



Between Cultural Memory and Post Colonialism

A Study of African and South Asian Novels



ગાગાજી
Principal
Tufaram Charurchand College
Baramad

Sachin Namdeo Gadekar



**Between Cultural Memory and Post-Colonialism:
A Study of African and South Asian Novels**

Sachin Gadekar



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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter-I: Cultural Memory and Post-Colonialism	11
Chapter-II: Reclaiming the Cultural Memories in Chinua Achebe's <i>Things Fall Apart</i>	63
Chapter-III: Cultural Memory as a Critique of Colonialism in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's <i>A Grain of Wheat</i>	83
Chapter-IV: Traumatic Past and Literary Afterlives in Bapsi Sidhwa's <i>Ice-Candy-Man</i>	101
Chapter-V: The Socio-Political Reality and the Parsi Ethos in Rohinton Mistry's <i>Such a Long Journey</i>	117
Chapter-VI: Conclusion	135
Bibliography	143
Index	149



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Memory studies and postcolonialism are increasing areas of research and teaching. The present study attempts to define and explain the concept of cultural memory vis-a-vis culture and literary studies. It offers an integrated survey of the field of cultural memory studies and investigates the textual interweaving of the cultural memory discourse carried out by postcolonial writers. To meet this goal, the critical analysis is narrowed down and presents a close reading of four novels: *Things Fall Apart* (1958) by Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe, *A Grain of Wheat* (1967) by Kenyan writer Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Ice-Candy-Man* (1988) by Pakistani writer Bapsi Sidhwa, and *Such a Long Journey* (1991) by Indian-Canadian writer Rohinton Mistry. This book analyzes narrative methods that raise several complex issues regarding the varied nature of memory and how it is used as a performative cultural practice, and places the concept of cultural memory in the postcolonial context. It studies literary works as counter-discourse in the postcolonial context by bringing together authors from three geographical areas within Anglophone literature. It focuses on the ruptures of various practices born out to colonialism, and the revival and reconstruction of those practices in literary narratives.



Dr. Sachin Namdeo Gadekar is Associate Professor of English in Tuljaram Chaturchand College (Autonomous), Baramati, District Pune, India, affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. He obtained M.Phil. from YCMO University, Nashik and Ph.D. degree from S.P. Pune University, Pune and PGDTE from EFLU, Hyderabad. He recently published the book *Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness: A Critical Study* (Prestige Books International). Moreover, he has completed two minor research projects sanctioned by BCUD, Pune University, Pune and ICSSR, New Delhi under IMPRESS scheme, Govt. of India.



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