

**INDIA IMAG(IN)ED:
A STUDY OF THE REPRESENTATIONS OF HISTORY IN THE
NARRATIVES OF 1857**

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**India Imag(in)ed: A Study of the Representations of History in the Narratives of 1857**” being submitted by Suman to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for the award of the degree of “**Doctor of Philosophy**”, is a record of the authentic research work carried out by her under my supervision and guidance and in conformity with the rules and regulations of IIT.

She has fulfilled all the requirements for the submission of this thesis which has, in my opinion, reached the required standard fulfilling the requirements for the degree.

The material contained in this thesis has not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for the award of any other degree.

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ABSTRACT

The thesis focuses on a momentous event in the history of India – the uprising of 1857, when the Indian sepoys in the army of the East India Company in several parts of North India rose up in revolt against their superiors; and its articulation in fiction. The present thesis focuses on the events of 1857 as represented by the British novelists, right from the period that followed the mutiny to the present. Through a detailed critical and textual analysis of the select texts the thesis attempts to map the subtle yet persistent variations in the stereotypical motifs and imagery that encodes the ideology of British imperialism.

The thesis studies various issues relating to socio-cultural and political dimensions of the colonial narratives, within the critical framework provided by theories of representation, stereotyping and racism within the broader context of theories of colonialism, imperialism and postcolonialism, and aims at the following objectives in its core three chapters;

1. To critically analyse aspects like the representations, generalisations as well as emphasis on race, class and caste that cast a shadow on the complex network of relationships between the colonisers and the colonised that ranged from unequal friendships to the typical power ridden ones, like that of a master and a slave.
2. The thesis studies whether any of the texts written on the events of the period of 1857, and after, show the stereotypical representations. In addition, it aims to examine how changing times and distances have dictated the tenor and tone of these narratives.

3. There is an analysis of the politics of representation of women, the absence of Indian women and the marginalised presence of British women in the selected narratives, through the examination of societal offences (like rape), social oppression (like harem and related politics) and social reforms (such as the abolition of sati).

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