

Regional Historiographical Tradition in Nepal

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Abstract

This article explores the evolution of historical writing in Nepal and critically challenges the influence of Western-centered perspectives on its historiography. It explains that in earlier times, Nepal's history was mainly preserved through religious texts and genealogical Sanskrit traditions, which are often undervalued or labeled as mythical by modern scholars despite their historical significance. The paper points out those Western-influenced academic practices have largely sidelined these indigenous sources and limited their inclusion in formal studies. It also reviews the early documentation of Nepal's history by foreign scholars such as Bhagwanlal Indraji, William Kirkpatrick, and Francis Buchanan Hamilton, whose interpretations were often shaped by colonial viewpoints and tended to depict Nepal as dependent on external powers like the Gupta Empire, British India, or Tibet. By examining these external accounts alongside traditional sources, the article stresses the importance of adopting a more balanced and critical perspective. It ultimately argues that a proper understanding of Nepal's past requires the recognition and systematic study of its indigenous historical traditions.

Keywords: Historiography of Nepal, Sanskrit Sources, Western-centric Interpretation, Indigenous Historical Evidence, Nepal's Independence

Introduction

In Nepal, the tradition of writing history as a separate subject, discipline, and genre did not begin in ancient times. Instead, history was often incorporated into religious traditions with genealogical descriptions. In the modern era, history has come to be regarded as a comprehensive, timely, intellectual practice and study of human society, which, through the study of past societies, opens the door to the governance of present-day society. By validating and studying our reliable classical sources in such work, we can gain the capacity to provide the necessary guidance for every step of human life.

However, the unfortunate reality is that certain modern Western-centric scholars have created a tradition of neither including these ancient Sanskrit-based texts in curricula nor validating them, calling them mythological, fictional and false. Driven by such prejudice, they have widely written that Nepal is not an independent country in their view.

In reality, our Buddhist and Hindu traditional Sanskrit *Puranas* and histories concerning Nepal provide evidence that Nepal has remained an unbroken independent country for thousands of years (Nepal, 2040, pp. 7,19,43). We are making the mistake of wielding our pens at the behest of foreign authors, trapped in the illusion of their baseless descriptions, instead of studying our own indigenous authoritative sources.

Regional History of Nepal

The work of writing Nepal's history based on available evidence was first initiated by the Indian scholar *Bhagwanlal Indrajai*. As a script expert, he came to Nepal, collected as many ancient Lichchhavi-era inscriptions as he could find, and took them to India. He considered the script used during the Lichchhavi period to be the Gupta script and published 15 inscriptions in 1937 BS and later 23 Lichchhavi-era inscriptions with explanations. His work, "*TWENTY THREE INSCRIPTIONS FROM NEPAL*," which contained twenty-three inscriptions brought from Nepal, was the first book on Nepal's history based on inscriptions, published by the Asiatic Society of Bombay in 1942 BS. However, even he propagated the notion that Nepal was under the control of the Gupta kings of India from that time, which was entirely one-sided and false.

Foreigners began writing Nepal's history during the Nepal-China-Tibet War. When Nepal's regent, Bahadur Shah, requested military assistance from the British East India Company, the Company, instead of providing aid, conspired to sign a commercial treaty with Nepal. A small military unit, led by *MAJOR WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK*, was sent to Nepal. Kirkpatrick, the leader of this delegation, made only a few notes about Nepal, which he named "*AN ACCOUNT OF THE KINGDOM OF NEPAUL*" and published in 1868 BS by William Miller, London.

In 1859 BS, Captain Knox came to Nepal as a commercial resident, accompanied by a doctor, *FRANCIS BUCHANAN HAMILTON*. During his eleven-month stay in Nepal, Hamilton wrote a history book titled "*AN ACCOUNT OF THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL*." He utilized the help of Kanaknidhi Tiwari, a fugitive who had fled to India during Nepal's unification of Palpa state, to include many details in this work, which was published in 1879 BS by Archibald Constable and Co. Edinburgh.

Following this, in 1881 BS, *R. HUNTER* published "*MILITARY SKETCHES OF THE GOORKHA WAR IN THE YEAR 1814, 1815, and 1816*" from Churchyard, London. This book discusses the reasons and objectives of the British invasion of Nepal. Two years later, *J. L. COX* published "*PAPERS RESPECTING THE NEPAUL*" from John Murray, London. Similarly, in 1885 BS, *JOHN MALCON* published the two-volume work, "*POLITICAL HISTORY FROM 1813-1823, PROCLAMATION PREVIOUS TO THE*

COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES WITH THE RAJAH OF NEPAL," from the same publisher.

In 1908 BS, ONFENUR CAVENAGH published "ROUGH NOTES ON THE STATE OF NEPAL: ITS GOVERNMENT, ARMY, AND RESOURCES" from Palmer Military Orphan Press, Calcutta. Setting aside other miscellaneous works, DANIEL WRITE published "HISTORY OF NEPAL" in 1934 BS from Cambridge University Press, London, as an English translation of a genealogy collected in Nepal. Six years later, H. AMBROSE OLDFIELD published the two-volume work, "SKETCHES FROM NEPAL," in 1940 BS from J. W. Thompson Baptist Mission Press, Calcutta.

In this context, the eminent Sanskrit scholar from France, Sylvain Levi, wrote the book "Le Népal" in French, which was published in 1962 BS and 1965 by E. Leroux, Paris. He, too, with prejudice, wrote that Nepal was under the control of Tibet from ancient times, based on the second line of folio 21 Kh of the *Gopālarājavaṃśāvalī*, which states, "tata paścādbhotātadeśena māgatam" ("Thereafter, it came from the country of Bhot/Tibet"), and that Nepal only became independent from the reign of King Rāghavadeva, who initiated the Pashupati Samvat or Nepal Samvat 937 BS.

Problems in Writing Regional History

Almost all foreign authors have unanimously declared that Nepal was dependent, registering its history as the history of a subject country and categorizing it as a regional history. The implication is that Nepal is merely a province or region ruled sometimes by Tibet, sometimes by China, and sometimes by India, and not a sovereign nation. Indian authors have claimed that their own country's kings ruled in Nepal, while other foreign authors have repeatedly stated that Nepal was under the control of China and Tibet. Thus, foreign authors have neither seen nor written about Nepal as an independent nation from ancient times.

The tragedy is that a challenging question now stands before history professors and students in Nepal: should we, the Nepal is, continue to regard the false works written by these foreigners as authoritative, or should we verify our own Eastern facts and truths? Only if we, the Nepali history students, now travel to various historical regions of Nepal, search, read, and comparatively research and prepare regional histories, can a comprehensive, unified history of an independent nation be written. The writing of regional history and the preparation of its curriculum in universities have been focused on this very issue.

With this context in mind, we are attempting to briefly shed light on the works of the authors of Nepal's regional history. Foreign authors like Hamilton and others, in the

course of describing Nepal, did not entirely avoid describing regional history, basing their accounts on the suggestions and information from their assistants. It is not known that any institution or body in Nepal has encouraged and engaged experienced scholars in such work. The work done so far appears to be solely the result of personal expense and effort, often as a utilization of time gained during a project or Ph.D. research. It is also found that individuals with government funding often limit their work to just the expected reports, merely fulfilling the formalities, and often resort to copying or copy-pasting others' work to submit progress reports.

Glimpses of Regional History Writing

In 1979 BS, Ambika Prasad Upadhyaya, a former Nepali Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, published "Nepal ko Sankshipta Digdarshan" (A Brief Glimpse of Nepal), which also highlighted Nepal's regional history. In this work, he described kingdoms such as Tanahun, Ramnagar, Makwanpur, Naya Nepal, Baisi, Chaubisi, and the Valley states. This work was published by Subba Homnath Kedarnath in Kashi Varanasi. It is also sometimes accused of being a large-scale translation of Percival Landon's work, "Nepal Vol. i and Vol ii."

