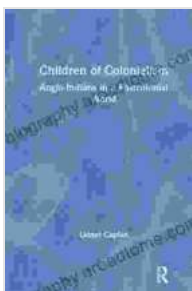


Anglo Indians in the Postcolonial World: Uncovering Hidden Narratives

In the tapestry of history, the Anglo-Indian community often remains a footnote, their stories untold. Yet, their experiences in the postcolonial world are rich, complex, and deserving of our attention. This article delves into the fascinating world of Anglo Indians, exploring their unique identity, challenges, and triumphs in the aftermath of colonialism.

Historical Roots and Identity Formation

Anglo Indians emerged as a distinct community during the British Raj in India. They were the descendants of intermarriages between British officers and Indian women, often from higher social strata. This mixed heritage shaped their identity and worldview, creating a blend of Indian and European influences.



Children of Colonialism: Anglo-Indians in a Postcolonial World by Lionel Caplan

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2881 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 271 pages
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After India's independence in 1947, Anglo Indians faced a dilemma. They were considered outsiders by both their British and Indian peers. Their British ancestry marked them as foreign, while their Indian roots hindered their full acceptance in Indian society. This dual exclusion led to a sense of displacement and a search for a sense of belonging.

Postcolonial Challenges and Resilience

In the postcolonial era, Anglo Indians encountered numerous challenges. Many lost their privileged positions in British-controlled institutions and faced discrimination in employment, education, and housing. Their hybrid identity and cultural practices were often met with prejudice and hostility.

Despite these obstacles, Anglo Indians exhibited remarkable resilience. They established their own organizations and institutions to support their community and preserve their cultural heritage. They organized social clubs, sports teams, and educational societies to foster a sense of unity and preserve their identity.

Cultural Identity and Artistic Expression

Anglo Indians developed a distinct cultural identity that blended elements from both their Indian and British ancestry. They created their own music, literature, and art, which reflected their unique experiences and perspectives.

Anglican churches played a significant role in the community, providing a sense of community and a space for cultural expression. Anglo-Indian musicians developed a unique style of music, known as "Anglo-Indian Jazz," which fused Indian rhythms with Western instrumentation.



Diaspora and Transnational Connections

After India's independence, many Anglo Indians emigrated to Britain, Australia, and other countries in search of better opportunities. This diaspora created a transnational community that maintained strong ties to India while embracing their new homelands.

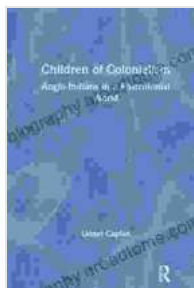
Anglo Indians living abroad often faced similar challenges to their counterparts in India. However, they also formed their own organizations and networks, preserving their cultural identity and promoting their interests in the global arena.

Literary and Artistic Legacy

Anglo-Indian writers and artists have made significant contributions to the world of literature and art. Authors such as Ruskin Bond, Aubrey Menen, and Saros Cowasjee have chronicled the experiences of their community, providing valuable insights into their unique perspective.

Painters like Francis Newton Souza and Antonio Fernandes explored themes of identity, displacement, and the postcolonial experience through their vibrant and evocative canvases.

The story of Anglo Indians in the postcolonial world is one of resilience, identity formation, and cultural expression. Despite facing challenges and displacement, they have maintained their unique identity and made valuable contributions to society in both India and the diaspora. Their experiences offer a poignant reminder of the complexities of colonialism and its lasting impacts.



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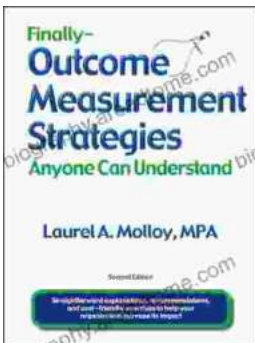
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