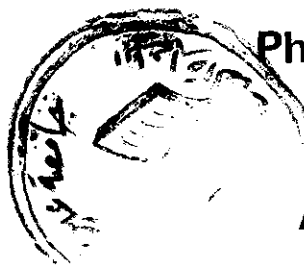


Ain Shams University
Faculty of El - Alsun
English Department

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**Colonial and Post Colonial India: A
Comparative Study of E.M.Forster's A
Passage to India and Paul Scott's Quartet
and Staying On.**



Ph. D. Thesis Submitted by
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Under the Supervision of
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1999



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Approval Sheet

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Quartet and Staying On.**

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Colonial and Post Colonial India: A Comparative
Study of E.M. Forster's A Passage to India and Paul
Scott's Quartet and Staying On.

by

Amany Helmy Toma

ABSTRACT

This study undertakes to examine two different eras in India: the era of Colonialism and the era of Post Colonialism. The two great major works which dealt with the period of the British Colonialism in India are E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India* and Paul Scott's *The Raj Quartet*. *Staying On* is Scott's post colonial novel which treats the problems of the English who stayed on in India after the independence and presents the new social structure of the Indian society twenty five years after the British retreat from India in August 1947.

The British rule in India had a great impact on the Indian natives. The Indians were alienated in their own Country. The British maintained a wide social gulf between themselves and

the Indians. In other words, there was a sense of hostility between the ruler and the ruled.

In *A Passage to India*, Forster portrayed India as a British colony governed and ruled by a supreme power which is Britain. Forster tackled a universal problem which is the problem of colonization and its bad effect on the colonized countries. Through his novel, he revealed the harsh and the unjust attitude of the British towards the Indian natives.

Scott's *Quartet* presents the British Empire as an exploitable and selfish one. Scott believed that the British Empire should have aimed at achieving equality, understanding, and cooperation between the English and Indians. In other words, he believed that attaining love and partnership should have been the major goal of the British raj in India.

Scott depicted the failure of the British raj in India. He tackled the problem of the British imperialism by using love as a symbol. He clearly illustrated, throughout the four books, the fact that the British rule in India could have been successful had love been offered to the Indians by the British.

Scott's postcolonial novel *Staying On* portrays postcolonial India, a new nation which is utterly different from

British India. The Indians now particularly the Hindus are the rulers of the country. They are no longer ruled by a foreign power. The new postcolonial world enabled the Indians to enjoy the sense of belonging to India as it is no longer a British colony but a free independent nation.

The British managed to occupy India for one hundred and fifty years. They managed to have full authority and control over the land. Yet, they failed to affect the Indians spiritually. The Indians have always been and still are influenced by their own philosophies and creeds. Hence, postcolonial India at the present time is a nation ruled by its own people and enjoys total freedom and sovereignty.

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CHAPTER ONE

Colonialism And Post Colonialism

Colonialism and Post Colonialism

Colonialism and post colonialism are two major important issues that have been discussed by many critics, writers, historians, and politicians. When the word "colonialism" is mentioned, one immediately thinks of the British Empire and its widespread colonies all over the Asian and the African continents. It goes without saying that the last two hundred years have witnessed the greatest expansion of an empire which the British themselves described as the Empire "on which the sun would never set."¹

The British Empire exercised a great authority over several territories for quite a long time. In other words, it exercised political and economic control over different lands and various nations. It is worth-mentioning that the British rule has been expressed in "military power, the exploitation or development of resources, and the attempt to govern the indigenous inhabitants of occupied lands."²

Colonialism is mainly characterized by the quest of economic and political profits from the colonies. It can be defined as the complete awareness of the colonizers of the im-

portance of making a great use of the economic and political advantages of the colonies.

The British had a sincere belief in the fact that a great portion of the world's surface was dedicated entirely to Britain. For Britain, the period of Queen Victoria's reign (1837-1901) represented Britain's "great age of colonization."³ During the Victorian age, the British nation managed to establish itself as a global power. In other words, it was mainly in the nineteenth century that the economic and political supremacy of Britain became universal. That is to say, Britain managed to represent the European economic power and expansion all over the world.

Britain was destined to rule a large number of territories in Asia, Africa, and Australia. In Asia, for instance, millions of people were under the British Crown particularly India to the extent that Queen Victoria was given the name 'Empress of India.' Throughout the Victorian age, English writers, critics, and journalists stressed the importance of the white British rule in different colonies.