

INDEX

- abusive relations
 marriages, 13, 18, 42–43
 partners, 96, 116
 in society, 109
 adultery, 93, 105–111, 118, 120
 agency, 11–14, 20, 118, 124, 135–143,
 149–150
 concepts of, 2–5
 exercised in plantation life, 2
 forms of, 12, 23
 political agency, 146
 rethinking, 151–154
 situational, 15–19, 45–46, 108, 110
 of subjugated individuals, 26
 Agent of Government of India in
 Malaya, 56, 64, 84
 annual reports, 22–23, 62, 85, 105,
 119, 121
 attitude to coolie women, 65
 duties, 84
 individual agents and their reports,
 105–106, 119
 protection of women workers, 68
 Ainsworth, Leopold, 49, 78, 81, 89
 alcohol, 61. *See also* toddy
- anti-colonial movement, 42, 87
 attitudes towards coolie women,
 121–122
 development in India, 32, 34–36, 85
 neglected historiography, 15, 156
 participation, 10, 148
 writings of, 122
- army, 126–129
 assault, 67, 72, 88, 94, 103
ayah, 62
- Bay of Bengal, 30
 Bhupalan, Dato, 89–90, 136–140,
 142–143
 age at joining RJR, 126
 role in politics, 145–146
 television documentary, 127
- black Europeans, 69
 Bose, Subhash Chandra, 15, 140–149, 156
 formation of RJR, 125, 130–131
 nationalist activities, 26, 136–137
 plans to confront British army,
 126–128
 promoting nationalist recruitment,
 129

INDEX

- Boulle, Pierre, 49
 British Indian Army, 143, 146, 147,
 156
 British intelligence, 131, 133
- Cameroon, 10
 Carey, E. V., 30, 36–37
 caste, 6–8, 45, 144
 determinant of hierarchical
 relations, 73
 differences within RJR, 144
 divided society, 44
 estrangement, 26
 lower-caste women, 13
 prejudices, 41–43
 casual laborers, 52–56
 census, 22–23, 39–41, 44–45
 Central Indian Association of
 Malaya, 90
cert-k-kolu-tal, 46
 Ceylon Tamils, 40
 chaotic spaces, 24, 79, 102
 chastisement, 109, 111–112
 childcare, 62
 child labor, 33, 157, 161, 163
 child marriage, 43
 childbirth, 61
 Colonial Office (London), 23, 29, 34,
 79, 117
 communal messing, 91–93, 100
 compensation, 24, 67, 74
 concubines, 68
 conscious agents, 118
 Controller of Labor, 67–68, 74, 97
 convicts, 12
 beginning of shipment to Malaya,
 29
 laborers, 29
 work gangs, 28
 cooks, 91, 96, 120, 140
 coolie
 arrival in Malaya, 30
 children, 33, 62, 74, 90, 110, 126, 128,
 147, 161
 communities, 5, 7–8, 11, 25, 70, 89,
 103, 105, 120, 151, 154
 couples, 47, 78, 81, 83, 85–86, 90, 91,
 93–95, 97, 110, 134, 161
 definition of, 5–15
 gender composition, 32
 household, 24–25, 59, 64, 79, 80–102,
 111, 121
 husband, 2, 18, 25, 41, 43, 46, 61, 82,
 86, 89, 95–97, 103–104, 114–116, 133,
 142–143, 153, 161
 identity, 7–8, 11–12, 48, 66, 109, 139
 Indian Tamil, 6, 40
 lines, 78–79, 81–86, 89, 91–93, 100,
 132
 living standards, 25, 86
 marriages, 3, 18, 92, 109, 112, 119
 recruitment of workers, 11, 13, 23, 27,
 29–31, 32–42, 47, 63–64, 100, 153,
 156
 within power structures, 3–4, 75, 124
 wives, 19, 24, 40, 42–43, 47, 98, 120
 women as laborers, 12, 16, 19–20,
 27, 38, 47–52, 60, 62, 64, 66, 70, 72,
 75–76, 80, 148, 151, 154–155
 co-operative relations, 89

