

Underdevelopment and Ethnic Conflicts in North-east India with Special Reference to Manipur

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Abstract

This paper delves explicitly into the ethnic conflicts of Manipur and argues that it is linked to the long history of underdevelopment and unemployment coupled with the unchecked influx of immigration in the state. These factors together create a conducive environment for the growth of various ethnic conflicts at different points in time. ‘Look East Policy,’ now the ‘Act East Policy,’ is one of the *sine quo non* measures undertaken by the Centre to bring the region in focus by integrating it with Southeast Asia in terms of increased trade, culture, commerce and connectivity. This paper opined that strengthening the policy would help upgrade the region’s infrastructure, employment and development, which has the potential to disengage in further ethnic conflict in the region, including Manipur.

Keywords: North-east, Look East, Act East, ASEAN, Ethnic Conflict.