

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>Glossary of terms and abbreviations</i>	xii
Introduction: a subaltern history of the Indian diaspora in Singapore: the gradual disappearance of untouchability	1
<i>Why conduct a historical study of the untouchable community?</i>	2
<i>Challenges to studying untouchability in the Singaporean context</i>	4
<i>Scope</i>	11
<i>Who are the untouchables in this study?</i>	15
<i>Sources</i>	17
<i>The structure of the study</i>	21
1 Indian labour migration and caste: policies, discourse and social effects from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries	35
<i>Immigration trends, Indian labour welfare and governmental differences</i>	37
<i>Push factors for untouchable labour migrants</i>	39
<i>Discourses on Indian labour migration, the welfare of Indian labourers and the retention of the caste system</i>	43
<i>The dialogical shaping of labour recruitment: policies and culture</i>	47
<i>Different systems of labour recruitment and management and their effect on the continuity of cultural practices overseas</i>	48
<i>Tamil labour: discourse and practice</i>	56
2 Caste, untouchability and public practice in Singapore	68
<i>Untouchability in Singapore: an overview</i>	68
<i>The translocal sphere of cultural practice: kinship networks and the self-policing of caste</i>	73

<i>Networks and identity</i>	74
<i>Demographic trends and the introduction of caste prejudice</i>	78
<i>Diversity in caste practice</i>	80
<i>Coffee shops, caste and others</i>	81
<i>Caste and occupation</i>	83
<i>Establishing caste practice</i>	87
<i>Caste and class</i>	87
<i>The persistence of caste consciousness</i>	89
3 Identity narratives and the beginnings of diasporic consciousness	98
<i>Widening identities and changing outlooks</i>	98
<i>Indian nationalism and the Dravidian movement in Malaya</i>	101
<i>Ideology and caste in India</i>	103
<i>Social reform in Malaya</i>	107
<i>The Indian Association in Singapore</i>	110
<i>Pan-Indianism and the Indian Association's increasing identification with the Congress movement</i>	113
<i>The social programmes of the Indian Association</i>	116
<i>The Indian Association in Singapore and Tamil Hindu conservatives</i>	117
<i>The limited success of the Indian Association's social agenda</i>	120
<i>The Tamils Reform Association and Dravidian ideology in Singapore</i>	121
<i>A broadening world view</i>	126
4 Racialised subjectivities and the performance of “Indianness” in Malaya during the Japanese Occupation	138
<i>Untouchables and a new pan-Indianism</i>	139
<i>Indian unity: memorialising the independence movement in occupied Malaya</i>	140
<i>Diversity and divisions within Malaya's Indian community</i>	141
<i>Managing pluralism: the Japanese encounter with Malayan society</i>	143
<i>Racial classification under occupation</i>	144
<i>Assessments of Indians in Malaya</i>	146
<i>Performing Indian identity</i>	147
<i>Conditional support and pan-Indian unity</i>	148
<i>The appropriation of Indian National Congress symbols</i>	150
<i>Tamil nationalism and Tamil separatist tendencies</i>	152
<i>Other communities</i>	153

<i>North Indian-centric racial normativity</i>	154
<i>Untouchables during the occupation</i>	155
<i>The effects of the occupation</i>	160
5 The post-Dravidian era and Singaporean Tamil ethnicity	174
<i>Racial policies and the Singaporean state</i>	175
<i>Tamil reform and Tamil ethnic identity assertion, 1948–65</i>	178
<i>From Adi Dravidas to Tamils</i>	182
<i>Transnational cultural agendas, localised contexts</i>	190
<i>Contexts and outcomes</i>	194
Conclusion	208
<i>Responses to structural conditions overseas: caste as a register of migrant agency</i>	209
<i>Identity orientations: translocal connections, diasporic consciousness and citizenship</i>	210
<i>Identity discourses and ideology</i>	211
<i>Reflections and areas for future study</i>	212
Appendix	214
Index	216