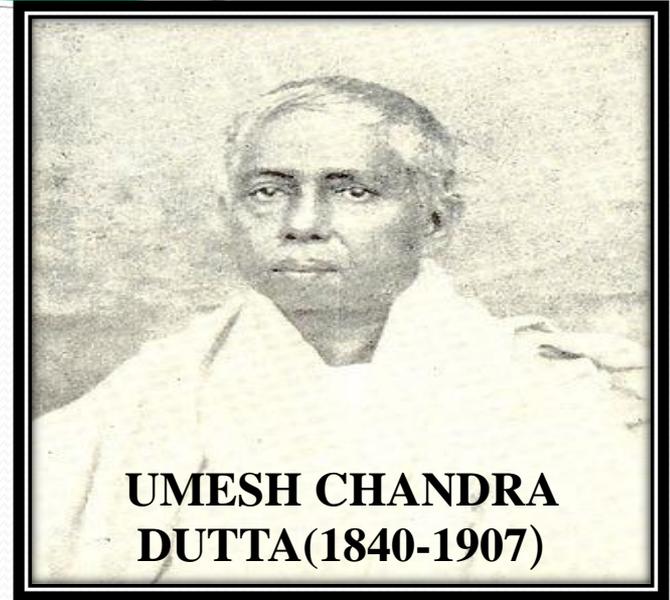
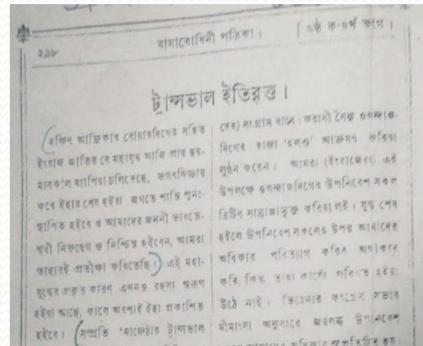
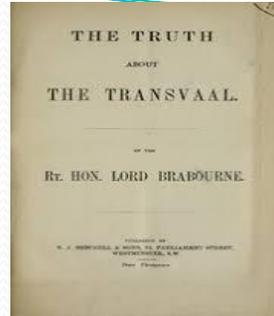