In 2013 BS, an Italian scholar, *GIUSEPPE TUCCI*, published his work, "*PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TWO SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS IN NEPAL*," from ROMA: Is. M. E. O. 1956. In this work, the author officially explored the Khas Kingdom of Western Nepal and the Tibetan plateau, and, with the help of various assistants and on-site studies, extensively researched the development of Hinduism, Mahayana Buddhism, and the Bonpo religion, as well as the influence of the Khas Malla kings and the vast empire they acquired. Similarly, his other work, "*NEPAL: THE DISCOVERY OF MALLAS*," translated from Italian by Lovett Edwards and published in London in 2017 BS, provides an authoritative history of the Malla kings of Western Nepal. Furthermore, his other work, "*TRANSHIMALAYA*," translated from French by James Hoarth, was published in 2028 BS by *BARRY AND JENKIN, LONDON: 1873*. This work provides a realistic description of the ancient to modern history and contemporary political situation of the Trans-Himalayan and Cis-Himalayan regions of Nepal.

In 2014 BS, the *Nepal Cultural Council* published a book, edited by *Dhanavajra Vajracharya and Gyanamani Nepal*, which was a Nepali translation of a Sanskrit play titled "*Jayaratnākara Nāṭaka*." Although prepared against a dramatic background, the work is considered useful for the study of regional history due to its focus on historical events. In particular, the work provides a good description of *Doti and Kumaon*,

illuminating the circumstances of Nepal's conquest of those areas and how Nepal viewed that region.

Professor Prayag Raj Sharma, a student of the eminent Nepali scholar of architecture, as a student of Professor Sankhaliya, published "*PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE KARNALI BASIN, WEST NEPAL,*" in 2027 BS from PARIS: C. N. R. S. 1972, which provides a profound study of the architecture, art, politics, construction, and environment of the Karnali region.

In 2028 BS, the Royal Nepal Academy published Volume 1, "History," written by Satyamohan Joshi under the Karnali Folk Culture Project. This work, consisting of 160 pages, highlights the Royal Nepal Academy's plan to explore the Karnali region. The four-chapter book begins with the expression that the work was undertaken with the goal of creating a national history. It starts with the genealogy of the Khas Malla kings who succeeded in establishing an empire in Sinja, via the Khari region of Tibet, largely based on the citation and support of Giuseppe Tucci, and also includes some cultural aspects. The commentary section of this work briefly mentions the history of Kumaon and Doti by translating the works of Edwin T. Atkinson and Rahul Sankrityayan into Nepali.

In 2031 BS, the Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies published a work titled "*Dolakha ko Aitihāsik Ruprekha*" (Historical Outline of Dolakha), authored by Dhanavajra Vajracharya and Tek Bahadur Shrestha. In this work, the authors first included the nature of settlement and the economic and social aspects. The richly historical text also sheds light on art and architecture. The work successfully illuminates the activities that took place in Dolakha during the unification of Nepal. The same authors published another work, "*Nuwaakot ko Aitihāsik Ruprekha*" (*Historical Outline of Nuwakot*), in 2032 BS from the same institution. This work follows the pattern of the Dolakha history, adapting the study of the subject matter to the local context. The book successfully highlights how the earlier campaigns of the Gorkhali kings against the Nuwakot region, which lay on the Tibetan trade route of the Kathmandu Valley, were foiled by the kings of the Valley, and how *King Prithvi Narayan Shah* succeeded in gaining control of the area through diplomatic means.

In 2031 BS, Iman Singh Chemjong published "*Kiratkalīn Vijaypurko Sankshipta Itihas*" (A Brief History of Kirat-era Vijaypur). The book mentions that before the unification of Nepal, the Koshi region was ruled by the *Koch dynasty* of Singha Raya, who came from Kamrup, Kamakhya, and Assam, and that this dynasty was defeated by *Lohang Sen*, a prince of Palpa. All these kings had a tradition of granting the "*Royal*" title and the post of "*Diwan*" to the indigenous Kirats of the Koshi region, making them

hereditary prime ministers. Even after the unification of eastern Nepal, *King Prithvi Narayan Shah* honored this tradition and respected their dignity. The book, divided into eight chapters, has greatly contributed to shedding light on the regional history of Eastern Nepal.

In the same year, the work "*Kautikamaya Dolpo*" (Fascinating Dolpo), written by the sociologist *Janak Lal Sharma Dhakal* and published by the *Royal Nepal Academy*, brought new enthusiasm to the writing of Nepal's regional history, as most Nepali scholars had little to no knowledge of the area until then. "*Kautukamaya Dolpo*" contains a total of 42 chapters. In all these topics, the author has attempted to highlight the multifaceted importance of Dolpa's history by mentioning various subjects. Clearly, historical elements of that region are infused into every article. Although a plate of illustrations is provided at the end of the book, some pictures are also used within the book.

In 2035 BS, *Purna Prakash Nepal 'Yatri'* published a 650-page historical work, "*Seti Anchal Digdarshan*" (A Glimpse of Seti Zone), through *Himali Saugat Publication*. Readers feel that his travel to various places in Nepal, especially to the *Far Western and Western regions*, was extremely fruitful. The work covers diverse topics. The first section contains a geographical description, including the districts of *Bajhang, Bajura, Achham, Doti, and Kailali*. The second section covers **society** and ethnic groups, including social life, educational glimpses, and farming, the direction of a new change, and industry and business. The third section presents a historical outline, where the history of all the districts of the Seti Zone is scattered throughout. The fourth section is dedicated to *genealogy*, which researches the lineages and sub-lineages of various surnames and (Septs) gotras. The fifth section is about *religion and culture*, which briefly sheds light on the introduction to religion and culture, monasteries, temples and shrines, greetings and etiquette, and the folk life of the tribal Tharu people. The sixth section is dedicated to political context, which briefly describes the famous personalities of the region. Finally, there is an appendix, which concludes the book with an introduction to some major places, some researchable castes and archaeological pictures, transport and communication routes, and a list of collaborators.

In 2038 BS, *Thakur Prasad Koirala's "Manaang ko Itihas"* (History of Manang), published by the *Royal Nepal Academy*, offers a good study of the introduction to the Trans-Himalayan region, the economic, social, and political aspects, and the trade between Nepal and Tibet. The book, divided into 12 chapters, successfully presents a description of Manang's religious state and the contemporary details of each village.

In 2041 BS, Dharma Raj Thapa wrote "*Lâmjung: Loka Saṃskṛtiko Gherāmā*" (Lamjung within the confines of Folk Culture), published by Sajha Prakashan, Pulchok. The primary purpose of this work was to travel around Nepal and search for folk culture and history, which also helped the study of regional history. The book contains a total of 58 essays, all based on the description of places, beginning with the Lamjung environment. In the course of describing various villages and places, the author appears to have studied the local history and culture. There is also an attempt to highlight folk history by referencing the residents of various places, especially *Brahmin*, *Chhetri*, *Gurung*, and other communities.

In 2041 BS, the academic scholar Tika Ram Panthi published "*Lumbinī Āñcalamā Pracālita Kehī Janaśrutiharu*" (Some pre-historical Folk-tales Prevalent in Lumbini Zone) from the Kiran Library in Tamghas, Gulmi. This work attempts to bring to light the ancient and prehistoric historical contexts of the region on an authoritative historical scriptural, classical basis. In particular, it contains an in-depth exploration of the Puranic-Itihasik sites in *Palpa*, *Gulmi*, and *Arghakhanchi*.

In 2041 BS, Dinesh Raj Pant wrote and published "*Gorkhāko Itihās*" (History of Gorkha), Volume 1, which covered the history of Gorkha from the Licchavi period. The main objective of this work, however, is to shed light on the history of the Shah period. Thus, the history is presented based on the genealogy and available sources from King Drabya Shah, the founder of the Gorkha state, to King Narbhupal Shah. His second volume of "*Gorkhāko Itihās*" was published in 2043 BS, focusing on the famous reformist king of Gorkha, Ram Shah. Similarly, the third volume of "*Gorkhāko Itihās*" was published in 2045 BS, including the historical materials of the first and second volumes. Finally, the fourth volume of "*Gorkhāko Itihās*" was published in V.S. 2050, which included old genealogies and *thyāsaphū* (manuscript bundles). Thus, the author seems to have studied the history of Gorkha comprehensively.

