

# ABSTRACT

## **The History and Culture of Indians in Grenada: 1857- 2000.**

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This study seeks to explore the ways in which Indians were brought into an engagement with the historical process in Grenada, beginning in 1857 and, as a consequence, to provide some insight into the particular manner in which the Indian cultural formation in Grenada was configured. It posits the view that by the second half of the twentieth century, the essential features of a reformulated creole culture had emerged on the basis of which Indians now participated in all aspects of Grenadian life. It holds that an intense Anglicising policy enforced by the Grenadian colonial ruling class, in conjunction with a closely monitored system of education and the scattered nature of the Indian population were, certainly, critical elements which went into the shaping of this cultural outcome. At the same time, the study asserts that while these factors, combined with that of a relatively small Indian population, might have contributed to the subordination of the Indian cultural formation and, therefore, to the eventual character of the reformulated creole culture, relations of power were central to the entire process. This study also seeks to locate Indians within Grenada's social structure and examines the historical process of their incorporation within mainstream Grenadian society. In addition, it explores the nature of Indian-Black relations and the factors influencing this relationship over time. Finally, the study takes into account the recent re-introduction of a small Hindu and Indian Muslim

community in Grenada, a trend which was started in the early 1970s as a result of a new movement of Indian immigration into Grenada.

**Keywords:** Ron Ryan Sookram, Grenada, history, Indian cultural formation, reformulated creole culture, social structure and race relations.

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