

ABSTRACT**Aspects of Postcoloniality in Selected Works of
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This thesis attempts to explore the aftermath of the intrusion of an imperial or a dominant European culture and its representatives upon other cultures with the sole intention of control. Such is the history of the cultures out of which the writers that I propose to examine have emerged. Out of such a situation characterized by fragmentation and psychic fractures, the postcolonial mindset has developed guiding these writers towards a healing of sorts. The works under consideration also point to an attempt by the individual writers to gain a personal sense of healing. I will attempt to show that postcoloniality is a frame of mind, a manner of thinking that is common to all the writers who have experienced directly or indirectly, the effects and after-effects of attempts to subjugate them as individuals as well as on a collective level. It is their fight to emerge from the previously negatively constructed image of themselves and their struggle towards self-definition that unites them even though the various

circumstances may differ. Theirs is a fight not only to escape the burden of the past, but also to create a positive future through a newfound sense of identity. Whether they seek to escape the shadows of a British colonial past as is the case with the West Indian and West African writers, or any condition that derives from and seeks to promote pervasive colonial values, as encountered in the works of the Canadian writers that I have chosen to examine, their struggle is towards the same goal. I would like to make it clear that my choice of comparing writers from different cultures is something that is not unusual. Indeed, the comparison of texts from different societies is a well-established discipline. For the purpose of my study I have chosen what I believe to be the most appropriate texts as representative of the particular writers at a particular point where their focus is postcolonial in nature. Furthermore, while the bulk of their previous works might suggest that the work that I have chosen is not typical of their writing, it is my belief that the works under consideration demonstrate a new thrust in their thinking and concerns that can only be defined as postcolonial. Their mindset therefore is what makes them similar in the specific works chosen. However, they are all different as well. It is for this reason, this study aims to compare them because though they demonstrate similarities, there are significant differences at a specific point in their development as postcolonial writers.