In 2042 BS, Shiv Kumar Shrestha, the Campus Chief of Dhankuta Multiple Campus, published a significant historical work, "*Limbuānko Aitihāsik Adhyayan*" (Historical Study of Limbuwan), by Mrs. Ganga Devi Shrestha of Dhankuta. The book has five chapters, starting with an introduction followed by the historical background of the Kirats. It then progressively covers the original homeland of the Kirats, the Kirat kings in the Kathmandu Valley, the *ten Limbus of Limbuwan*, the states of Makwanpur, Chaudandī, and Vijaypur established after the entry of the Sen kings, an analysis of the ***Kipāt system*** prevalent in Limbuwan, some questions raised regarding the unification of Nepal and their resolution, the *lalmohars* (royal seals) of various times and the interpretation of their content, the work of the *Amal* (administrator) and the *Panchayat*

(council), the unique role of Kirats in the Rana regime and in civil and military service, the life of the Kirat Limbus, the position of women in Kirat society, the various occupations and businesses they engage in, social customs, and means of dance and entertainment, all of which are successfully presented.

In 2043 BS, "*Paścim Nepālko Aitihāsik Anveṣaṇ*" (Historical Investigation of Western Nepal), based on materials collected during a journey to various parts of the Gandaki and Karnali provinces by the present author and written by Suryamani Adhikari, was published by the Nepal and Asian Research Center. The work, contained in 200 pages, has 11 sections, most of which are filled with inscriptions, with some materials adequately explained. Such materials cover places like Jumla, Doti, Bajhang, Darna, Udaypur, Bajura, Musikot, Dullu, Pyuthan, Palpa, and Tanahun, starting from *the Khas Kingdom*. The work also includes a selection of some illustrations.

In 2044 BS, Narayan Prasad Bhusal Chhetri, a judge while working in the Mustang District Court, completed a very important work. The book, "*Mustāṅg Digdarśan*" (A Glimpse of Mustang), consisting of 450 pages, plays a special role in Nepal's regional history. The work, divided into 5 sections, extensively reveals the geographical background of Mustang, its religious situation, political background, public administration, and social condition, based on 89 unpublished documents.

In 2045 BS, Bishnu Prasad Sharma Ghimire's regional history book, "*Pālpā Rājyako Senakālīn Itihās*" (History of the Sen Period of Palpa State), Volume 1, was published by Mrs. Padma Ghimire from Chitwan. This work contains 170 pages, 23 photographs, 11 appendices, and is divided into 8 chapters. The introduction section covers the historical materials of Palpa state, the first chapter covers *land and ethnic groups*, the second covers political history, the third covers administrative system, the fourth covers foreign relations, the fifth covers society and culture, the sixth covers economic life, the seventh covers art and architecture, and the eighth chapter concludes the book with a summary. The same author's "*Pālpāko Itihās*" (History of Palpa), Volume 2, was published in 2056 BS by the Chitwan Study Center. This work contains 6 chapters, 24 photographs, 2 appendices, and 230 pages. The first chapter covers Palpa to Purkot, the second covers Palpa to Ramnagar, the third covers Palpa to Vijaypur, the fourth covers art and skill, including residential architecture and fort construction, the fifth covers place introduction, and the sixth chapter provides a summary.

In 2046 BS, Mahesh Raj Pant and Philip H. Pierce published "*ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS OF THE SHAH DYNASTY CONCERNING MUSTANG AND ITS PERIPHERY (1789-1844)*" from VGH Wissenschaftsverlag GmbH, Bonn, which included

22 historical documents from the Shah period and one copper plate, making a total of 23 photographs and original inscriptions, translated into German and English. The work includes documents from 1789 to 1844 BS and a copper plate from King Rana Bahadur Shah. The work provides modern definitions of some difficult, old, and currently obsolete traditional Nepali and historical words used in the documents. The Luna-solar calendar used in the documents is also translated into the solar calendar for easier understanding.

In 2049 BS, Bhaweshwar Pageni's "*Pālpāmā Prajātantrika Āndolanaka Saya Dina*" (One Hundred Days of the Democratic Movement in Palpa), a 150-page work with 84 pages of main text and 61 pages of documents, was published by Mrs. Nima Pageni from Kathmandu. The book has five chapters, including the summary. The first chapter covers the historical and political background of Palpa, the unification and its aftermath until 2007 BS (1950), the second covers the development, expansion, and activities of public awareness in Palpa, the third covers Commanding General Rudra Shamsher and his political involvement, and the attempts at central control, the fourth covers the activities, decisions, extensions, meetings, and achievements during the 100 days of the democratic movement. The work was awarded the Madan prize for that year, established in the name of Madan Shamsher Rana and led by the family of Kamal Mani Dixit. This work successfully provides information on the 100 days of the 2007 B.S. democratic movement in Palpa, located in Western Nepal.

In 2050 BS, Tek Nath Gautam, a wealthy and studious individual from Hapur Bijauri, Gautam Nagar, Katekohol, Ghorahi, Dang District, made a creative contribution to the writing of Nepal's regional history. Entirely through his own investment and labor, as if repaying a debt to his birthplace and work environment, he published "*Rāptī Āñcalako Itihās Tathā Kehī Saṁsmaraṇaharu*" (History of Rapti Zone and Some Memoirs), a work based on on-site study tours. Having an interest in history, he also gained fame for writing about Nepal's social culture. His work can be considered a foundational text for the Rapti region. The book, self-published and printed in Varanasi, is a collection of 145 pages and 20 topics, including history and diverse subjects. He primarily focuses on the historical background, and we find special studies on Gajul, Khumri, Musikot, Shivraj, Darma, Thuni, Dhakadham, Rolpa, Chhilli, Udaypur, Tulsipur, and Phalabang among the Baisi states.

In 2051 BS, Bishnu Prasad Paudel 'Maitreyi' of Baglung Campus published "*Baglungko Aitihāsik Ruprekha*" (Historical Outline of Baglung), converting his post-graduate thesis into a book by gathering published and unpublished sources. The work begins with the region's geography and focuses on history and culture. This work is seen to help shed light on Nepal's regional history.

In 2052 BS, the work "*Pyūṭhān Rājyako Itihās*" (History of Pyuthan State), written by the scholar Gitu Giri and published by the District Development Committee, Pyuthan, represents the regional history of the Gandaki Province. The work, contained in 170 pages with 48 photographs, is divided into 11 chapters. Starting with an introduction, the second chapter covers geographical introduction, the third political history, the fourth administrative background, the fifth foreign relations, the sixth economic aspect, the seventh social condition, the eighth religious condition, the ninth art and architecture, the tenth chapter covers the important tourist sites of Pyuthan, and the eleventh chapter concludes with a summary. A notable feature of this work is the selection of more than 100 regional historical inscriptions, making the work even more authoritative.

In 2053 BS, Bhaweshwar Pangen's work, "*Paścim Nepālmā Prajātantrika Āndolan*" (Democratic Movement in Western Nepal), published by Shobha Devi Bholanath Trust, Taulihawa, Kapilbastu, was released. The 651-page work has three chapters in the first section and eleven chapters in the second section, totaling 14 chapters. The first section begins with the efforts inside and outside the country regarding anti-Rana consciousness. The second chapter provides a glimpse of the formation and expansion of political awareness in Western Nepal, mentioning attempts to establish libraries in Taulihawa, Palpa, and Baglung, the revolution of Brahmins plowing in Lamjung, Tanahun, and Kaski, the beginning of the establishment of various associations and organizations, and the commotion from Butwal to Rasuwa, concluding the first section. The first chapter of the second section discusses the aggressive activities of Dr. Kuwar Indrajit Singh Shahi in Majhkhand or Bhairahawa in the name of democracy during the democratic movement in Nepal. The second chapter discusses the activities in Palhi or Parasi, the third discusses the activities of the liberation army in Syuraj or Bahadurganj, the fourth chapter details the movement in Khajahani or the border area of Taulihawa, the fifth chapter discusses the formation of people's governments in Banke, Koilabas, Dang, Deukhuri, Pyuthan, and Nepalgunj, and the sixth chapter discusses the movement in Palpa, Gulmi, Argha, Khanchi, Isma, Musikot, Dhurkot, and Parbat. The seventh chapter covers the turmoil in Western No. 4, Nuwakot, and Syangja to Kushma, and the eighth chapter sheds light on the militia's activities and the formation of a people's government in Baglung. The ninth chapter discusses the support provided by Syangja democrats to the organization in Western No. 3, Kaski Pokhara. The tenth chapter shows the activities in Western No. 2, Gorkha, and the final, eleventh chapter gives the context of the preparation for the movement in Western No. 1, Nuwakot, and Rasuwa.

