A History Of The British Cavalry 1816 1919 Mesopotamia V 6 15931db6e3686dac361a170f177e67

A History of the British Empire in India

History and British Empire: The History of the British Empire

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Winner of the British Academy's Nobel Al-Rashid Prize for Global Cultural Understanding 2020 Highly commended for PEN Rishi-Tillotson Prize 2021 A haunting and historic history of British empire, told through one woman’s family story “Where are you from?” was the question haunting Nadir Haq as a girl in post-war London. One of the many brown babies of the Windrush generation, born to a Jamaican father and Welsh mother, Carlyn’s place in her home, her neighbourhood, and her country of birth was always in doubt. Emerging from this setting, Carlyn undertakes the thread connecting members of her family in a web woven by the British Empire across the Atlantic. We must Carlyn’s working-class grandmother Beatrice, a woman shaped by tragedy and strengths in England, and she was approached by the investigative figures of empire, by city built with class and racism, and by the madding outfit fashionable Jamaican immigration. In Jamaica, we follow the lives of both the “Lodge Carlys” and the “Black Carlys,” including Ruby Frey, a true woman of colour. Children fatigued by labor, the UK’s British soldiers who arrived in 1951 to be absorbed into the plantation army. And we discover the hidden stories of Beatrice and Nancy, two women owned by Ruby who survived the middle passage from Africa to the Caribbean. Moving between Jamaican plantations, the hills of Devon, the pest cities of Bristol, Cardiff, and Kingston, and the working-class estates of South London, Carlyn’s family story is one on an intimate personal history and a sweeping summary of the violent arrangement of two islands. In charting British empire’s interweaving of capital and power, public language and private feeling, Carlyn will find herself reckoning with what she can tell, what she can remember, and what she must bear to know.

The book describes the British Empire as a story of imperial ambition and the desire to explain how a tiny number of noble families rose to such a position in the first place. It reveals the often nefarious and unscrupulous means by which these families to guard their interests with such determination. In telling their history, Carlyn introduces a cast of extraordinary characters: fierce warriors, rakish dandies, political dilettantes, charming eccentrics, arrogant snobs and criminals who quite literally got away with murder. From before the Anglo-Saxon invasions to the end of an empire, British history trends, philosophies, and events are...