Hiren Basu

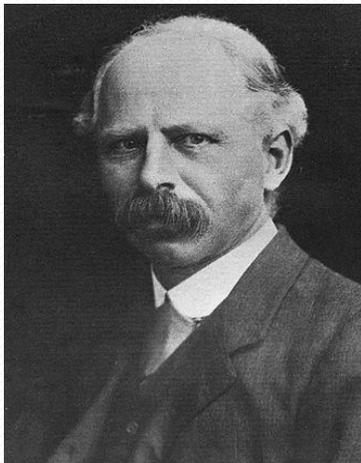




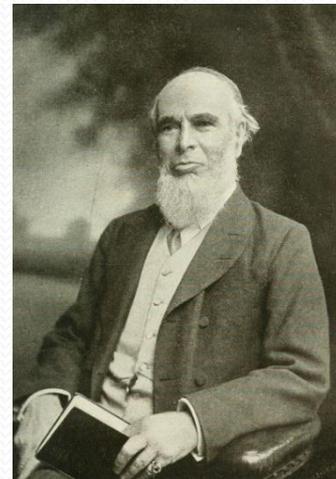
**CHARLES PRESTWICH SCOTT**



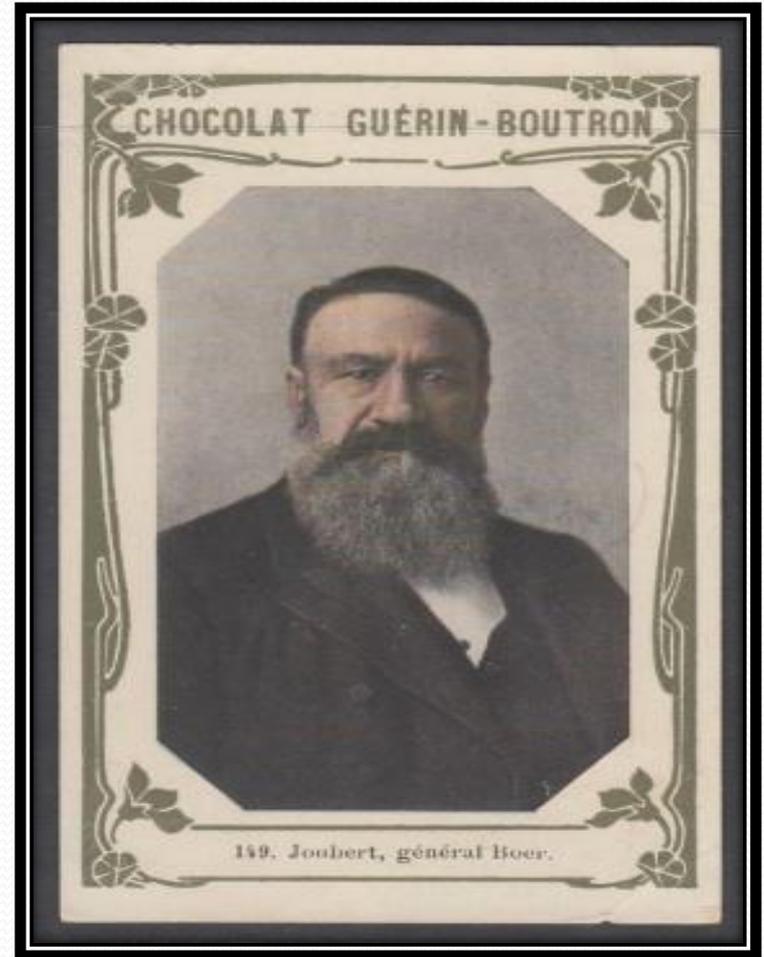
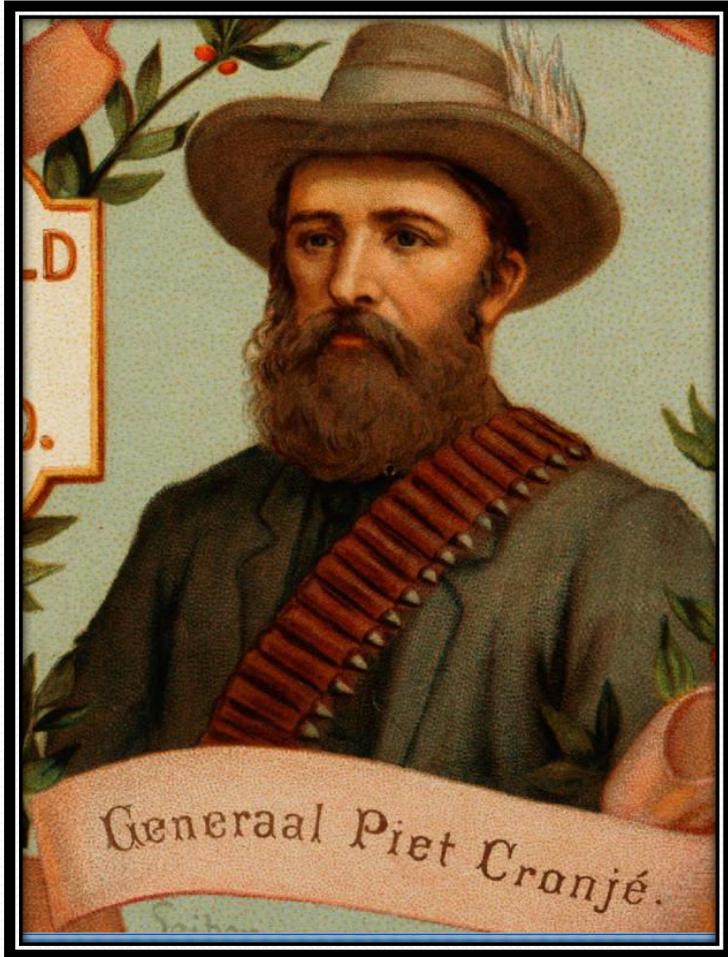
**UMESH CHANDRA DUTTA (1840-1907)**



Leonard Trelawny Hobhouse, an earliest proponents of social liberalism.