It cannot be said that this work provides a clear democratic account, as the primary source persons considered fundamental were anti-democrats, opportunists, and court

informers who betrayed the genuine democratic fighters and leaders, and they only provided documents favorable to themselves. For example, Muktinath Sharma, a Brahmin from Kaski who was beaten and socially boycotted by the Bada Hakim for plowing a field in V.S. 2001, is presented based on a false source. Another point is that in 1997 BS, when two lithography machines entered Nepal, one was taken to Kathmandu by Tanka Prasad Acharya, the leader of the Nepal Praja Parishad, with financial support from King Tribhuvan, and the other was used by the King of Galkot, Bharat Bam Malla, who made Bharta Mani Gautam (real name: Govind Prasad Gautam) from Pokhrathok, Arghakhanchi hide the machine in the granary of Lamte Sarki's house in Khidim to print the same kind of pamphlet, which led to the incident of 1997 BS. If many such facts from Western Nepal had been included with documents, the work could have been very acceptable, good, and readable for everyone. Nevertheless, even in its one-sided way, whatever was available and published based on it can be considered successful in showing one aspect of Western Nepal well.

In 2054 BS, Dadhi Raj Subedi published a historical work, "*Birāṭnagar ko Saṅkṣipta Itihās*" (A Brief History of Biratnagar), through Pratibha Puraskar Pratisthan, Biratnagar. The work contains 11 chapters, including a geographical introduction, Biratnagar during the rule of the Sen dynasty kings, archaeological sites in Biratnagar such as Bhedyari, Dhanpalgadhi, the basis for the naming of Biratnagar, the form of the Nepali language prevalent in Eastern Nepal, literary activities in Biratnagar, educational activities there, religion and culture, industry and trade, contemporary political activities, acting, painting, music, libraries, associations, activities of the Biratnagar Municipality, books and periodicals published from that place, and diverse subjects.

In 2054 BS, Rajarām Subedi's work, "*Karṇālī Pradeśko Madhyakālīn Itihās*" (Medieval History of the Karnali Province), was published by Sajha Prakashan. This work discusses the Khas Malla Empire established in the Karnali region during the 12th century Bikram Sambat. Furthermore, it provides an authenticated historical account of the Baisi states that emerged in the region during the 15th century Bikram Sambat, based on on-site study. This work has the capacity to satisfy those interested in studying Nepal's regional history.

In 2055 BS, Professor Ram Niwas Pandey's significant regional history work, "*MAKING OF MODERN NEPAL*," was published by JAIPUR: NIRALA PUBLICATION, 1997. The work describes the conquests of the Malla dynasty kings of the Karnali region. The work, which was studied for 20 years for the purpose of a Ph.D. and later published, holds a profound role in Nepal's regional history due to its realistic description of the art, architecture, society, and culture of the Karnali region, as well as the conquests of the

rulers. Furthermore, the work also sheds light on the Baisi and Chaubisi states, how the state of Nepal behaved toward them during the period of Nepal's unification, and how the unification of Nepal was made possible.

In 2055 BS, Rajarām Subedi's work, "*Gulmīko Aitihāsik Jhalak*" (Historical Glimpse of Gulmi), published by Kiran Library, Tamghas, Gulmi, shows that the Gulmi state also had a historical existence as a Chaubisi state, starting from the Licchavi period, through the early and later medieval periods. Focusing on this period, the work provides an authenticated history of the Chaubisi states like Gulmi, Argha, Khanchi, Musikot, Dhurkot, and Isma. Palpa's rule existed in Gulmi even before the unification of Nepal. After Palpa was unified with Nepal, this area was automatically included in the unified Nepal. The administration of Nepal thereafter is also discussed in this work.

In 2055 BS, Rajarām Subedi's work, "*Bāisī Rājyako Aitihāsik Ruprekha*" (Historical Outline of the Baisi States), was published by the Tribhuvan University Nepal and Asian Research Center. The condition of the small fragmented states that emerged after the disintegration of the Nepal Mandala, the Karnatak state of Simraungadh, and the Khas Empire in the Karnali region during the later medieval period is known as the Baisi states. The history of the Baisi states is a work that studies this condition with evidence. This work attempts an in-depth, evidence-based exploration of most of these states.

In 2055 BS, Dilli Raj Sharma's work, "*Nepālko Killā Vāstukalā*" (Fort Architecture of Nepal), was published by the Tribhuvan University Nepal and Asian Research Center. It describes 47 forts and includes 67 illustrations in 160 pages. This work also helps shed light on Nepal's regional history. His other work, "*Gaṇḍakī Praśravaṇ Kṣetrakā Sāmskṛtik Sampadā*" (Cultural Heritage of the Gandaki River Basin), was published in 2060 BS by the Nepal and Asian Research Center. This work includes the description of 24 arts and architectures, 112 illustrations, and is contained in 200 pages. Similarly, his work, "*Paścim Nepālko Mūrti Tathā Vāstukalā*" (Sculpture and Architecture of Western Nepal), was published in 2058 BS by the Nepal and Asian Research Center. The 162-page work has two sections. The first section describes four sculptures related to Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shaktism, and Hinduism, and three sculptures related to Buddhism and Jainism, divided into 8 parts. The second section describes the historical background of architecture, temple architecture, and Buddhist architecture, divided into 4 parts, and finally describes *baithak* (meeting places), *naulā* (stepped water wells), *dhunge dhārā* (stone spouts), and *stambha* (pillars).

In 2055 BS, Suryamani Adhikari's book, "*Jumla Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Jumla State), was published by the Tribhuvan University Nepal and Asian Research

Center. The 125-page work has three chapters, which select and interpret published and unpublished sources to prepare a sequential history of the Jumla state. This work also holds a particularly important place in the context of writing Nepal's regional history. In the same year, his other work, "*Tanahūm Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Tanahun State), was published by Chandra Prabha Prakashan, Yagyapuri, Chitwan. This work has three chapters. The first chapter covers the authenticity of King Rudra Sen, the conquest of Mukunda Sen, and the Greater Palpa. The second chapter covers the period from the founder of the Tanahun state, Bhrgi Sen, to Har Kumar Datta Sen, and the third chapter covers the Sen kings of Ramnagar, based on the work of Ambika Prasad Upadhyaya. This work also holds importance in regional history.

In 2055 BS, Dil Bahadur Chhetri had "*DOCUMENTS ON NEPAL*," a 570-page work, published by Parvati Chhetri of Pokhara Naya Bazar, which contains a collection of many papers and documents related to Nepal. Most of the diligently collected materials are capable of shedding light on Nepal's medieval and modern periods. The work contains 130 documents published in the English section and 46 documents in the Nepali section that can shed light on Nepal's regional history. In particular, they are related to the Chaubisi states like Kaski, Syangja, Nuwakot, and Satahun. Chhetri's other work, "*Galeshwar Śivālay Tathā Pulhāśram Kṣetra Saṅkṣipta Paricaya*" (A Brief Introduction to Galeshwar Shiva Temple and Pulhashram Area), was published in V.S. 2056 by Shree Galeshwar Shivalaya Kshetra Vikas Samiti, Myagdi Galeshwar. It has four chapters. The first chapter covers the geographical and historical introduction to Myagdi district. The second chapter covers Galeshwar Shiva Temple, its naming, mythological importance, establishment, public perception and belief, temple structure style, Brahmakunda, Radha Krishna Temple, including worship methods, special worship, fairs and festivals, *guthi* (trusts), the role of collaborators, the Area Development Committee, its features, the Mahayagya of 2056 BS, and the background of the *yagya* (ritual sacrifice). Pulhashram includes the concept, establishment, management, special festivals, public belief, *guthi*, and suggestions. Similarly, the Gayatri Temple includes the establishment, introduction, worship system, *guthi*, and suggestions. The third chapter includes the establishment, construction style, worship system, special worship and festivals, temple development committee of the Jagannath Temple, Beni Shivalaya, Maharani Sthan, Beni's Pauwa (resting place), Lakshmi Narayan Temple of Benibazar, Paramanandeshwar Shivalaya Patle Khet, and Siddhashram. The fourth chapter includes the summary and appendix.

