The Theme of Insurgency in the Short Stories of Temsula Ao

Dr. Karabi Goswami
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Raha College, Nagaon, Assam, India.

Abstract

Writers from North East India writing in English have not always been well represented in mainstream Indian English literature. Literature from this region abounds in tales of the troubled political climate, violence, backwardness, underdevelopment and poverty. The unique geographical location of the seven states and their equally different social, political and economic situations from the rest of the country have resulted in the rise of a body of writing that is considered to be different from mainstream Indian English writing. Literature from North-East India is popular mostly in the representation of the various political problems and violence that are typical to the North-East situation.
These Hills Called Home: Stories from a War Zone, Temsula Ao. While the rest of India was celebrating their newfound independence from the British rule, Nagaland was fighting the Indians for their own freedom. For decades, the underground rebellion forces from Nagaland engaged in a bloody
battle against the Indian Army, trying to establish their own separate nation. Mamang Dai is a beloved poet from the easternmost state of India, Arunachal Pradesh. Although a collection of short stories, in The Legends of Pensam, Dai has used every bit of her poetic skills to make the book almost lyrical. The stories are focused on the Adi tribe, who belong to the beautiful Siang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, which is now a popular trekking destination. Temsula Ao "The Old Storyteller" (Songs from the Other Life) The history of Nagaland is steeped in more than half a century of bloodshed, war. She writes in “The Old Storyteller”, Grandfather constantly warned That forgetting the stories Would be catastrophic We would lose our history, Territory, and most certainly Our intrinsic identity. (Songs). True to her words, the stories of These Hills are treasure boxes that houses slices of Naga life, away from the headlines of press. Easterine Iralu in her 2004 article, “The Conflict of Nagaland: Through A Poet’s Eyes”, comments, “Let media stop defining the NE by the conflicts going on there. Let media focus on ordinary people and their lives. Let exoticisation of the NE stop.”