Leonard Courtney led the work of the South African Conciliation Committee which brought the sufferings of the Boers to the attention of British people.





**SARALA** the editor of *Bharati*, a niece of Rabindranath Tagore, herself took an active role in the formation of organizations to impart physical training.

Bravery shown by the Boers became an object lesson for the Bengalis, 'Where do we have that bravery, devotion, self dependence and love for freedom with which the Boers had attracted the sympathy and respect from the entire civilized world?...If we could exhibit any such useful strength like the Boers, the Government would not have kept us under such vigorous rules. It would have given us a bit more freedom by loosening our shackles.' 'The Boers and Indians', 1902, *Bharati*.

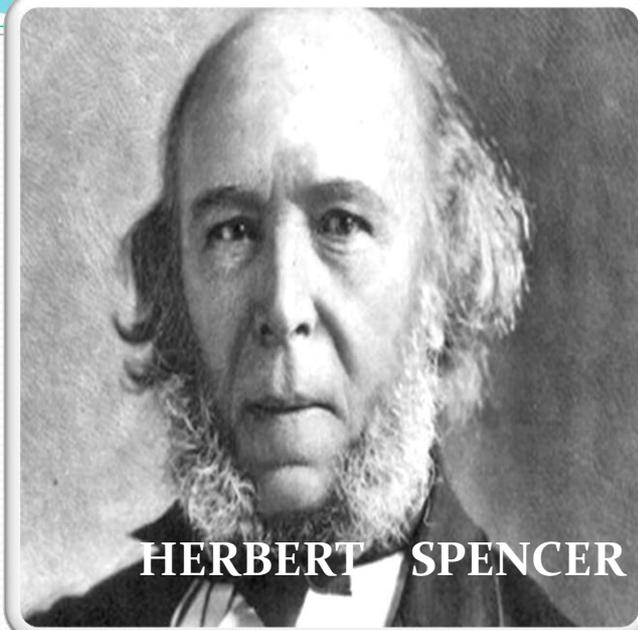
# Gandhi and his stretcher-bearer team during the Anglo-Boer War





RABINDRANATH TAGORE

During the Second Boer War the Bengalis followed the path of Herbert Spencer in criticising the military censorship and suppression of real facts by the British imperialists.



HERBERT SPENCER

সপ্তম সংখ্যা। ] অত্যাক্তি ' ৩৮৫

বিলাতী অত্যাক্তি সপক্ষে হার্বার্ট স্পেন্সার যে সাক্ষ্য দিয়াছেন, তাহা আলোচনা করিতে বাধ্য হইলাম। তাহার নূতন-প্রকাশিত Facts and Comments গ্রন্থে State Education নামক প্রবন্ধে দক্ষিণ আফ্রিকায় বোয়ারযুদ্ধের সময় বিলাতি অত্যাক্তি কিরূপ সমুদ্রপার হইয়া চালাচালি হইত, তাহার গোচরিত দৃষ্টান্ত উদ্ধৃত করিব। এই অত্যাক্তিগুলিতে "Tropical imagination" এর প্রাচুর্য্য নাই, কিন্তু শীত-দেশীয় বুদ্ধির চাতুর্য্য আছে, সে কথা স্বীকার করিতেই হইবে। স্পেন্সার বলেন—দিনের পর দিন, দক্ষিণ আফ্রিকার যুদ্ধসংবাদ অলৌকিক কাহিনী, অত্যাক্তি ও সত্যবিকৃতির দ্বারা পূর্ণ হইয়াছে—তাহার অনেকটা মিথ্যা করা এবং অনেকটা গোপন করা।