In 2057 BS (2000 AD), the same author published "*Siddha Shaktipith Bindhyabasini Tatha Pokharaka Kehi Mathmandirharu Sankshipta Parichaya*" (A Brief Introduction to the Divine Power Center Bindhyabasini and Some Monasteries and

Temples of Pokhara), which was published by the Shree Bindhyabasini Conservation Committee, Pokhara. The table of contents of this work is found to be similar to the previous one, with only slight differences in some contexts.

The book "*A Brief Study of Monasteries, Temples, and Guthi (Trust) System Located within the Historical Syangja Nuwakot Complex*," published for the first time in V.S. 2072 (c. 2015 AD) and for the second time in 2075 BS (2018 AD), is approximately 135 pages long and contains ten chapters. The first chapter briefly discusses the Pallo Nuwakot State, including its background, naming, boundaries, unification with Nepal and the subsequent situation, district formation, and administrative offices in Nuwakot such as the Revenue Office, Goswara (Agency), Court, and Post Office. The second chapter covers the current Nuwakot, its geographical condition, and the 2007 BS. Democratic movement. The third chapter details the Kalbairab Temple, including its background, reconstruction, worship methods, procession of the banner, and public belief. The fourth chapter discusses the reconstruction campaign of shrines and temples within the Nuwakot complex. The fifth chapter discusses the construction of other physical structures. The sixth chapter provides a description of the Kalbairab Guthi. The seventh chapter briefly mentions the naming and historicity of Syangja and its role in the 2007 People's Revolution. The eighth chapter discusses the historical, cultural, touristic, and infrastructure development potential of Nuwakot. The ninth chapter focuses on the individuals who contributed to the reconstruction of Nuwakot, and the tenth chapter provides the appendix and photographs. Thus, all these works represent the regional historical background of Nepal.

In 2056 BS (1999 AD), Rajarām Subedi's book, "*Karṇālī Pradeśmā Madhyakālīn Doṭī Rājya*" (Medieval Doti State in the Karnali Province), published by Ran Bahadur Rai from Bhojpur, is capable of providing in-depth information about the vast Doti empire that spread across both sides of the Mahakali River. This work is useful to students of Nepal's regional history. The work, contained in 525 pages, includes more than 200 unpublished inscriptions. Since the author started the writing by visiting the areas and collecting materials concerning the main aspects of Doti's history, this work is considered a completely pure or untainted (virgin writing) study based on primary sources. Its first chapter discusses the features of the Karnali Province, the second studies the archaeological sites of Doti, the third discusses the religious sites of Doti, the fourth covers the condition of Doti during the prehistoric period, the fifth covers the state of the Pala kings of Doti, the sixth discusses Doti after the unification, the seventh covers Doti State's relations with neighboring states, the eighth describes the social condition of Doti,

the ninth the economic condition, the tenth the administrative condition of Doti, and the eleventh chapter contains the summary, appendix, maps, and photographs.

In 2056 BS (1999 AD), a work by Professor Suryamani Adhikari was published, also with the goal of obtaining a Ph.D. degree, titled "*THE KHASHA KINGDOM OF WESTERN NEPAL*," JAIPUR: NIRALA PUBLICATION, 1988 (Note: The publication year seems to be a retrospective reference within the Nepali text). The work is found to have studied some important previously published sources about the *Khas ethnic group*. Due to the lack of extensive on-site study, the description in this work is somewhat limited, and it appeared that a more accurate study and description of the situation at that time could have been provided.

In 2056 BS (1999 AD), a new work on Nepal's regional history, "*Tanahūm Phulbārī*" (Tanahun Flower Garden), written by Jana Kavikeshari Dharma Raj Thapa, was published by Uday Bahadur Gurung, a resident of Nagdanda, Dhampus, Kaski, in a 300-page book. The book contains a total of 50 topics, with each topic describing one village. Historical matters are also given space during the description of the villages, and the purpose of this work is to survey Nepali folk songs.

In 2056 BS (1999 AD), the research work "*Simraunagadh ko Itihas*" (History of Simraunagadh) written by Mohan Prasad Khanal was published by the Nepal and Asian Research Center. This work contains a total of 24 topics, starting with the geographical situation and showing the establishment of the Karnatak rule in the Tirhut region from the pre-historical, ancient period through the medieval period. An attempt is made to shed light on the history of the state based on its rise, fall, and the genealogy of the kings. The work also mentions the culture, art, pictures, and heritage of Simraunagadh. The same author's work, "*Sena Rājyako Rājanītika Itihās*" (Political History of the Sen State), prepared in 2061 BS (2004 AD), was also published by the Nepal and Asian Research Center. This work provides an account of the reign of the Sen kings from Palpa to Tista, and important inscriptions are also provided in the appendix. The work, which appropriately utilizes research methodology, also includes a bibliography and an index. The same author's work, "*Paścim Nepālko Mūrti ra Sthāpatya*" (Sculpture and Architecture of Western Nepal), was published in 2055 BS (1998 AD), which is written by basing the chronological order of history on historical sources.

In 2056 BS (1999 AD), Shankar Kumar Upadhyaya's "*Simraunagadh ko Itihas*" (History of Simraunagadh), published by Shyama Nepal from Birgunj, was prepared based on other published sources. This work describes the political aspects of Simraunagadh and is found to have an important role in regional history.

In 2057 BS (2000 AD), an important work, "*Lho (Mustāṅ) ko Sāmskr̥tik Sampadā*" (Cultural Heritage of Lho (Mustang)), based on on-site study by the co-authors Professor Prayag Raj Sharma and scholar Jagman Gurung, was published by the Nepal and Asian Research Center. The 190-page work contains four chapters. The first chapter covers the religious history of Mustang, the walled settlement of Lo Manthang, and Gumba architecture. The second chapter provides an introduction to seven Gumbas. The third chapter also introduces six Gumbas, and the fourth chapter presents an introduction to Chortens and Mani Walls, royal palaces, forts, and caves. The work also includes necessary maps and illustrations, and introduces architecture and Gumba art.

In 2057 BS (2000 AD), Ghanashyam Bhattarai published "*Vīrgaṅjko Aitihāsik Ruprekha*" (Historical Outline of Birgunj) through his own efforts. The 110-page work has four chapters, starting with a historical introduction to Birgunj, followed by an introduction to Parsa district, the basis for its naming, the naming of Birgunj and major events, economic conditions, religious activities, the situation before and after the Rana period, judicial administration, the details of the Customs Office, the Birgunj Goswara, and major events such as the 2007 Revolution in Birgunj.

In 2057 BS (2000 AD), a monumental work, "*Nepāl Adhirājyamā Tanahūm*" (Tanahun in the Kingdom of Nepal), written by Dilli Ram Mishra and extensively published by Mrs. Sharmila Mishra, was presented to the public. The Tanahun district introduction, which is about 1250 pages long, has inspired every Nepali to write a massive introductory book about their own district. This work contains a total of 21 chapters: the first chapter is a geographical introduction, the second is an introductory account of Tanahun, the third is the history of the Sen dynasty in the context of Tanahun, the fourth is the historical outline of Tanahun, the fifth is the scholarly tradition of contemporary Tanahun, the sixth is the division of literary periods, the seventh is the contribution of Tanahun's practitioners to the upliftment of Nepali literature, the eighth is folk literature, folk whispers, and an introduction to folk singers, the ninth is the social and economic life, the tenth is the development of education in Tanahun, the eleventh is public and political awareness, the twelfth is literary organizations and publishing activities, the thirteenth is historical and religious pilgrimage sites, the fourteenth is the birthplace of Bhanu (Bhanu Bhakta Acharya), the Bhanu Award, and literary conferences, the fifteenth is the introduction of personalities, the sixteenth is the recipients of the Victoria Cross, the seventeenth is drinking water, irrigation, and hydroelectricity, the eighteenth is land, communication, mines, industries, and banking, the nineteenth is agriculture, business, livestock, health, and social bodies, the twentieth is the social structure, and the final,

twenty-first chapter provides miscellaneous facts. Such a work is seen to provide special assistance to the writing of Nepal's regional history.

