

The Nation across the World
Postcolonial Literary Representations

Edited by

Harish Trivedi, Meenakshi Mukherjee,
C. Vijayasree, T. Vijay Kumar

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

Preface and Acknowledgements vii

The Nation and the World: An Introduction ix
HARISH TRIVEDI

PART ONE: Nation and Creation

1. VIKRAM SETH 3
In Conversation with MEENAKSHI MUKHERJEE
and SHIRLEY CHEW
2. The Narrative that Defines Us 19
AUSTIN CLARKE

PART TWO: Nations in Black and White

3. The Black Savant and the Dark Princess 41
HOMI K. BHABHA
4. Borderless: Empire, Race, and the League of Nations 63
JOHN SCHECKTER
5. 'One Step on Australian Soil and You're History': 75
Our Man K. and the White Australia Policy
GEOFFREY V. DAVIS
6. Disgrace-ful Metafiction: 88
Intertextuality in the Postcolony
GERALD GAYLARD

7. Shoring Up Britain: 115
David Dabydeen's Oceanic Sublime
JOHN CLEMENT BALL

PART THREE: Nations and Empires

8. Reading 1857: 127
The Government Report and Indigenous 'Narrative'
SUKESHI KAMRA
9. Decolonization and the Progressive Writers Association 159
PRIYAMVADA GOPAL
10. Nation and Nationhood in Modern
Sri Lankan Literature 187
CHELVA KANAGANAYAKAM
11. The Remains of Empire: 202
The Comic Melancholy of Clive James
BRUCE BENNETT
12. 'A Construction from Spare Parts': 213
Inventing National Identity in Singapore
EDDIE TAY

PART FOUR: Nations at Play

13. Theatrical Representation and National Identity in Fiji 233
IAN GASKELL
14. Performing the Nation: 246
Dave Carson and the Bengali Babu
POONAM TRIVEDI
15. Changing Nations: 270
British and Spanish Postcolonial Films
ISABEL SANTAOLALLA
16. Cricket and West Indian Writing 286
KATHLEEN FIRTH
- Notes on Contributors* 299
- Index* 305