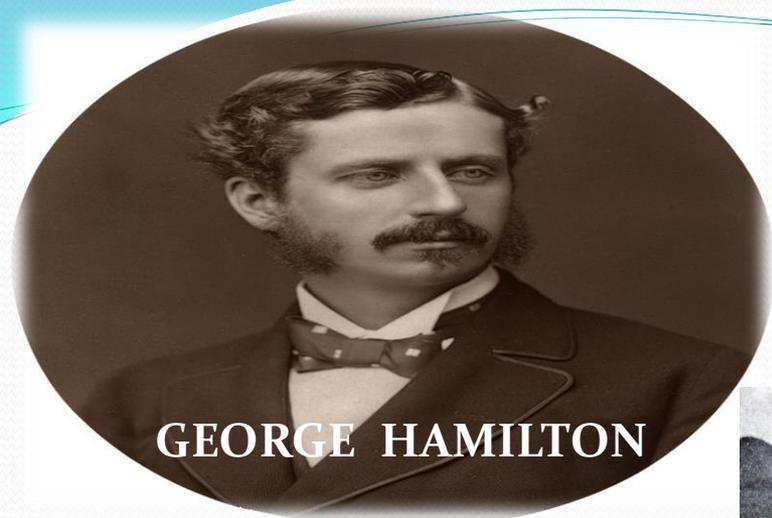
লোকদের তাড়ানো প্ৰভৃতি উপক্রমের দ্বারা যে পর্য্যন্ত না বোয়াররা উৎসাহিত হইয়া উঠিয়াছিল, সে পর্য্যন্ত বন্দী ইংরেজ-সেনানায়ক ও সৈন্যদের নিকট হইতে বরাবর যে বোয়ারদের প্রশংসাই শুনা গিয়াছিল, বাহাদুরের সপক্ষে পরলোকগত সার্ব্ জর্জ গ্রে বলিয়াছেন—লোকহিতকর ও ব্যক্তিগত সন্তোষসম্পদে বোয়ারদের চেয়ে ধনী জাতি আমি আর দেখি নাই,—সেই বোয়ারদের সপক্ষেই ডেলি মেলের সংবাদদাতা মিষ্টার রাল্ফ লিখিয়াছেন যে, তাহারা না সাহসী, না স্তায়নিষ্ঠ, তাহারা ভীক এবং কাপুরুষ, তাহারা অর্দ্ধসত্য—তাহারা সয়তানী দুর্বুদ্ধির দ্বারা পরিপূর্ণ ইত্যাদি। আরো অনেকগুলি উদাহরণ উদ্ধৃত করিয়া হবার্টস্পেন্সার বলিতেছেন, এ দিকে

FACTS  
AND  
COMMENTS.

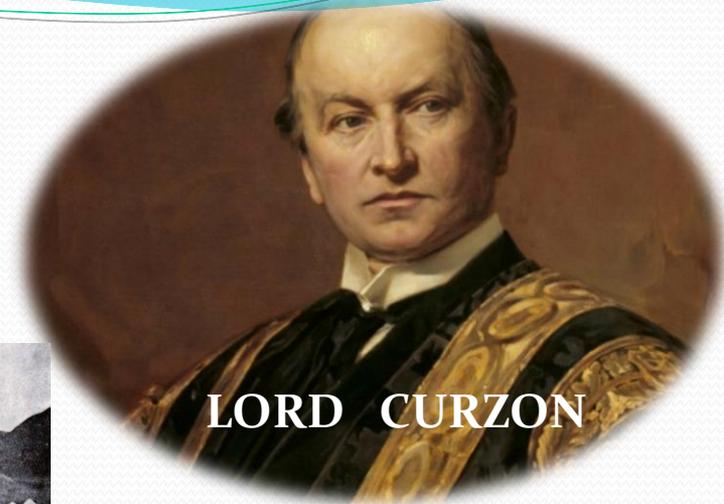
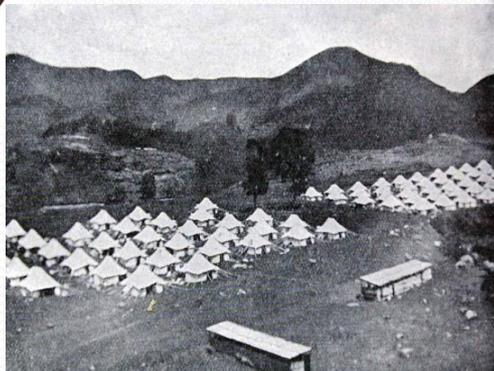
HERBERT SPENCER.

WILLIAMS & NOEGATE,  
14, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON  
AND 7, BROAD STREET, OXFORD.  
1902.