In 2058 BS (2001 AD), Rajarām Subedi's book, "*Achāmko Itihās*" (History of Achham), written based on on-site study tours and published by Shree Baidyanath Prakashan, has made a special contribution to Nepal's regional history. The work, approximately 560 pages long, contains 169 inscriptions and is divided into 11 chapters. This work provides an authoritative study of states like Bimkot, Ghughurkot, Darnakot, and Tadigainra, while discussing the ancient to modern history of the Karnali Province and the Achham State. It is found to contain an evidence-based historical study based on interviews and inscriptions. An attempt has also been made to briefly provide the available genealogies of the residents of various lineages who have lived in that area since historical times, in an informative format.

In 2058 BS (2001 AD), a book titled "*Bajhāng Kimvadantī Ra Itihās, Bajhāngko Aitihāsik Ra Sāmskr̥tik Adhyayan*" (Bajhang Legends and History, Historical and Cultural Study of Bajhang), written by the hardworking individual AIG. Shyam Bahadur Khadka, who was serving in the Nepal Police Service, was published by Ekata Books. The work, divided into 10 topics, has succeeded in providing additional information for the historical study of a region like Bajhang, which is lagging in development. This work sheds light on the history and culture of Bajhang, giving space to some previously published inscriptions, some documents, and some genealogies. The present work is approximately 230 pages long and shows a general use of reference materials.

In 2059 BS (2002 AD), a book, "*Parbat Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Parbat State), written solely by Tek Bahadur Shrestha, was published by the Nepal and Asian Research Center. This work is found to have played an important role by making a new contribution to the writing of Nepal's regional history. This is because, even though a powerful state like Parbat in the Gandaki Province had succeeded in maintaining an independent identity before the unification of Nepal, and its kings had equal trade and other exchanges with Singhai (India) and Tibet/Bhot (China), a singular published work on it was not available. This task was made possible by the author under the guidance of Dhanavajra Vajracharya, resulting in a 300-page book with six chapters. The first chapter covers the rise of the Parbat state and its political condition, geographical introduction, the naming of the Chaubisi and Parbat states, the genealogy of the kings of Parbat, and the political condition. The second chapter describes the administrative condition of Parbat, including the king, queen, prince, and other officials. The third chapter describes the social condition of Parbat, including the various castes and ethnic groups residing there. Descriptions of religious monasteries and temples, and educational activities, are also

included in the same chapter. The fourth chapter describes the economic condition, discussing land management, tax system, agriculture, industry, trade, customs, *jhārā* (forced labor), and coinage. The fifth chapter discusses the mutual relations of the Parbat state with its neighboring states. Finally, the sixth chapter includes the conclusion and summary, appendix, index, pictures, and maps.

In 2059 BS (2002 AD), the work "*POKHARA BIOGRAPHY OF A TOWN*" by Jagannath Adhikari and David Seddon was published. Its main source was based on other published sources, describing the natural structure of Pokhara, the city before V.S. 2007, the highways connecting various places, the migration of wealthy hill people and traders, the tourist attraction area, the cluster of hotels, and the description of Pokhara's festivals. However, it is found to lack historical facts, and the supposed facts are also found to lack truth.

In 2060 BS (2003 AD), Rajarām Subedi wrote "*Kāskī Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Kaski State), which was published by Vidyarthi Pustak Bhandar, Kathmandu. This work provides an authoritative historical and cultural study of the Chaubisi state of Kaski from ancient to modern times. The work contains nine chapters, starting with a discussion of the prehistoric period and presenting a sequential historical account up to 2007 BS. The work also discusses Kaski's culture, architecture, prehistoric tools, the establishment of ancient monasteries and temples, and surveys its tourist areas. The writing of such works, which are necessary for Nepal's regional history, helps to substantiate the overall history of Nepal in every aspect. The work also includes and presents many other sources of the Chaubisi states.

In 2061 BS (2004 AD), Jagman Gurung's work, "*Nepālko Rāṣṭrīya Samīkaraṅko Pariprekṣamā Gaṇḍakī Prasravaṅ Kṣetrakā Tīrthaharu ko Viśleṣaṅātmake Adhyayan*" (Analytical Study of the Pilgrimage Sites in the Gandaki River Basin in the Context of Nepal's National Integration), published by the Nepal and Asian Research Center, was presented to the readers. The work, which is more than 255 pages long, contains five chapters. The first chapter discusses the importance of pilgrimage sites, the second covers from Gosainkunda to Damodarkunda, the third from Devghat to Dudhpokhari, the fourth from Ramghat to Galeshwar, and the fifth covers from Devghat to Devdaha. Such works are necessary when studying the cultural section of Nepal's regional history.

In 2063 BS (2006 AD), Rajarām Subedi's book, "*Tanahūm Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Tanahun State), written and published by the Gandaki Samajik Guthi, was released. The Sen dynasty kings ruled the Tanahun region of the Gandaki Province from the later medieval period, and nine kings are found to have ruled the area. The present

work contains 11 chapters: the first chapter is the geography of Tanahun, the second is the naming of Tanahun, the third is Tanahun in the prehistoric period, the fourth is Tanahun in the ancient and early medieval periods, the fifth is the entry of the Sen dynasty kings into Tanahun, the sixth is Tanahun as an independent state, the seventh is some of the works of the kings of the Tanahun state, the eighth is the economic condition of the Tanahun state, the ninth is religion, art, and language, the tenth is the Guthi tradition in Tanahun, and the eleventh chapter concludes the work by summarizing the kings, employees, and the overall state of Tanahun.

The book "*Pālpā Gaumḍā: Eka Aitihāsik Adhyayan*" (Palpa Provincial Administrative Center: A Historical Study), written by Karna Bahadur Bania Chhetri and published by Phulchoki Publication and Distributions Pvt. Ltd. in 2063 BS (2006 AD), appeared before the readers. The work is divided into six chapters and includes 12 photographs, 24 appendices, and is contained in 285 pages. The first chapter is an introduction, the second is the historical background of Palpa, the third is the administrative system of the Palpa Gaunda, the fourth is the social account of the administrative area of the Palpa Gaunda, the fifth is the economic condition of the Palpa Gaunda, and the sixth chapter presents the summary, appendix, illustrations, and maps.

In 2064 BS (2007 AD), a 500-page work, "*Doṭī Kṣetrako Prācīn Itihās, Dhārmik Sthal ra Vamśāvalī*" (Ancient History, Religious Sites, and Genealogy of the Doti Region), written by Jeet Singh Bhandari, the Chief Editor of the "*Khaptad Weekly Magazine*," and published by Lila Bhandari, was released. The work, which collects good wishes and addresses from various political leaders, focuses on the districts of Darchula, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Kanchanpur, Bajhang, Bajura, Achham, Doti, and Kailali, providing separate descriptions of the various *garkhas* (fortified areas) within those districts. In addition, the genealogies of as many surnames of the various castes and classes residing in those areas as could be found are given importance and published.

In 2064 BS (2007 AD), the scholar Ratnakar Devkota wrote a very important book, "*Jumla ko Vṛhat Itihās*" (Comprehensive History of Jumla), published by Kumar Khadga Private Studies, which is informative. In particular, it sheds light on almost all the districts of the Jumla and Karnali Zones. Even though the author is not a history scholar, a profound knowledge of his birthplace is displayed in this work. Starting from the Vedic period up to the modern period, the history is meticulously dissected. The work includes more than history, such as the castes, ethnic groups, surnames, and gotras of Jumla, old north-south transport routes, the names of villages in Jumla, and the lineages, branches, and gotras of the Baisi kings. In short, this work can be taken as a comprehensive encyclopedia of Jumla. The author appears to have presented most of the knowledge he

acquired in his life in this work. A close study of the work, which is approximately 1200 pages long, clearly shows that it presents a complete description of Jumla. This work is seen to greatly help shed light on the regional history of the Karnali Province.

In 2065 BS (2008 AD), the book "*Sudūr Paścimko Itihās Paricaya*" (Introduction to the History of the Far West), written by Ātmārām Ojha, a resident of Mahendranagar (formerly Baitadi, now Kanchanpur), and published by Mrs. Karuna Ojha, was presented to the readers. The 170-page work has made the study of the regional history of Nepal's Far West possible in a simple and brief manner. The book contains 25 chapters, and even though the topics are interconnected, they feel separate. Since the work has a single objective, all the articles facilitate a comprehensive introductory study of that region. The work provides an introduction along with the history of Darchula, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Achham, Bajura, Bajhang, Kailali, and Kanchanpur.

