

**ABSTRACT****AFRICANS, INDIANS AND THE TRINIDAD PRESS, 1917-1946****SHAMEEN ALI**

This dissertation aims to trace and interpret the portrayal of Africans and Indians by various sections of the Trinidad press between 1917 and 1946. This is done through an examination of the historical context in which these portrayals were made. Chapter I focuses on the negative stereotypes projected of Indians and Africans alongside the evolution of the colonial press, owned/edited by the whites and African/Coloured middle class. Chapter II examines the ethnic dimension of the struggle for constitutional reform as it was interpreted by the press between 1917 and 1929, while Chapter III highlights the beginnings of the reversal of the image-making process for Africans and Indians within the context of industrial unrest in the 1930s. Chapter IV is dedicated specifically to the instrumental role played by the Indian press in forging a cultural renaissance in Trinidad during the period 1940 to 1946, while Chapter V analyzes the ethnic dimension of the struggle for adult franchise which precedes the first general elections of 1946.

The contention throughout is that there was a linkage between the press coverage of events with ethnic implications and the interests as well as the group identification of those who controlled, managed or otherwise influenced the contents and views of various sections of the press.

**KEYWORDS:** *Shameen Ali; Trinidad Press; Africans and Indians*