আলোচনা।  
রাষ্ট্রনীতি ও ধর্মনীতি।  
এলাহাবাদে সোমেশ্বর দাসের কারা- মনে বিশ্লেষিত উপস্থিত হই, ইংরেজ বিচারক বরোধের কথা সকলেই জানেন। কোন তাহাকে যে কত লঘুভাবে দেখিয়া থাকে, ব্যক্তিবিশেষের প্রতি অবিচার মাসিকশত্রের তাহার শতশত প্রমাণ প্রত্যাহ দেখিতে পাই। আলোচ্য বিষয় নহে। কিন্তু বর্তমান এই দেশিন একজন সম্ভ্রান্ত ব্রাহ্মণকে কোন ব্যাপারটি ব্যক্তিবিশেষকে অবলম্বন করিয়া ইংরেজ পাঠক বহন করাইয়াছিল—দেশের সমস্ত ভারতবাসীর প্রতি লক্ষ্য নিবেশ করি- উচ্চতম আদালতে পর্য্যন্ত স্থির হইয়া গেছে, যাহা। সেইজন্য এ সপক্ষে সংক্ষেপে গুটী- কয়েক কথা বলিতে হইতেছে।  
কিন্তু প্যারোনিয়রের বক্তৃ অসুস্থারে তুচ্ছ পায়েনিয়র লিখিতেছেন, ভারতবর্ষে নহে। ভদ্র ব্রাহ্মণের এরূপ নিষ্ঠুর অপ্রসন্ন



