Peasant Struggles, Land Reforms and Social Change
Malabar 1836-1982

RADHAKRISHNAN P

Ane Books Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi • Chennai • Mumbai
CONTENTS

Preface v
Acknowledgements xiii

1. Introduction 1–6

2. Land and Society in Pre-British Malabar 7–26
   Land System 8
   Caste System 16

   Mappila Outbreaks and Land Reforms: 1836-1921 27
   British Land Policy and Agrarian Unrest 28
   Strange Commission 30
   Logan Commission 31
   Madhava Rao Commission 44
   Master Commission 45
   Kanam Tenants' Agitations and Land Reforms: 1920-30 50
   Malabar Kudiyan Sangham 52
   MKS and MLC Election 53
   Malabar Tenancy Bill and the MKS 55
   Verumpattam Tenants' Agitations and Land Reforms, 1930-56 60
   Emergence of Karshaka Sanghams 62
   Congress Betrayal and Peasant Response 65
   Militant Agitations for Malabar Tenancy Act Amendment 67
   Repression and Reprisal 69
   Armed Revolt and the Malabar Tenancy Act Amendment 71

APPENDIX A 74
APPENDIX B 76
4. Peasant Struggles and Land Reforms, 1957-70 79–110

Communist Ministry and the KARB: 1957-59 80
The KARB and Peasant Mobilisation 82
The KARB and Counter-Mobilisation 83
The KARB and Political Opposition 88
Congress-PSP Coalition and Dilution of the KARB 93
Peasant Mobilisation for Protection of the KARB 94
Mobilisation of Janmis for Dilution of the KARB 96
KARB Diluted as the KARA 96
Poor Implementation of the KARA 97
Peasant Mobilisation for Protection of the KARA 98
Mobilisation of Landed Interests and Dilution of KARA 102
KARA Diluted as KLRA 105
Poor Implementation of KLRA 106
Leftist Coalitions and Revival of KARB 107
APPENDIX A 108
APPENDIX B 109


Mass Agitations 111
Scope 112
Provisions 114
Machinery 116
Process 119
Implementation 122
Relative Progress 122
Relative Performance 128
Failure of Ceiling 130
Impact 136
Relative 136
Aggregate 137
Emerging Agrarian Situation 141
   Caste System 144
   Land System 146
   Land Tenures 148
   Peasant Activism 149
   Implementation of the 1969 Act 153
   Losers and Gainers 155
   Land Tribunals vs. Other Sources 159
   Changes in Land System 167
APPENDIX 171

   Economic Structure 176
   Occupational Structure 182
   Household Composition 184
   Religious Practices 187
   Power Structure 191
   Nambutiris and Social Relations 195
   Kerala Nambutiri Samajam 196
   Beneficiary Groups and Social Relations 198

8. Conclusion 203–209

References 211–217
Index 219–226