

COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS: DOCUMENTING JAPAN THROUGH BENGALI TRAVELLERS' EYES

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During the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth, along with the surge of travels to the West, to Europe and England in particular, we also find Bengali travellers frequenting the eastern nation of Japan. This paper will focus on select travel narratives of Bengalis visiting Japan, the proverbial 'Land of the Rising Sun,' by people like Swami Vivekananda, Manmathanath Ghosh, Suresh Chandra Bandyopadhyay, Sarojnalini Dutt, Hariprabha Takeda, Rabindranath Tagore and others. Taken together as a whole, they give us a better understanding of a race and oriental culture which are mind-boggling in their diversity.