GEORGE HAMILTON



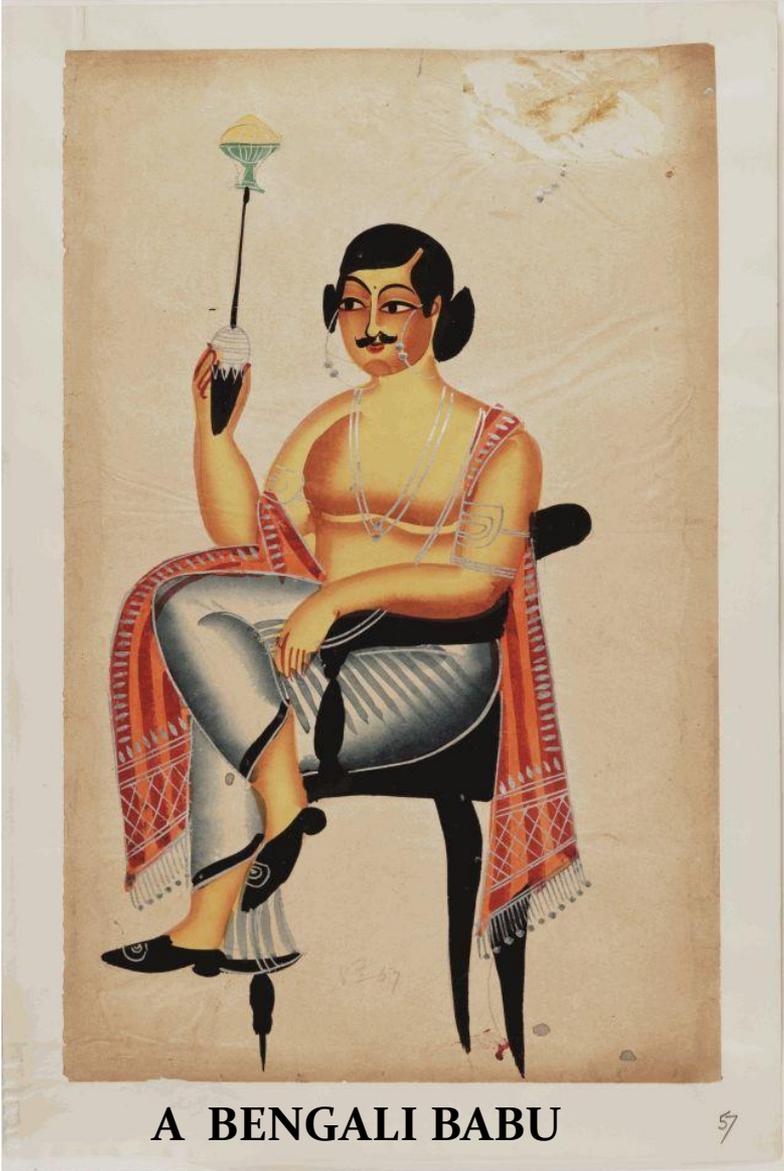
LORD CURZON

BOER CAMPS, INDIA

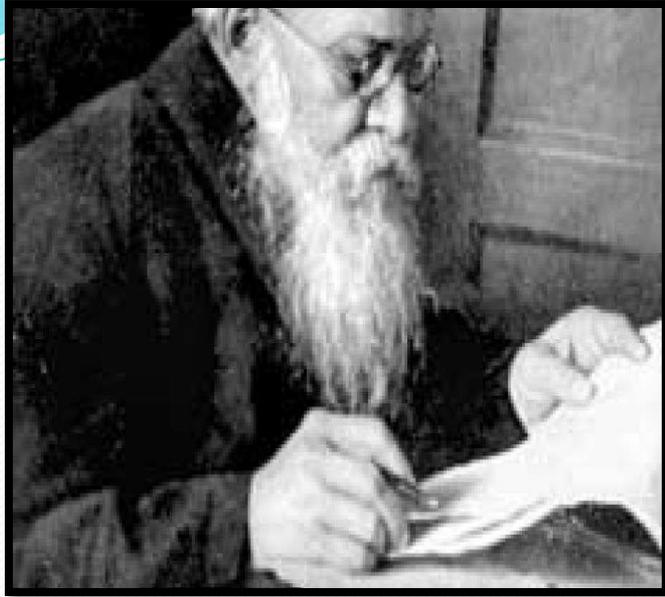
The Secretary of State for India, Sir George Hamilton warned Curzon, *'If any considerable number of prisoners are sent to you, you will have to take special measures to prevent the Babu editors and Congress papers from having continual access to the prisoners. What with the Boer power of lying, and the native powers of exaggeration, we should have some frightful yarns, and nowadays, provided any statement is constantly repeated in print, a large proportion of the public accept it as truth'*



