

**Coolitude**

An Anthology of the Indian Labour Diaspora
Marina Carter and Khal Torabully

Pub Date: July 2002
Binding: Hardback
Price: £50 / \$85
ISBN: 9781843310037

Category: LITERARY COLLECTIONS /
General
BISAC code: LCO000000
BIC code: HBJF

Extent: 248 pages
Size: 234 x 156 mm / 9.2 x 6.1

Rights Held: World

Description

A deconstruction of the stereotypical depictions of the coolie in the British Empire.

'The concept of "Coolitude" parallels that of "Negritude", pioneered by Clive James and other African and Caribbean intellectuals in the 1950s and 1960s, and could have an equally profound cultural impact...this book is both politically and intellectually ambitious. Marina Carter is one of the most highly regarded historians of the Indian Ocean. Her co-author is a poet and intellectual, a veritable giant in France...the list of his achievements goes one and on.' —*Crispin Bates, University of Edinburgh*

'Coolitude' is both an intellectual interpretation of and a poetic and artistic immersion into the world of the vanished coolie. This collection of previously unpublished texts, poems and sketches captures the essence of the Indian plantation experience and deconstructs traditional depictions of the status of the coolie in the British Empire.

Readership: For anyone interested in South Asian history and culture.

Contents

Introduction; The Coolie Odyssey: A Voyage In Time and Space; Thrice Victimised: Casting The Coolie; Surviving Indenture; Reclaiming The 'Other': Diaspora Indians And The Coolie Heritage; Some Theoretical Premises of Coolitude; Conclusion: Revoicing the Coolie; Poetic and Critical Texts of Coolitude; Notes; Bibliography

About the Author

Marina Carter has worked and studied for many years in Mauritius, where she founded a pioneering NGO called the Centre for Research on Indian Ocean Societies (CRIOS). She was recently appointed as Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh.

Khal Torabully completed his PhD in Lyon in 1976. His interest in mosaic identity brought forward an innovative book, *Cale d'étoiles-coolitude*, the founding text of the coolie migration viewed from the sea voyage, as space of identity construction/deconstruction in the post-modernist sense.

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