In 2065 BS (2008 AD), Devi Prasad Kandel published a small book, "*Chitwan ko Itihās*" (History of Chitwan), Volume 1, by Mrs. Lakshmi Kandel from Chitwan. Although the 85-page work is small in size, its importance is profound as it is based on 19 documents related to the same district. The book, divided into seven chapters, is historically significant, with illustrations of Upardangadhi and Valmiki Ashram in Bhaisalotan at the beginning. It appears that the author needs to write a much more detailed history of Chitwan, prepared using modern research technology.

Also in 2065 BS (2008 AD), Bhaweshwar Pageni's work, "*Pālpā Gaumḍā Praśāsanakā Duī Daśaka*" (Two Decades of Palpa Gaunda Administration), was published by Shraddha Srashta Prakashan, Kathmandu, and is referred to as the second part of Nepal's administrative history. This work has six chapters. The first chapter covers the historical background of Palpa, the second covers the beginning of the Palpa Gaunda administration, the third is economic administration, the fourth is military administration, the fifth is social, religious, and judicial administration, and the sixth chapter discusses the war fought by the Palpa Gaunda against the British. Due to Palpa's strategic importance, it has been discussed extensively, and the author seems to have exaggerated it. The interpretation of works written based on documents can vary according to the authors' own opinions, as the negative aspects of the protagonists and other characters in the inscriptions might have been overshadowed.

Also in 2065 BS (2008 AD), the work "*Uttar Madhyakālīn Doṭīko Itihās Ra Tatkalīn Janajīvan*" (History of Medieval Doti and the Contemporary Public Life) was written and published by a female scholar, Indira Joshi. This work includes some folk

culture, some history, some folk literature, and some aspects of public life in Doti, contained in five chapters and 150 pages.

In 2066 BS (2009 AD), the 500-page work, "*Khotāng Jillā: Vigat ra Vartamān*" (Khotang District: Past and Present), written by Dhan Prasad Subedi and published by Rawa-Sawa Academic Society, presents an account of the area from the historical period to the present. The work is divided into 12 chapters, starting with an introduction to Khotang district, followed by its history, political parties, the situation of Khotang during the 12-year Maoist people's war and conflict, professional movements, literature and art, music and journalism of Khotang, its cultural traditions, economic, educational, public awareness, miscellaneous aspects, and martyrs, with an appendix. The present work appears to positively evaluate the government and Maoist people's war and conflict in Nepal. The author is scholar of Nepali and Professor of Trubhuvan University, as well as the Member Secretary of Nepal Academy, Kathmandu.

In 2069 BS (2012 AD), an intellectual book, "*Sudūr Paścimkā Kehī Preraṇādāyī Vyaktivaharu*" (Some Inspirational Personalities of the Far West), was published to encourage regional history writing. The 210-page work, written by Vijaya Shrestha K.C. and published by Scholars Publications and Printing Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu, aims to introduce historical personalities to the public by presenting a brief outline of the life, personality, and achievements of 35 famous and promising personalities from various fields in the Far West. The author, who was involved in the teaching profession for a long time, has a refined style, a sweet presentation, and a systematic writing approach. The work would have been even better if some relevant and important inscriptions, which are considered the glory of a book, had been selected and given proper space in the bibliography.

In 2069 BS (2012 AD), the scholar Ramesh Dhungel's book, "*The Kingdom of Lo (Mustang) a Historical Study*," was published by Jigme S.P.Bista for Tashi Gephel Foundation, Kathmandu: Nepal, 2002 (Note: The publication year seems to be a retrospective reference). The book, written about the Trans-Himalayan region, has five chapters. The first chapter provides an introduction, and before that, it presents acknowledgments, a list of illustrations, an abbreviation list, and important points for the reader. The first chapter presents a list of primary sources and details of on-site visits, a geographical description of the Mustang state, the occupation of its residents, the main settlements of the state, house construction, previously published works on the Nepal Himalayas, and the author's activities in Lo Mustang. The second chapter attempts to show the cultural and social relations of the Mustang state with Tibet and Ngari (Mnga'-ris, Tibet) province. The Khas Malla kings of the Karnali Province also had a profound

influence on Mustang, and after the weakening of that empire, Mustang emerged as an independent state. The third chapter presents an account of the struggle of the Mustang state for its existence. Over time, and shortly before its unification with Nepal, the Parbat state also attempted to bring Mustang under its control. The fourth chapter discusses the dialogues between Nepal's unification and the Mustang state, mentioning the arrangement where Mustang would pay the tribute (homage, sirto) that it previously paid to Jumla and Tibet, to Nepal instead of Jumla. The fifth chapter provides the conclusion and summary, a glossary, Nepali documents, and Tibetan documents. The book concludes with a bibliography and a glossary. This work is extremely useful for Nepal's regional history and clearly demonstrates the author's skillfully and diligently executed craft. It is a wrathful writing and could be include the struggle of Mustang resisting to melt in Great China during the Long March led by Mao-Ts-Je-dong in nineteen sixties AD.

In 2069 BS (2012 AD), the work "*Aitihāsik Rājya Musīkoṭ Ra Simh Thākuriṅko Saṅkṣipta Vamśāvalī*" (Historical State Musikot and the Brief Genealogy of the Singh Thakuri), written by Sammar Bahadur Singh, was published by the Thakuri Art and Culture Foundation. The work is divided into two parts and contains 165 pages, along with some culturally evocative illustrations. The work, prepared in a genealogical format with the aim of emphasizing minimal history, one or two documents, and maximum genealogy, is capable of providing a brief historical glimpse of the Musikote Rayathaur Singh dynasty kings of the Gandaki Province during the Chaubisi state period of Nepal.

In 2070 BS (2013 AD), the famous cultural expert Vishnu Prasad Sharma Ghimire wrote a profound work titled "*Chitwan ko Aitihāsik Evaṃ Purātātvika Paricaya*" (Historical and Archaeological Introduction to Chitwan), which was published by Srijansheel Anusandhan, Chitwan. The 140-page work is contained in four chapters, with 36 photographs, 11 documents, and 2 maps. The first chapter covers the background and introduction, including geography, ethnic groups, and history. The second chapter describes the on-site visits to the religious and tourist areas of Chitwan, historical and religious artifacts, and areas including Someshwargadhi. Perhaps considering the subject matter of Chitwan, Rajendra Prasad Regmi also published another work, "*Chitwan ko Aitihāsik Vivicanā*" (Historical Analysis of Chitwan), in 2074 BS (2017 AD) from Sukunda Pustak Bhawan, Kathmandu. The 110-page work contains seven chapters, with readable topics such as attempts at settlement development in Chitwan, an introduction to the Rapti Valley, Chitwan under various states, and historical heritages. Similarly, another work on Chitwan, "*Chitwan ko Aitihāsik Ruprekha*" (Historical Outline of Chitwan), was written by Professor of History Dhaka Ram Sapkota and published by Shikha Books in 2077 BS (2020 AD). The 220-page work has nine chapters, an appendix, and illustrations,

but readers feel that it contains too much modern political analysis. This work attempts to cover the comprehensive development of Chitwan from the ancient to the modern period, with a special focus on the political outline.

In 2070 BS (2013 AD), Bhoj Raj Bhattarai wrote a 500-page work, "*Doṭī Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Doti State), and published it himself. The book presents the historical background before the table of contents, and the bibliography is also not sequential and complete. The writing style of this work is found to be different from others. This is because the author himself is not a history scholar, and the work appears to present unconfirmed descriptions of old matters in an old format. The table of contents is presented only on page 75, and it contains only five chapters and an appendix with copper plates and inscriptions that are presented as the author's original findings, but are copied verbatim from other works without attribution. Such instances of plagiarism are frequently encountered in Nepal. Nevertheless, the illustrations and some document photographs included in the book can be confirmed as the author's original work.

