

Tribal Tradition and the Problem of Identity in Assam

K.C. Mahnata

Department of Anthropology, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh 786 004, Assam, India

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ABSTRACT The hill and the plain's tribesmen of Assam (India) have been subjected to myriad of changes in the politico-socio-cultural life following large-scale advent of urbanization and westernization ever since the fifties of this century. The steady flow of non-tribal up-country men and materials from the heartland of the country is verily distorting the age-old traditional and aesthetic way of life of the tribesmen of Assam. The present-day tribal people's concern to keep their socio-political identity in tact is likely to be metamorphosed in the wake of uninterrupted penetration of alien elements of culture. Tribal identity will certainly prove to be fragile considering the advent of the modern national and global trends to usher in scientific and technological innovations in all walks of life.