INDEX

- creche, 62
 creping, 51

 daily wage system, 56–59
 dependency, 51, 63–66
 dependent, 63–67, 69, 76, 153
 depot marriages, 92, 107, 153
devadasi, 42, 44
 Devi, Savitri, 42
 domestic matters, 78, 80, 84, 86, 103,
 123, 128, 138
 economy, 60
 life, 11, 24, 109
 and the nationalist agenda, 4
 partners, 47
 property, 103
 space, 10, 25, 77, 85–86, 91, 153
 violence, 78–79, 80, 82, 86–87, 90, 92,
 95–102
 double shifts, 55

 East India Company, 13, 33
 entrepreneurship, 82, 91, 95, 101
 adventures, 25
 and domestic space, 77
 endeavours, 78
 partners, 86, 98
 estate, 40
 authorities, 66–68, 71–72, 74, 76–77,
 161
 child labor, 33
 labor, 40, 48, 66, 69
 manager, 1, 4, 56, 67–68, 70, 73–74
 overseer, 19, 70–72
 populations, 40–41, 104
 societies, 3, 17, 19, 21, 25, 63, 103–104,
 119, 164
 toddy shops, 62
 workers, 7, 10, 133, 160–161, 163

 factory work, 58–59, 70
 famine, 37, 42–43
 Federated Malay State, 1, 29–30,
 33–34, 38–41, 45, 53, 56–57, 59,
 62, 68, 73, 84, 89, 91, 106, 109,
 114, 122
 female population, 33, 39, 41, 47
 Fiji, 7, 10, 13, 16, 22, 29, 33, 49, 60, 79,
 104
 Fleeting Agency, 1–4, 6, 9–12, 14,
 16–19, 25, 105, 153, 155, 164
 limitations of, 145
 within individual silence, 149

 Gandhi, M. K., 36, 121–122, 130,
 136–137
 gender ratio, 27, 60
 gendered pay structure, 55, 57–58, 64
 Gokhale, Gopal Krishna, 8, 105,
 government of India, 23, 32, 34, 38–39,
 42, 45, 62, 65, 68, 84–85, 87, 105,
 118–119
 agent of, in Malaya, 22–23, 56, 62,
 64–65, 68
 and anti-colonialism, 32, 87, 121–122
 and Colonial Office, 34–36
 concerns with sex ratio, 63–64
 regulation of sea traffic, 30
 Guiana (French), 7, 13, 29, 79
 Guyana (British), 8, 29, 49

INDEX

- head coolie, 110
 homicides, 89, 105, 115, 118–119
- identity, 5, 7–8, 11–12, 20, 48, 73, 87, 109, 139
 immigration inspectors, 79
 immorality, 104
 asserted causes of, 27, 118, 121
 containment policies, 108, 119–120
 coolie society, 10
 estate societies, 85, 103, 122–123
 gendered understanding of, 26
 overseers and planters, 67
 publicity, 113–114
 racist stereotypes of, 93
 repression of, 68
 victims of, 106–107, 111, 124
 implicit partners, 67
 indenture, 72,
 abolition, 31, 105
 Commission Appointed to
 Enquire into the Conditions of
 Indentured Labor, 39
 condition of labor, 104
 labor issues, 41–42
 opposition toward, 104
 period of, 30
 protests against, 36
 recruitment, 34
 servants and laborers, 12, 37, 72, 79, 105
 social life, 79
 sugar estates, 13
 Indian Emigration Acts, 33, 38
 Indian Immigration Committee
 (IIC), 35
 Indian Independence League, 126, 132, 147
 Indian marriages, 12
 abusive, 13, 42–43
 contractual marriages, 46
 depot marriages, 92, 107, 153
 escape from, 25
 evidence of, 112–113
 influence on status, 12
 Marriage Registration Act for
 Hindus, 119
 as a power play, 3
 registration of, 119
 widow remarriage, 44
 Indian National Army, 126, 131, 135, 139–141, 143, 146, 148
 Indian National Congress, 8, 38, 122
 Indian nationalist movement, 17, 26–27, 31, 39, 84, 126, 137
 agendas, 4, 101
 archive, 21–22
 coolie recruitment, 47
 depictions of coolie households, 91
 discourses, 8, 11, 13, 25, 41, 48, 50–51, 80–81, 94, 128
 elites, 123
 emigrants overseas, 36
 government lobbying, 34, 41
 growth of, 84
 leaders, 10, 14, 125, 130, 142
 participation of women, 145
 protection of coolie women, 42, 45, 49, 76, 105–106, 124

