

The Emergence of an Ethnic Identity: The Case Study of the “Gorkhali” of Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT The Nepali population around the Dehradun District of Uttar Pradesh is in the process of evolving a new ethnic identity, namely ‘Gorkhali’, to establish themselves as a distinct political identity in the state. This paper explores the process of evolution and the reinterpretation of the term ‘Gorkha’ or ‘Gorkhali’ from its invention by the British and its transformation to an ethnic concept by these people as well as explores the dynamics of political and social relationship between the local Garhwali and the immigrant Nepali.