

Synopsis of Dissertation

Titel : Das Bild Indiens aus einer anti-britischen aber pro Kolonialen Sicht im Roman 'Nena Sahib oder Die Empörung in Indien' von Sir John Retcliffe

(The portrayal of India from an anti British but pro colonial view in the novel " Nena Sahib oder die Empörung in Indien" by Sir John Retcliffe

In my M.Phil dissertation I have worked on a novel called "Nena Sahib". This was written and published in the 19th century by Hermann Goedsche, an activist of the conservative party Germany.

Goedsche was much known for his enthusiasm for the Prussian cause and controversial for his intrigues, against the liberals in the political sphere.

This writer who used a pseudo name" Sir John Retcliffe, won immense popularity on account of the series of novels which he called "Die Historische Politische Roman der Gegenwart" (the historical political novels of the present times".

The writer was intent on portraying the contemporary world and the political developments in it, in the form of adventure stories, a genre becoming increasingly popular during those times. Published in the year 1858, "Nena Sahib" happened to be the most popular novel of the year.

It is interesting to see how the Indian rebellion as an event is contextualised within the European political scene.

The questions dwelt with in course of engaging with the novel are formulated as follows:

How writing a novel becomes a political act in a world of ongoing clash between political ideologies in Europe.

The understanding of the progress in the world in terms of colonial prowess.

Under this concept the colonial nations of Europe and the nations of Asia and Africa that are colonised are both arranged in a line which is thought to advance forward.

The dissertation involves study of how this "development" is portrayed through tracing the colonial ambition in its phase of inception in "Africa" to its advancement in "India".