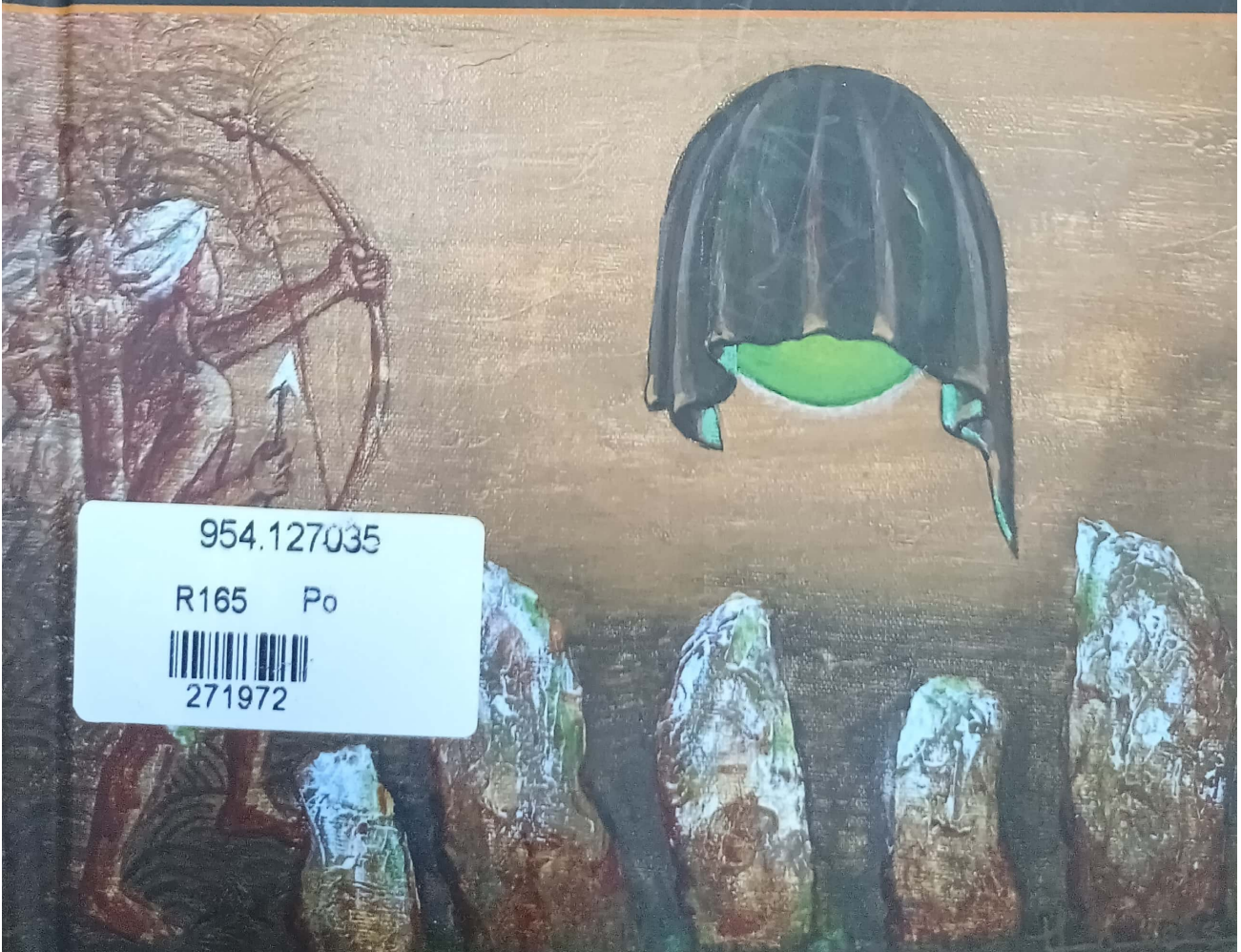


The Political Life of Memory

Birsa Munda in Contemporary India

Rahul Ranjan



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The Political Life of Memory examines the representation of Birsa Munda's political life, memory politics and the making of anti-colonialism in contemporary Jharkhand. It offers contrasting features of political imaginations deployed in developing memorial landscapes. The framing of Birsa in the heroic narrative through a grand scale of memorialization, often in the form of the built environment, curates a selective version. This isolates the scope of elaborating his political ideas outside the confines of atypical historical records and their relevance in the contemporary context. This book argues that everyday politics through affective sites such as memorials and statues produce political visions, emotions and opportunities. It shows how such symbolic sites are often strategically placed and politically motivated to inscribe ideologies. This process outlines how the state and Adivasis use memory as a political tool to lay claims to the past of the Birsa movement.

Rahul Ranjan is postdoctoral research fellow at Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet), Oslo, Norway. Currently he is working on a collaborative project titled 'Riverine Rights: Exploring the Currents and Consequences of Legal Innovations on the Rights of Rivers', funded by the Norwegian Research Council. His interests broadly encompass the fields of political ecology, environmental studies, anti-colonial politics and South Asia studies. He has edited the volume *At the Crossroads of Rights: Forest Struggles and Human Rights in Postcolonial India* (2022).

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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xxv
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xxix
Part I Context and Theory	
1. Introduction	3
Part II ‘Historical Memory’	
2. Claiming the Munda <i>Raj</i> from the Margins: Land, Missionaries and the Making of the Birsa <i>Ulgulan</i> in Chota Nagpur (1845–1900)	49
Part III Ethnography of Memory, Objects and Resistance	
3. Memories Set in Stone: Political Aesthetics and the Statue of Birsa Munda in Post-colonial Jharkhand	93
4. ‘Burying the Dead, Creating the Past’: The Making of Memorials, Stone Slabs and Birsa Munda in Jharkhand	153

5. Echoes from the Graveyard: <i>Pathalgadi</i> , Birsaites and the Landscape of Memory	207
6. Conclusion	258
<h2>Contents</h2>	
<i>Appendix</i>	264
<i>Glossary</i>	266
<i>Bibliography</i>	269
<i>Index</i>	290