

The Colonial Practices and Pretensions in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*,  
E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, and George Orwell's *Burmese Days*

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**Abstract**

This thesis surveys the representation of colonial practices and ideologies in three works: Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* (1902), E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India* (1924), and George Orwell's *Burmese Days* (1934). The objective of this study is to investigate the frames in which these works portray imperialism. This thesis endeavours to assess the attitudes of these works towards one of the most influential movements in modern history; colonialism. Nonetheless, this study highlights the anti-imperial aspects of these works as they expose the atrocities of colonialism in Africa and Asia. Moreover, this research hypothesizes that these three works focus on the fallacies of colonial ideology, a hypothesis which is the centre of its investigation. This thesis concludes that the three works it studies oppose colonialism, its methods, and mentality. Yet there are major setbacks to this opposition as evident in the inconsistencies in the opposition to imperialism, the use of racist language, and the stereotypical representations of the natives.

Keywords: Colonialism; Imperialism; Anti-imperialism; Postcolonialism.