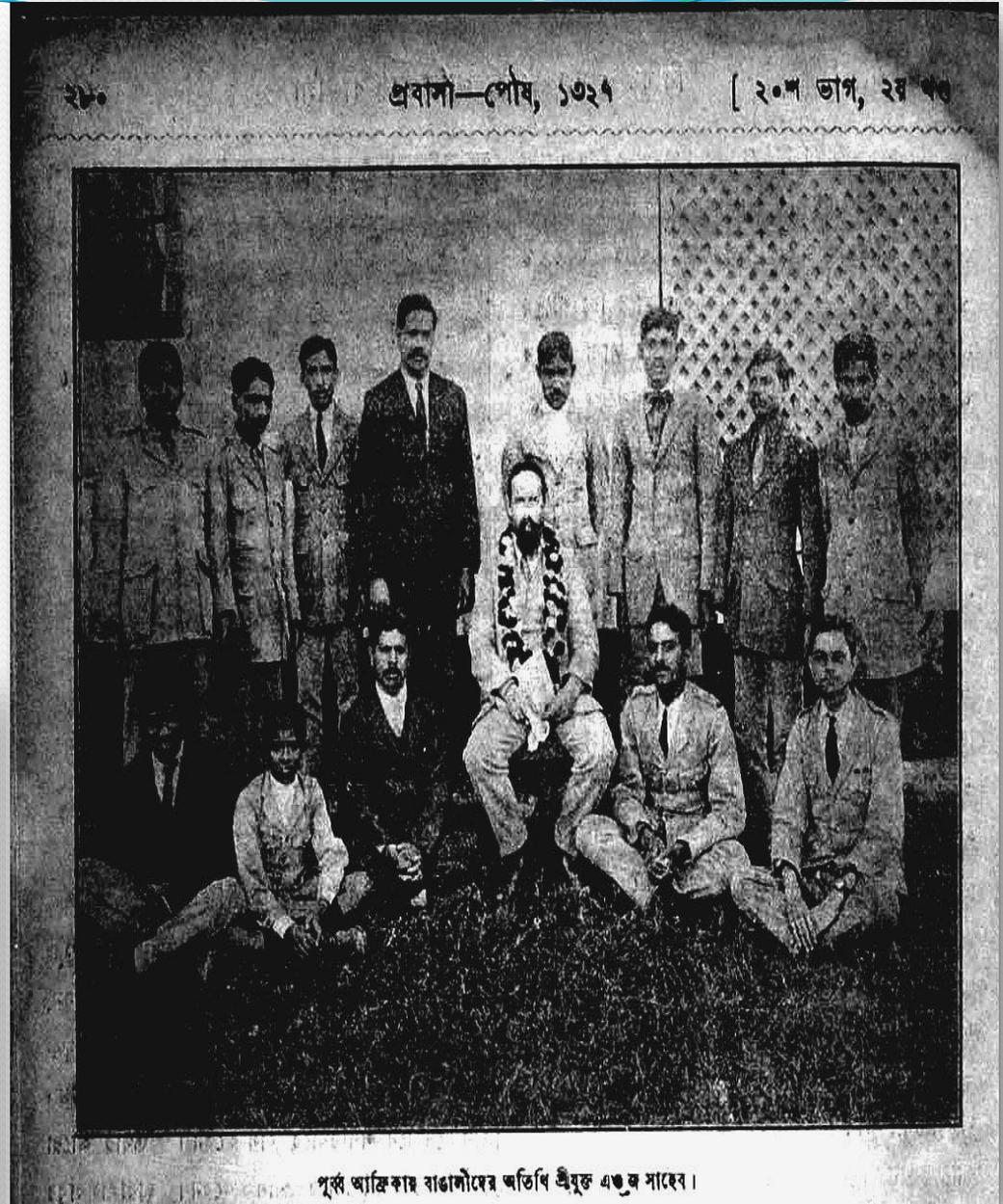
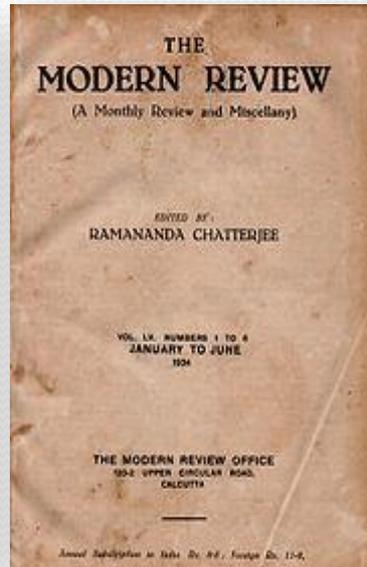
**A ZULU LEADER**



