

***Of Resistances and their Interfaces***  
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**People and Spaces of Insurgency: Some Reflections on Social History of the Last Fifty-years**

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This paper will discuss three issues regarding people's movement and insurgency as studied by historians and social commentators during last few decades. Starting with the works of the post-war social historians in Britain and elsewhere, it first recounts the tradition of 'history from below' that elaborated the idea of 'social banditry', 'primitive rebels' and 'crowd' in history. The paper then shifts to the critique of this tradition with a discussion of the works of the Subaltern Studies collective who resolutely showed that the pre-industrial insurgents were not necessarily 'pre-political', mindless rioters. With a creative reading of the official archive, Guha and his colleagues opened up new ways of looking at the insurgents' motive and planned action against the state and the dominant faction of society. Both these tradition of scholarship illustrate, give voice and put a face to the abstract categories of 'rioters', 'insurgents', or 'crowd', and look at the reason, motive, ideology behind such actions. The third issue that the paper wants to discuss moves away from the subjects to the terrain of these movements. Critically studying the spatial logics of such insurgency, it will look at the ways in which the terrain aids or abets these movements. The paper ends with a discussion of the deep link between urban planning and military reasoning from the nineteenth to the early twenty-first century.