Record Nr. UNINA9910150338603321

Titolo The Legacy of Indian Indenture: Historical and Contemporary Aspects

of Migration and Diaspora / / edited by Maurits S. Hassankhan.

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Pubbl/distr/stampa London:,: Routledge,, 2016

ISBN 1-315-27202-4

1-351-98683-X

Edizione [1st edition.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (243 pages)

Disciplina 305.9069120973

Soggetti East Indian diaspora

East Indians - Foreign countries - Social conditions

Electronic books.

United States Emigration and immigration

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Includes index.

Nota di contenuto pt. 1. Indenture in the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean -- pt. 2. Reexamining indenture and the migration experience -- pt. 3. Ethnicity

and politics -- pt. 4. Health, medicine and spirituality.

Sommario/riassunto

This book is the second publication originating from the conference Legacy of Slavery and Indentured Labour: Past, present and future, which was organised in June 2013, by the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research (IGSR), Anton de Kom University of Suriname. The articles are grouped in four sections. Section one concentrates on indenture in the Caribbean and the IndianOcean and includes four diverse, but inter-related chapters and contributions. These reveal some newly-emerging, impressive trends in the study of indenture, essentially departing from the over used neo-slave scholarship. Not only are new concepts explored and analysed, but this section also raises unavoidable questions on previously published studies on indenture. Section two shows that there are many areas that need to be reexamined and explored in the study of indenture. The chapters in this section re-examine personal narratives of indentured labourers, the continuous connection between the Caribbean and India as well as

education and Christianization of Indians in Trinidad. The result is impressive. The analysis of personal accounts or voices of indentured servants themselves certainly provides an alternative perception to archival information written mostly by the organizers of indenture. Section three in this volume focuses on ethnicity and politics. In segmented societies like Suriname, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago institutional politics and political mobilization are mainly ethnically based. In Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana this has led to ethnic and political tensions. These themes are explored in these three articles. Section four addresses health, medicine and spirituality themes which, until recently, have received little attention. The first article examines the historical impact of colonialism through indentureship, on the health, health alternatives and health preferences of Indo-Trinidadians, from the period between 1845 to the present. The second examines the use of protective talismans by Indian indentured labourers and their descendants. Little or no psychological research has been done on the spiritual world of Indian immigrants, enslaved Africans and their respective descendants, with special reference to the use of talismans.