Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site, Mauritius

ABSTRACT

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This publication presents the history of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site, an immigration depot located in Mauritius where a new system of recruitment called indenture was first used on a large scale.

The Aapravasi Ghat is the symbol of a major labour migration in world history starting in 1830s until 1920s. This labour migration was initiated in Mauritius and led to the migration of more than 2 million indentured labourers around the world. In Mauritius, almost 70% of the population are the descendants of indentured labourers who came from India, China, east Africa, Madagascar and south east Asia to work on the British colony's sugar plantations.

This book also tells the story of these men, women and children who passed through the gates of the immigration depot, with hope of a better life. The migration of half a million of indentured labourers in Mauritius marked the development of the multicultural society that we know today.