INDEX

- Ranis, 145–148
 strategies, 1
 transnational, 2
 transregional, 155
 women in government, 127
 isolated spaces, 60
- Jamaica, 10, 16, 29, 60
- Japanese occupation, 3, 11, 23, 26, 89,
 125, 140, 143, 145, 147, 149
 coolie women, 89
 danger to RJR, 128–129, 140, 149
 everyday life, 131–135, 147
 plantation life, 128
 recruiting ground for Indian
 independence, 126
 Southeast Asia, 26
 war, 145
- kangany*, 39, 41, 143
 abusive behaviour, 49, 72–73
 definition, 31
 experiment in Malaya, 36
 influence on coolie social relations,
 46
 place in hierarchy, 70
 recruitment from India, 37
 role under Japanese occupation, 132
- kanji*, 62
- kidnapping, 31, 41–42, 103
- kirani*, 132, 134, 143
- Labor Code, 38
 Labor Commission, 46, 83–84, 91
 Labor Department, 62
 privacy for coolies, 85
 promotion of coolie women
 migration, 39, 68
 protection of pregnant coolie
 women, 61
 reports of, 22–23, 48, 56–59, 109
 representations of coolie women,
 64–65
- labor dismissal, 59
 labor politics, 19, 34, 66–67, 69, 76,
 157
- lady inspectors, 45
 latex, 33, 52, 54, 61
 latex factory, 54–55
 line crèches, 62
 living quarters, 67, 84, 92–94
- Mauritius, 7, 22, 29, 33
 plantation economy, 10, 29
 planter abuse of coolie women, 49
 vulnerability of coolie women, 63
- malaria, 87, 133
- Malaya, 1–10, 13–14, 18, 22, 24–28, 32
 census, 23, 39, 40–41, 45
 Indian labor migration to, 27–32
 Labor Code of Malaya. *See also*
 Labor Code
 Labor Recruitment and Supply Bill
 (1902), 36
 Legislative Council of Malaya, 36,
 105, 109
 United Planters Association of
 Malaya (UPAM), 29–30, 33–34
 Marakkayar, Ahmad Tambi, 46
 Marjoribanks, N. E., 46, 84

INDEX

- marriage
 contractual marriages, 43, 46, 92,
 109–110
 Marriage Registration Act, 119
 registration, 18, 47, 100, 119
 maternal health, 61–62
 Maternity allowance, 61, 65
 Menon, Gopala, 122
 messing, 82, 86, 91–93, 95, 100
 midwives, 61
 migration, 2, 33, 39
 India to Malaya, 28
 Montague Chelmsford Reforms, 37
munsifs, 31
- Nehru, Nandrani, 43
 nurses, 140, 148,
- patriarchy, 3, 11, 16, 23–24, 69, 101, 138,
 152
 partner desertion, 105–106, 110, 118, 153
 husband, 13, 103
 in Indian coolie communities, 105
 mistress, 110
 retribution for, 114
 Victorian ideals, 108–109
 wife, 109
- payrolls, 48, 63, 64
 Periyar, Ramasamy, 44
 piecework system, 56–58, 65
 plantation, 33
 laborers, 8, 12
 economy, 10, 80, 92, 103
 society, 1–4, 10, 19, 60, 80, 94, 102
 planters,
 discipline of coolie men, 19
 economic concerns, 32–33
 European, 31, 78, 104, 132
 gendered labor migration, 32
 immoral practice allegations, 68
 memoirs, 48–50, 78
 moral outrage, 104
 payment by results, 56
 Planter's Association, 61
 political concerns, 33–36
 pregnant workers, 61–62
 recruitment strategies, 27, 29–30,
 38–39, 63
 response to domestic violence, 82, 92,
 96–97
 Selangor Journal of Planters, 84
 shaping coolie identities, 90, 99
 tension in Malaya, 36–38
 treatment of women laborers, 59,
 60–61, 64, 91
 Victorian categorizations, 100
 port marriages, 46
 primary workers, 50, 59
 privacy, 25, 83, 84–85, 91, 120
 proletarianization, 66, 69, 70
 prostitutes, 14, 42–43, 47, 68
 Protectors of Emigrants, 42, 45, 47
- Rani of Jhansi Regiment (RJR), 89,
 125, 129–131, 135–150, 152, 156
 activity of women members, 140
 elite members, 138, 142, 145
 formation, 129–131
 memoirs, 26, 144
 military plans, 126

