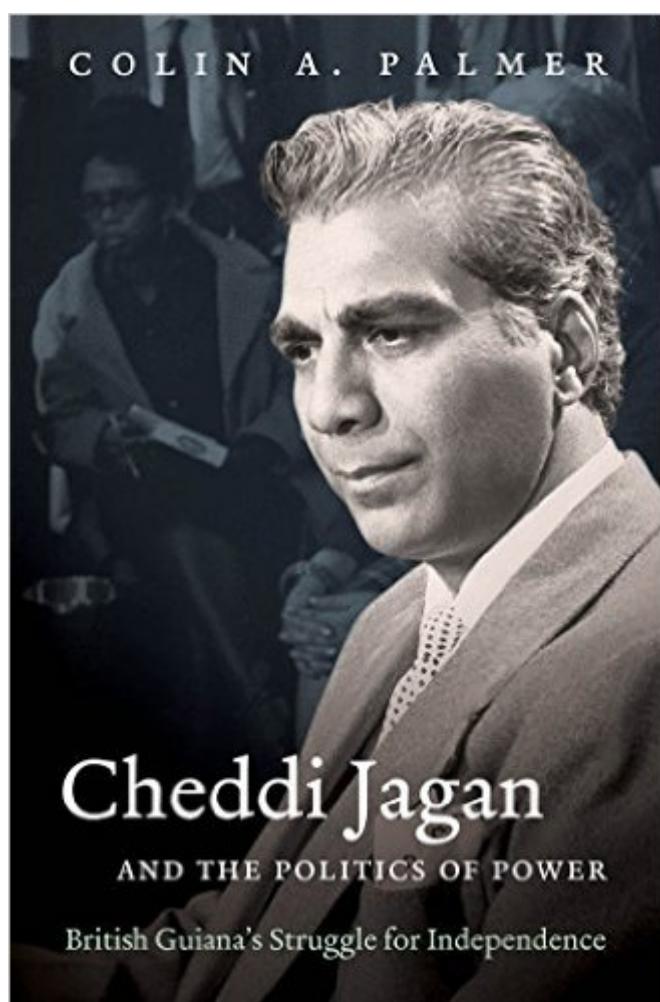


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Cheddi Jagan And The Politics Of Power: British Guiana's Struggle For Independence (H. Eugene And Lillian Youngs Lehman Series)



Synopsis

Colin Palmer, one of the foremost chroniclers of twentieth-century British and U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean, here tells the story of British Guiana's struggle for independence. At the center of the story is Cheddi Jagan, who was the colony's first premier following the institution of universal adult suffrage in 1953. Informed by the first use of many British, U.S., and Guyanese archival sources, Palmer's work details Jagan's rise and fall, from his initial electoral victory in the spring of 1953 to the aftermath of the British-orchestrated coup d'etat that led to the suspension of the constitution and the removal of Jagan's independence-minded administration. Jagan's political odyssey continued--he was reelected to the premiership in 1957--but in 1964 he fell out of power again under pressure from Guianese, British, and U.S. officials suspicious of Marxist influences on the People's Progressive Party, founded in 1950 by Jagan and his activist wife, Janet Rosenberg. But Jagan's political life was not over--after decades in the opposition, he became Guyana's president in 1992. Subtly analyzing the actual role of Marxism in Caribbean anticolonial struggles and bringing the larger story of Caribbean colonialism into view, Palmer examines the often malevolent roles played by leaders at home and abroad and shows how violence, police corruption, political chicanery, racial politics, and poor leadership delayed Guyana's independence until 1966, scarring the body politic in the process.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A sophomoric treatment of an important part of the history of Guyana/British Guiana. The author

opens with an Introduction that quotes police reports that he has misinterpreted and has absolutely no first hand experience about. Some of the police officers who he demonizes were heroes who were respected in Guyana and who were found to have no wrong doing. If this author had done his homework he would have realized that. This book is a propaganda attempt that uses old newspaper and police reports without following through with knowledgeable research on the outcomes. This book is an insult to anyone and everything that it is trying to uplift. It is full of yellow cowardly lazy journalism and is so badly written and poorly researched that it is absolutely useless. This author has no credibility he is simply regurgitating bits and pieces of old newspaper articles. You may as well read a yellow journal like the National Enquirer and reports of UFOs landing in Guyana abducting people or some other conspiracy theory like the red tomatoes are planning to take over Georgetown and eat people.

Jagan is an important world figure in the struggle for self-determination. Many works have been published on the Guyana story and the overthrow of the 3-time popularly-elected leader by external imperialist forces after his first election. Palmer is an important historian of the struggles of enslaved and indentured people. His book is an important contribution.

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