

ENGLISH SUMMARY

1. Location and territorial development of Solu-Khumbu

Solu-Khumbu, the home of the Sherpas at the foot of Mount Everest (Fig. 1 and 2), comprises the three sub-districts Khumbu (Fig. 3), Pharak (Fig. 4), and Solu with the upper valleys of Solu Khola (Fig. 5), Maulung Khola, Likhu Khola (Fig. 7), and Khimti Khola (Fig. 8). The territorial development of Solu-Khumbu is illustrated by four maps (Fig. 6, 9, 10 and 11). It is *not* identical with the district panchayat (*jillā pancāyat*) Solukhumbu (Fig. 10) established in 1962 when, with the introduction of the new panchayat system, the administrative boundaries in Nepal were redrawn.

2. Ethnic and caste groups and their distribution

Today Solu-Khumbu is populated by various ethnic and caste groups (Table 1, Appendix 1, Plate 1). It was first settled by the ancestors of the present-day Sherpas who in the 16th century migrated from Tibet across the high mountain pass called Nangpa La (5716 m) into Khumbu and gradually moved southwards into Pharak and the upper valleys of the Solu, Maulung, Likhu and Khimti Khola. According to the *lāl mohar* of 1853 (Appendix 2) the Sherpas obtained settlement and land-ownership rights in these areas from the Rais and Sunwars, who lived farther down the rivers, but who must have considered all the land up to the snow-covered mountain ranges of the Khumbu Himal as parts of their tribal territories.

When Solu-Khumbu was incorporated into the Kingdom of Nepal in 1772/73 the land-ownership rights of the Sherpas were confirmed, but at the same time they were urged to accept newcomers. Thus especially the slopes below 2000 m elevation in the upper Likhu, Khimti and Maulung Khola valleys, considered by the Sherpas as too hot and humid, were handed over to Chetri farmers, who were followed by some Bahuns (Brahmins) as well as Kamis (blacksmiths) and Damais (tailors). Tamangs and Margars settled in various places of Solu to dig for iron and copper ore. Newars came as shopkeepers and Gurungs originally as herdsmen. Most of the Ghartis, Bhujels and Yembas now living in Solu-Khumbu are descendants of slaves who became free in 1924 when slavery was abolished in Nepal.

3. Settlement and land tenure

In this study the terms *sib*, *sub-sib* and *clan* are used according to the definitions of G. P. MURDOCK (1949). The Sherpa population (later immigrants from Tibet excluded) consists of four patrilineal sibs: Lamaserwa, Chiawa, Thimmi and Minyagpa. Except the Chiawas they break up into a number of sub-sibs with names of their own, but whose members are not allowed to intermarry. Originally the sibs,