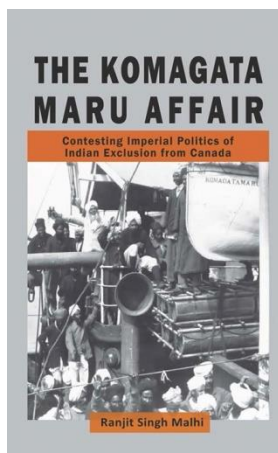


The Komagata Maru Affair: Contesting Imperial Politics of Indian Exclusion from Canada



Outstanding Features

In 1914, Gurdit Singh, a long-time resident of Serendah, Malaya chartered a Japanese ship, the *Komagata Maru*, to take 376 Punjabi passengers to Canada, a white dominion of the British Empire. Despite being British subjects of proven loyalty, the vast majority of passengers aboard the *Komagata Maru* were denied entry into Canada primarily due to racial discrimination and the fear of competition against white labour for unskilled jobs. Upon returning to India, 19 of the ship's passengers were killed by gunfire when they ignored the directive of British authorities to board a special train to the Punjab. This book provides an analytical account of the *Komagata Maru* affair situated in the wider context of British imperialism, global white supremacy agenda, diasporic revolutionary movement, and India's freedom struggle. It also sheds new light besides revising existing knowledge on the *Komagata Maru* affair and the Ghadar movement which are closely intertwined.

Endorsements

“The *Komagata Maru* affair is a very important aspect of India's modern history. However, certain aspects of this incident have not been given due attention in the past. Dr. Ranjit's book has now done ample justice to the subject. It is very well-researched and written with considerable care. History is based on empirical evidence, not speculation. This book re-emphasizes the importance of factual history.”

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Emeritus Professor of Malaysian History

“Ranjit's book, based on painstaking and wide-ranging research, has succeeded admirably in joining the dots by way of providing answers to several questions left unanswered in earlier narratives on the *Komagata Maru* incident. The book also stands out for its insightfulness as well as diction. It is a priceless addition to my personal library, while at the same time being educative for a lay reader.”

– Professor Malwinderjit Singh Waraich
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