

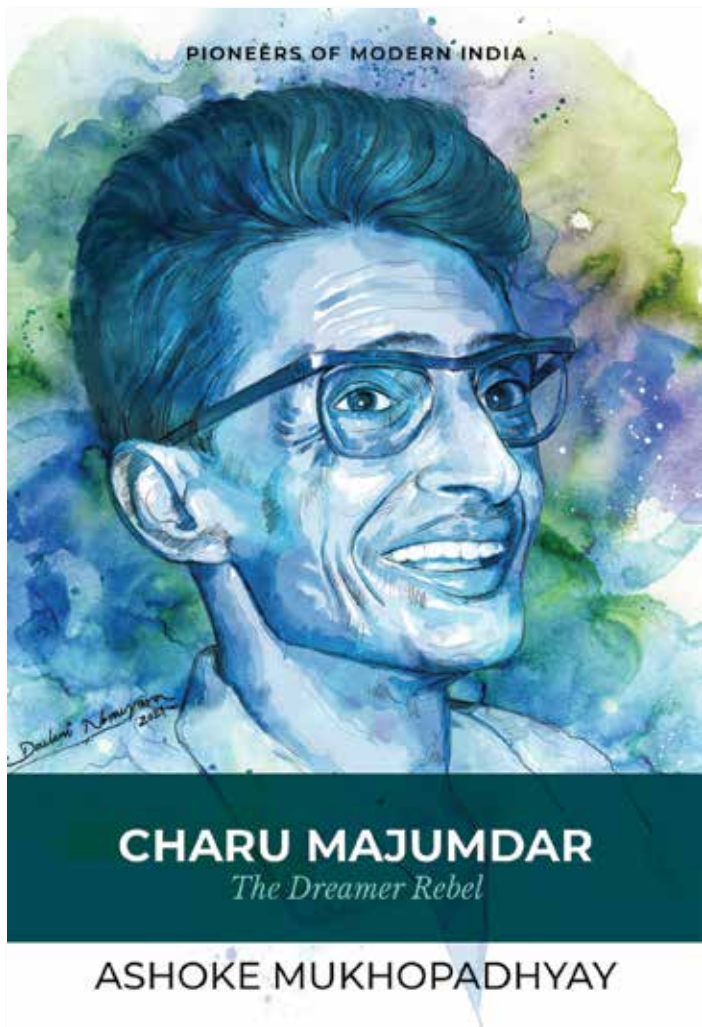
PIONEERS OF MODERN INDIA

This is the **first ever monograph** on Charu Majumdar in English.

A concise biography that traces the life of Charu Majumdar as he incited a burning fire of revolution into young minds that reshaped the political journey of modern India.

Unearths the birth of Naxalism in Bengal and traces its journey through different parts of India. Witnesses the uprising of radical leftism in Indian political scenario.

Explores the reasons for the unthinkable popularity of Majumdar among the educated young mass.



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Charu Majumdar

The Dreamer Rebel

Ashoke Mukhopadhyay

The Man who Fought Fire with Fire

‘He, who cannot dream and imbue others to dream, is not a revolutionary,’ said Charu Majumdar. True to his words, he dreamt of a shackles-free India and drew thousands of youth to join the armed revolution unleashed by his party in the 1970s.

This book, the only one of its kind, is an unbiased documentation of the trailblazing journey of the fire bird who gifted the word ‘Naxalite’ to the world, something that spread like a wildfire in the deepest roots of the contemporary young minds. The man who had a fire in his heart, thus became an inspiration to a generation. *Charu Majumdar: The Dreamer Rebel* is a well-researched book on the legendary rebel of the 1970s, who, besides calling for an armed revolution, taught many to dream.

Ashoke Mukhopadhyay, an MBA and a corporate communications professional, made a foray in the arena of literature with a host of startling research-based articles and insightful documentations like *Terrorism—a colonial construct*, *The Naxalites: Through the Eyes of Calcutta Police*, *Tegarter Andaman Diary* (an assessment of militant nationalists based on an inquiry of Charles Tegart), *Prothom Diner Robi* (Rabindranath Tagore’s first attempt at drawing; in fact the writer found out the drawings from an innocuous steel almirah of an art collector). Mukhopadhyay won the coveted Ananda Snowcem Award twice for his articles.

Mukhopadhyay’s penchant for research and finer details are reflected in his novels—*Agnipurush* (Bio-fiction based on the not-so-known militant nationalist of 1906, Ullaskar Dutt) and *Atta N’tar Surya* (The Morning Sun).

Mukhopadhyay’s zeal for seamless stitching of facts with imagination was also reflected in his novel *Abiram Jwarer Roopkatha* (A Ballad of Remittent Fever), which was long-listed for the JCB Award 2020.

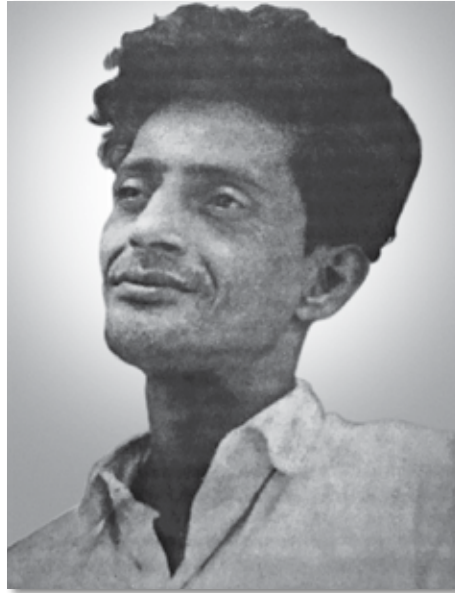


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At a public meeting at Monument Maidan celebrating the 50th anniversary of October Revolution (November 1967)



Charu Majumdar



Charu Majumdar and Saroj Dutta waving the Red Book (1970)

Making of a Man through a Revolution...

Charu Majumdar: From 1954 onwards, peasants' movements got impetus on certain economic demands like loans to farmers, sharing of crops, rights to land, to name a few. The peasants' struggle had impacted the nearby tea gardens. At the call of Charu, a one-day strike at tea gardens was observed; a union was set up. To organise tea garden movements, town comrades sent money to buy three bicycles. Charu, Biren and Atin, who used the bicycles, would start off at noon and by the time they returned, the clock struck 12.

At the tea garden meetings or village group discussions, Charu was the chief attraction. But he never spoke at the annual conferences of peasants and workers. He was always of the opinion to 'allow the organiser peasants and workers to speak, groom them as speakers'. Charu would loiter amongst the audience, probably to read their pulse.

Protesting the killing of two women and a boy by the police at the Margaret's Hope tea garden on 25 June, workers struck work at fifty-six tea gardens in Darjeeling. Prior to this, a day-long strike was observed in the Terai region of Siliguri on this issue. The Darjeeling strike ended on 29 June. On 1 July, Charu Majumdar was jailed for seven days for abusing Sub Divisional Officer in the Court on a Kharibari tea garden issue.

Other titles in this series

