

# **Delineating Naga Trauma: A Study on the Impact of the Naga People's Political Struggle on the Naga Society**

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## **Abstract**

*The Naga Movement for self-determination, which was marked by the declaration of their independence on 14 August 1947, eventually led to the long-drawn Naga Conflict which still remains inconclusive even after years of violence, negotiations and peace talks. Conflicts always have a bearing on the land and the people and the trauma associated is immense. Violence and violations have become part and parcel of the lives of the Naga people from the 1950s onwards. This paper, by analyzing select texts, chronologically delineates the trauma of the Naga people and their land, as a social phenomenon, by examining the trauma of the turbulent past due to the military reign and also trauma of the present due to the Naga Armed Movement. It thus lays bare the impact of the conflict on the Naga society and argues that the Naga Conflict has indeed left an indelible imprint on the Naga people and their land over the years.*

**Keywords:** Naga Conflict, Trauma, Violence, Violations, Wounds

‘Dear Dad, the way to freedom is too long. Come back home’ (Haksar & Hongray, 2019, p. 374). These were the only words scribbled by his children on a Christmas card that Medem Jamir, who held prominent positions within the Naga Movement, received once. The poignancy of the Naga imbroglio is well-captured in these words. Indeed, the Naga people’s political journey for emancipation has been long and it remains incomplete. A conglomeration of more than sixty tribes, the Naga people in the bygone decades that is during the epoch of headhunting, identified more to their clan and to their tribe than to nomenclature ‘Naga’ and in fact this term was alien to many of them.

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