

Doctoral Dissertation

**Politics of Peace Agreement Implementation: Case of the
Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Bangladesh**

(Summary)

SAJIB BALA

Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation
Hiroshima University
September 2018

Implementing a peace agreement is one of the crucial topics in the peace discourse as conflicts often end in negotiated settlements. However, most cases are not successful owing to different political interests among the signing parties during the phase of conducting the implementation. Responding to this difficulty, the current study sheds light on the politics of peace agreement implementation with special reference to the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Agreement in Bangladesh. The CHT Peace Agreement was signed in 1997 between the representatives of the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) (more specifically, the National Committee on CHT [NCCHT]) and the relevant Hill people, especially the *Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti* (PCJSS) (United People's Party of CHT). At the current time, one of the major obstacles to achieve peace in the CHT is the partial (or weak) implementation of the Agreement, with this obstacle greatly intensified by the dispute between the claims of the two primary parties (i.e. the GOB and the PCJSS) regarding the implementation status of the Agreement sections (provisions). After signing the CHT Peace Agreement, the parties involved in its implementation carried on with their sectional interests within the politics of the matter of the Agreement's implementation. Mostly, the primary parties were directly concerned with their political interests, that is, the interest in assuming (or exercising) power, the economic interest and/or other interests.

In reviewing the involvement of the actors concerned, I have argued that the interests of each primary party reigned over the interests of other parties, while also incorporating some elements of international actors' connectedness. In brief, throughout this study, the following analysis is offered: why is it that the different actors, namely, the GOB, the Hill people and the international community hold different views about the CHT Peace Agreement and the question of its implementation? To investigate this research question, a qualitative research study was conducted using methodological triangulation of both primary and secondary data. The findings showed that the wide gap between the actors' interests, which is strongly associated with the political dimension of power, is one of the crucial factors responsible for the partial (or weak) implementation of the CHT Peace Agreement. This study's multifaceted level of analysis offers a holistic approach to studying the politics of peace agreement implementation and, specifically, the CHT Peace Agreement, thus warranting the study's recognition as unique.