INDEX

- officer corps, 145
 veterans, 26, 127, 148
 women recruits, 126–128, 139, 143, 147
 recruiters, 29, 41–42, 46, 63, 70, 119
 attitudes to coolie women, 63
 group leaders, 70
 kidnapping coolies, 41–42
 labor supply campaigns, 38
 registering, 33
 sites, 30
 recruiting allowance, 39
 regiment camps, 128, 138
 registered marriage system, 68
 reproducing labor, 27, 51, 60–63
 revolutionary army, 128
 rubber
 Abaco Rubber Estate, 162
 Dunedin Rubber Plantation, 159
 estate, 6–7, 9, 24, 32, 39, 48, 51–53, 57, 68–77, 129, 163
 “garden”, 27, 41
 gender ratio, 9
 factory, 51–52, 54–55, 58, 70
 Growers’ Association, 34
 industry, 28–29, 34, 40, 48, 52, 64–65, 132
 plantation, 1, 10, 49, 55, 125
 planters, 30
 production, 11, 33, 51–52, 56, 58
 sheets, 52
 Syonan Rubber Syndicate, 132–133

 Satyamurti, S., 122
 sati, 44

 Satyagraha movement, 130, 137
 secondary laborers, 50, 52, 59, 63, 65–66, 76
 self-determination, 13, 16, 141, 150
 Self-Respect Movement, 44
 sexual competition, 120
 sexual jealousy, 81, 85, 104–105, 107–108
 sexual partners, 2
 sex ratio, 24, 86, 91, 93–94, 121, 123
 imbalance on estates, 90, 117, 122
 improvement (1911–31), 40–41
 Indian-Malayan government tensions, 62–63
 as an issue of debate, 35
 providing balance, 39
 Sahgal, Lakshmi, 126–127, 136–140, 142–143, 145, 147–148
 Singapore, 126
 situational agency, 3, 5, 128, 141, 145, 153
 coolie women, in, 20–21, 24, 45–46, 110, 143
 definition, 15–19
 modes of expression, 108, 115, 124, 143
 nationalism, 150
 situational choice, 18
 slavery, 30–31
 abolition of, 28
 slump year, 34, 40, 64–65, 89
 social memory, 26, 95, 128
 Sri Lanka, 10, 16, 60
 strikes, 66–69
 sugar estates, 10, 13, 30
 suicide, 15, 87–88, 122, 125
 Suriname, 7, 29, 104

INDEX

- survival strategies, 109, 123–124
 survivance, 3, 18, 109, 111, 118, 128,
 135–143, 149
 Syonan, 126, 132, 147
- tappers, 24, 55, 94
 method of payment, 56–58
 numbers on estates, 58
 women, 39
 young, 163
- tapping, 32, 48, 51, 53, 55, 62, 70
 gendered income equality, 56
 gender pay tensions, 57
 payment by results, 56, 58
 process description, 52–53, 56
 resources, 48–77
 rubber supply, 31
 supervisors, 70
- tea
 estates, 60
 industry, 29
 plantations, 12, 32
- temporality, 3, 16–17, 152
- temporal empowerment, 150
- Thailand-Burma death railway,
 133–134
- toddy, 62, 87
- Trinidad, 7, 10, 29
- unemployment, 41, 133
- Unfederated Malay State, 38
- United Kingdom, 20–21
- United States, 20
- unskilled labor, 32, 34–35, 38, 148
- vagrant, 30, 40
- Veerasamy, S. N., 22, 96, 123
- victimhood, 4, 11, 26, 48
 and agency, 18, 124
 colonial understandings of, 4
 coolie women, of, 42
 recording, 80
 submission to, 109
 women's escape from, 17, 108
- wages, 47, 68, 87, 90, 94, 162
 agricultural, 58
 complaints about, 72
 constraint on women, 100
 factory, 58
 gender pay disparity, 24, 39, 42, 55,
 70
 individual, 63
 male dependence, 65
 pay experimentation, 56
 per-day, 132
 planter control of, 30
 rates, 57, 59
 recorded on estate payrolls, 48
 tappers, 56–57
 weeders, 55
- weeders, 24, 55–56, 58
- weeding, 10, 31–32, 49, 51–55, 70,
 74
- widow, 42–44, 46
- wife enticement, 19, 25, 104–113,
 115–116, 118–119
- women migration, 40, 45–47
- World War II, 2–3, 26, 125