

The Life and Times of Deshbandhu Chittranjan Das: A Revolutionary Patriot

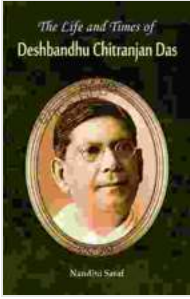


The Life and Times of Deshbandhu Chittranjan Das

by Angela Murrills

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The annals of India's freedom struggle are replete with the names of countless heroes and heroines who dedicated their lives to the cause of independence from British rule. Among these towering figures, Deshbandhu Chitranjan Das stands out as a brilliant lawyer, charismatic politician, and an ardent advocate of non-violent resistance. His contributions to the Indian National Congress and his leadership of the Bengal politics made him a household name during the early 20th century.

This article delves into the life and times of Deshbandhu Chitranjan Das, exploring his early life, education, legal career, political journey, and the profound impact he had on the Indian independence movement. Through the lens of his personal and public life, we will gain a deeper understanding of this extraordinary leader and his unwavering commitment to a free and independent India.

Early Life and Education

Chitranjan Das was born on November 5, 1870, in the village of Bakultala in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. His father, Bhuvan Mohan Das, was a renowned lawyer and scholar, while his mother, Basanta Kumari Devi, was a pious and devoted woman. Chitranjan's early life was

marked by a strong sense of patriotism and a deep yearning for India's independence.

He received his primary education at home and later joined St. Xavier's College in Calcutta. His brilliance as a student became evident from an early age. He was an avid reader and had a remarkable ability to absorb knowledge. In 1890, he graduated with honors in Philosophy and went on to pursue a law degree from University College London.

Legal Career and Early Political Involvement

After completing his studies in England, Chittranjan Das returned to India and enrolled as an advocate at the Calcutta High Court. He quickly established himself as one of the most brilliant legal minds of his time. His courtroom victories brought him fame and recognition, but his true passion lay in serving the people and fighting for their rights.

Das's political awakening came during the Partition of Bengal in 1905. He joined the Indian National Congress and became an active participant in the Swadeshi Movement. His fiery speeches and incisive writings resonated with the masses, and he emerged as a leading voice of the nationalist movement in Bengal.

Leadership of the Bengal Politics

Chittranjan Das's charisma and leadership qualities soon propelled him to the forefront of Bengal politics. He was elected as the President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee in 1917 and played a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape of the province.

Under his stewardship, the Bengal Congress became a formidable force. He organized mass protests, promoted boycott of British goods, and advocated for Swaraj (self-rule) for India. Das's popularity soared, and he became known as "Deshbandhu" (friend of the country) by the people of Bengal.

Non-Cooperation Movement and Swaraj Party

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919 marked a turning point in the Indian freedom struggle. Chittranjan Das was deeply moved by the brutality of the British authorities and joined Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. He gave up his lucrative legal practice and dedicated himself entirely to the cause of Indian independence.

Das played a leading role in organizing the Non-Cooperation Movement in Bengal. He led mass civil disobedience campaigns, boycotted foreign goods, and promoted the use of khadi (homespun cloth). His efforts contributed significantly to the success of the movement and brought him national recognition.

However, Das believed that the Indian National Congress should also participate in the legislative councils to further the cause of Swaraj. This led to the formation of the Swaraj Party within the Congress in 1922. Das became the leader of the Swaraj Party in Bengal and contested elections in the provincial council.

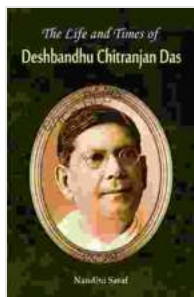
Civil Disobedience Movement and Imprisonment

The Swaraj Party's success in the elections alarmed the British authorities. They arrested Chittranjan Das and other leaders of the movement. Das

was imprisoned for over a year and subjected to harsh treatment. However, he remained unyielding in his resolve for India's freedom.

While in prison, Das wrote his famous book, *The Meaning of Swaraj*, which outlined his vision for an independent India. He argued that Swaraj meant not only political independence but also social, economic, and cultural freedom for all Indians.

Upon his release from prison, Das continued to lead the Civil Disobedience Movement in Bengal. However, his health had been severely compromised by the harsh conditions of his imprisonment. On June 16, 1925, Chittranjan Das passed away at the age of 54, leaving behind a legacy that would continue to inspire generations of Indians.



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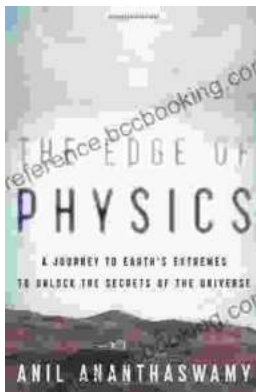
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