

An Alternate View Point on the Adi Resistance of 1894

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Abstract

The traditional narrative of a British expeditions/counter raids into the fastness of mountains in the Northeast as well as Northwest India have rested on stories of provocations from the tribes by raiding the plains, killing and taking British subjects as captives. Usually the sites of confrontation was decided by the British. However, the expedition of 1894 was an exception to that trajectory which this article seeks to flesh out. The sequence of events reveal that it was an alliance of tribes and sub-tribes could foil the effort of a well organised military expedition with the use of diplomacy, unity and tribal camaraderie combined with strategy, valour and sacrifice. The Abor Expedition of 1894 therefore represents one of the rarest examples in the history of colonial intervention, wherein, the Adi tribe displayed a very unique set of skills never faced by the British from any other tribal group.

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