In 2070 BS (2013 AD), the important work "*Kauśikī Saṃskṛti*" (Koshi Culture), written by the scholar Som Prasad Khatiwada and published by Shree Jagadguru Pith, Ancient Haridwar, Chatara, Sunsari, Nepal, was presented to the public. Although the title of this work is "Culture," all the subject matter is historical. The work contains a total of 13 chapters, 255 pages, a list of 49 books, and 7 photographs. The first chapter is an introduction to the Koshi region, the second is the Koshi Project, the third is the political history of the Koshi Province, the fourth attempts to confirm that Ancient Haridwar is Chatara Dham, the fifth is Koshi culture and the Jagadguru Pith, the sixth is Koshi culture and Chatara Math, the seventh is Koshi culture and the Kumbha Mela Festival, the eighth is Shiva worship in Koshi culture, the ninth is the Nimbarka Sampradaya and the dual worship of Radha Krishna, the tenth is the Ram Bhakti campaign in Koshi culture, the eleventh is the Shree Vaishnav Sampradaya and Vishnu-Lakshmi worship, the twelfth is the Sadhu tradition in Koshi culture, and the thirteenth is Koshi culture and tourism. The work does not include a conclusion, and it would not be an exaggeration to call this the first volume, although it is not explicitly indicated in the work. Nevertheless, this work shows the need for future in-depth study and writing on the culture and history of the Koshi Province as a whole.

In 2070 BS (2013 AD), the 210-page work "*Pālpāko Itihās Ra Saṃskṛti*" (History and Culture of Palpa), written by the scholar Karna Bahadur Bania Chhetri, was published by Purkot Sen Samaj, Gulmi. The work can be considered a collection of 14 articles prepared from diverse perspectives, which, when viewed together, provide an outline of the whole of Palpa. The first chapter of this work covers the bases for the naming of

Palpa, the second is the administrative and political historical landscape, the third is the unification campaign of Nepal and Palpa, the fourth is the problems after the inclusion of Palpa State into Nepal, the fifth is the establishment of the Palpa Gaunda after the unification, the sixth is the authority of the administrators of the Palpa Gaunda, the seventh is the economic system of the Palpa Gaunda towards the end of the Rana rule, the eighth is the mines of Palpa, the ninth is the judicial administration of Palpa, the tenth is Palpa, the common garden of diverse ethnic groups, the eleventh is the language of Sen-era Palpa, the twelfth is education in Palpa, the thirteenth is the importance of the Prabhas area of Palpa, and the fourteenth chapter is the naming of Tansen town. Overall, this work appears successful in revealing new internal regional historical aspects of Palpa.

In 2070 BS (2013 AD), the second edition of the short work, "*Hatuwā Rājyako Saṅkṣipta Itihās*" (A Brief History of the Hatuwa State), a 90-page booklet written by Kamal Jang Rai and Indra Dev Rai, was published by the Indigenous, Ethnic Group Study and Research Center, Bhojpur, and presented to the public. The seven-chapter booklet's first chapter is an introduction to the study, the second covers an introduction to the Hatuwa palace area, social condition, customs, and economic condition. The third chapter covers the naming of Hatuwa. The fourth chapter covers Historical Nepal and Hatuwa, starting with a discussion of prehistoric man and extending to the modern period. The fifth chapter covers Ancient Nepal and Hatuwa, and the development of hereditary monarchy. The sixth chapter covers the medieval condition of the Hatuwa state, feudal monarchy, the establishment of the Sen kings' rule in the east, the role and relations of the Sen king and the Kirats, the modern period of the Hatuwa state, the unification of Nepal, and the conflict in the Hatuwa state and Majh Kirat. The final, seventh chapter concludes the booklet by mentioning the Baghian rebellion of 1864 BS. Although this work shows the need for more authoritative research and the collection and analysis of sources, the efforts of the two authors, who are from a remote area, in writing regional history can be commended.

In 2073 BS (2016 AD), Ramesh Kumar Shrestha's work, "*Caudandī Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Chaudandī State), published by Lochana Thapa Shrestha, added a new dimension and gained public recognition. The 116-page work brought the hidden history of Eastern Nepal into existence. The first chapter of this work begins with an introduction to Udaypur district, and the second chapter enters the subject matter, revealing the existence of the state. The state, which was part of the Mithila Province in the Ramayana period, is understood to have fallen under the Gupta Empire in the ancient period, and in the early medieval period, the area became known as Dandakaranya. The third chapter provides an introduction to ancient forts, with more words spent on the

Chaudandi Fort. Similarly, the fourth chapter discusses Panchawati and Udaypur, with special attention given to Panchawati village. The fifth chapter includes the study and analysis of historical and archaeological remains. The sixth chapter extensively describes the potential for tourism development in Chaudandi Udaypur, and the work does not include a chapter for a conclusion. The present work has sufficient references, and the five clear appendices enhance its dignity.

In 2074 BS (2017 AD), another new history work, "*Vijāyapur Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Vijaypur State), written by Ramesh Kumar Shrestha and published by Lochana Thapa Shrestha, appeared before the readers. The 131-page work contains four chapters. The Vijaypur State, established in the later medieval period, is seen to have held an important identity in the Koshi Province. The state, ruled by the Sen Dynasty kings, was included in Greater Nepal during the unification campaign of Nepal. The first chapter discusses the purpose and inspiration for writing the book, and also gives space to a geographical introduction. The second chapter provides a brief introduction and a review of important previously published works and activities. The third chapter of the work provides a study and analysis of the ancient, medieval, and modern historical documents of the Vijaypur state, as well as a look at the development of historical events and an analysis of the political aspect. The fourth chapter presents the summary along with 24 appendices and reference materials. The author has done a great service by diligently bringing the histories of Chaudandi and Vijaypur, which had only existed as articles until now, to the readers in book form.

In 2074 BS (2017 AD), the work "*Dāng Kṣetrakā Prāgaitihāsik Tathā Aitihāsik Sampadāko Adhyayan*" (Study of the Prehistoric and Historical Heritage of the Dang Region), edited by Professor Shiv Kumar Subedi and compiled by Dr. Govind Acharya, was published by the District Coordination Committee, Dang. The work includes 16 research papers written by 16 diverse authors on various subjects, and it is also clear that it is published by copying the reflections of former authors and researchers. It covers the prehistoric study of the Dang region, historical sites like Chheda, Killa (fort), Gadhi (fortress), Lekh, Chhilikot, Falawang, the tomb of Siddha Bhagawant Nath, the Siddha Ratnanath Pith, Chaugheera, Dang, and Sukoura. All these essays are also translated into English in the same work.

In 2075 BS (2018 AD), the book "*Myāgdīko Itihās, Saṃskṛti Ra Sampadā*" (History, Culture, and Heritage of Myagdi), written by Mīna Shrīs Magar and published by Jeevan Ganga Kalyan Kosh, was presented to the readers. The work, approximately 500 pages long, has greatly helped the study of Nepal's regional history. The work, which contains 39 tables and 52 illustrations, is divided into nine chapters. The first chapter

presents an introduction to the work, the second is the historical background of Myagdi district, the third is its administrative aspect, the fourth is the description of politics and public movements, the fifth is the social structure of Myagdi district, the sixth is the means and sources of income for the people, the seventh is the natural resources of the district, the eighth is the historical sites and a glimpse of the fairs, festivals, and culture in other places, and the ninth chapter presents the summary. Since all the topics of the work are diligently written, it is a readable and useful book for the study of regional history, giving it a dignified historical aspect.

In 2075 BS (2018 AD), the work "*Bhāarse Arkul Rājyako Itihās*" (History of the Bharse Arkul State), written by Mīna Shrīs Magar and published by Jeevan Ganga Kalyan Kosh, was released. The work, approximately 150 pages long, contains three chapters. The first chapter covers the rise and political condition of the Bharse Arkul State, geographical location, the structure of medieval palaces and the Bharse-Arkul State, physical structure, a state or a petty kingdom (*rajautā*), the rise of the Bharse Arkul State, Parkot or Pargulmi State?, the fall of the Bharse Arkul State, the dynasty, and the Gulmi Charpala State. The second chapter covers the economic condition, including mining, agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, trade, land management, and natural resources. The administrative condition includes *Kaji* (Minister/Chief Administrator), *Sardar* (General), *Umra* (Official), *Mukhiya* (Chief), *Bichari* (Judge), *Katuwal* (Town Crier), etc. The cultural condition includes Dashain, Tihar, Kartik Purnima, Nwaagi (Harvest Festival), Mansir Purnima, Maghe Sankranti, Shree Panchami, Phagu (Holi), Chandi Purnima, Saune Sankranti. The religious condition includes the Shakta Sampradaya, Buddhist tradition, Vaishnava tradition, and Shaiva tradition.