**A BENGALI BABU**



RAMANANDA CHATTOPADHYAYA



পূর্বে আক্ষিকার বাঙালোবের অতিথি অিবুক্ত এঙুজ সাহেব।

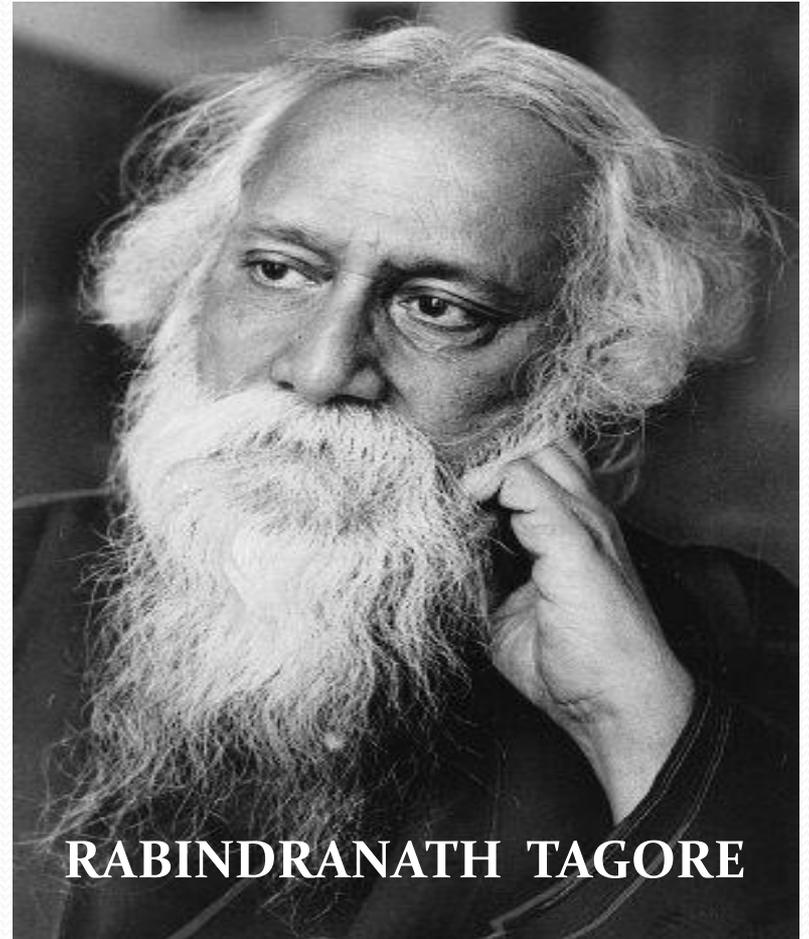


SAROJINI NAIDU

- ‘ East Africa is the legitimate colony of the surplus of that great Indian nation... I stand, therefore, today before you as an Indian speaker on Indian soil,-that your forefathers have dug,-cities that your forefathers have built in a land which your ancestors gave to the citizens of the country-citizens by the right of heredity, citizens by the right of tradition, citizens by the right of patriotic love which has been nurtured, fostered and developed by the sweat of the brow and the blood of the heart of the pioneers exiled from India, so that Indian interests may grow greater’

*'Such colour prejudice, from an Indian, who has himself suffered from the racial prejudice of the European, is to me revolting in the extreme. It is neither in accord with Indian sentiment, or with Indian National Honour and Civilization...'*

**Rabindranath Tagore, 1928, 'Indian Abroad' *Modern Review*.**

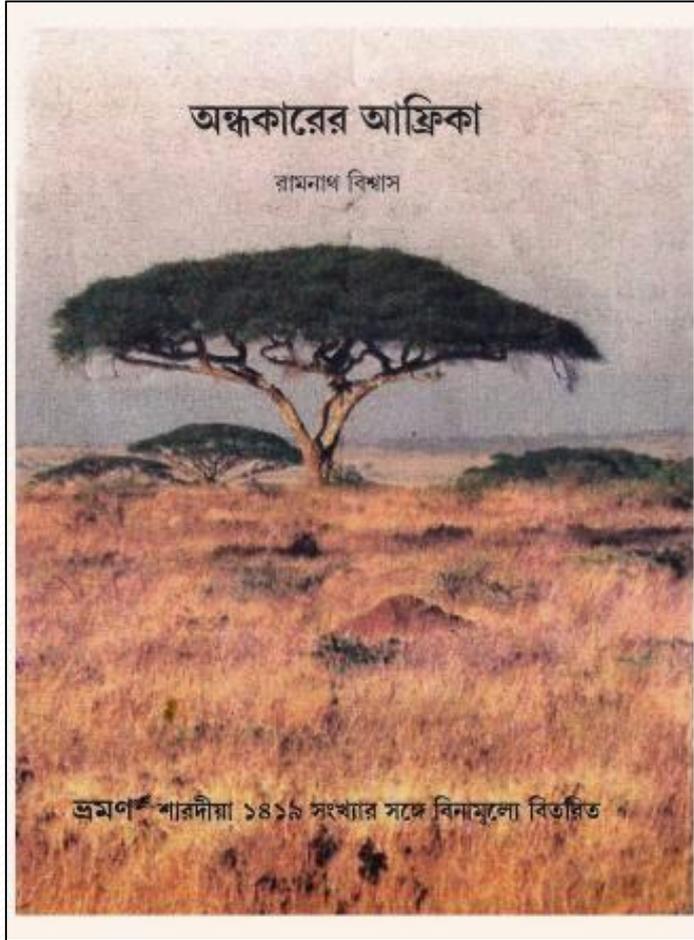


**RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

**Indian Cyclist all alone  
Round the World**



**RAM NATH BISWAS**





*Thank  
you*

