

2015. 'Regional Dimensions of Social Movements in India' in *India Rural Development Report 2013-14*, pp. 145-161. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan.

Abstract: Emancipatory social movements are a notable feature of Indian politics with respect to (i) land and natural resources; (ii) social inequality and discrimination; and (iii) political representation and autonomy. How do these movements help us understand regional differences? This paper argues that (a) forms of social movements are rooted in regional characteristics: i.e., the socio-geographical features of a place attract particular forms of state intervention that become the spark for conflict and contention; (b) contemporary struggles are based in a region's specific history, its changing social institutions and processes; and (c) social movements mobilize regional identities to create political entities.