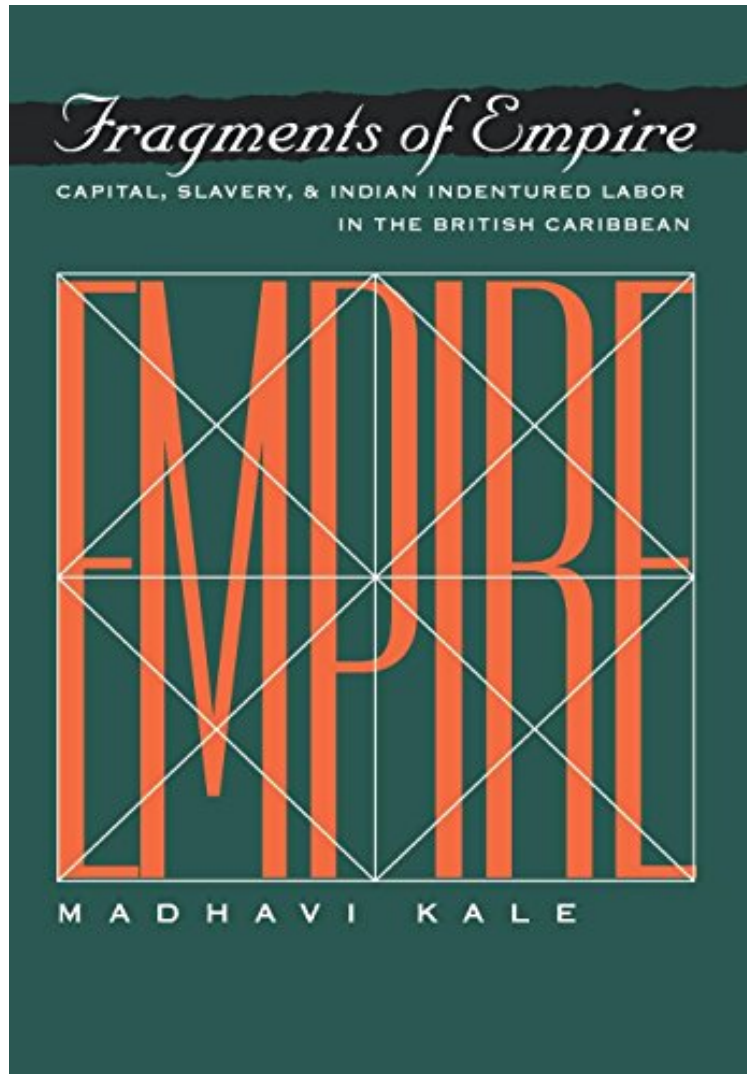


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## Fragments of Empire: Capital, Slavery, and Indian Indentured Labor in the British Caribbean (Critical Histories)

*Madhavi Kale*

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**Madhavi Kale : Fragments of Empire: Capital, Slavery, and Indian Indentured Labor in the British Caribbean (Critical Histories)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fragments of Empire: Capital, Slavery, and Indian Indentured Labor in the British Caribbean (Critical Histories):

When Great Britain abolished slavery in 1833, sugar planters in the Caribbean found themselves facing the prospect of paying working wages to their former slaves. Cheaper labor existed elsewhere in the empire, however, and plantation owners, along with the home and colonial governments, quickly began importing the first of what would eventually be hundreds of thousands of indentured laborers from India. Madhavi Kale draws extensively on the archival materials from the period and argues that imperial administrators sanctioned and authorized distinctly biased accounts of postemancipation labor conditions and participated in devaluing and excluding alternative accounts of slavery. As she does this she highlights the ways in which historians, by relying on these biased sources, have perpetuated the acceptance of a privileged perspective on imperial British history.

"A landmark study. The book gives a completely new reading of the cultural, racial, and economic dynamics of indentured Indian labour in the British Caribbean. The book is nothing less than a wake-up call to postcolonial theorists."EHRIn *Fragments of Empire* indenture becomes a lens through which empire, in all its complexity and vastness, comes into view. This is an empire that one does not see usually, an empire better described as a single constellation that arises in the imbrication of different spaces, levels, practices, and ideas. I cannot say enough about the importance of this idea, for it forces us to rethink current notions of colonialism and imperialism."Gyan Prakash, Princeton University"*Fragments* offers a new and refreshing perspective, taking us beyond chronology to a thorough examination of some of the macroconsiderations which tied together an early attempt at globalization. . . . Any attempt to understand this present must be based on that past. *Fragments of Empire* successfully unravels much of that complicated past, making sense of a tangled maze of imperialistic devices. In this sense it is a very useful continuation of our understanding of worldwide diasporas."International of Social HistoryAbout the AuthorMadhavi Kale teaches history at Bryn Mawr College.