

## **Eight Works:**

*Treaties Between Great Britain and Ethiopia, and Between Great Britain, Italy, and Ethiopia, Relative to the Frontiers Between the Soudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. Signed at Adis Ababa, May 15, 1902;* All themes include colonialism and imperialism, geopolitics and international relations, borders and territorial sovereignty, and diplomacy and negotiation. This set of documents defined borders between Soudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

*Letter to A.M. Chirgwin;* All themes include colonialism, identity, culture, and history. A thank you to a reverend for the religious guidance and how it had a positive impact on the women.

*Sultana's Dream;* All themes include gender roles, women's empowerment, utopianism, and colonialism. Features an alternate world in which women live in a world that is thriving and men are placed in an oppressed alternate realm, this piece critiques patriarchal norms.

*South Seas– Mangaia;* All themes include colonialism, tradition vs modernity, gender roles, and identity and belonging. Gives insight into to a Pacific Island community in which we are introduced to the influences that shape our sense of self and relationship to the world.

*Praying for Rain in China;* All themes include globalization, environmental degradation, economic policies, and culture and tradition. With the effects of rapid globalization, we learn about its impact on Chinese people and communities.

*The Outcast from China Brought Safely Home;* All themes include cross-cultural exchange, identity, redemption, and betrayal and loyalty. A boy who is forced to leave his home and becomes an outcast is later able to return home to family through a series of life lessons and cultural empathy.

*Japan;* All themes include cultural identity, love and relationships, tradition vs modernity, and nostalgia and memoir. A visual reflection on western influences on Japan's cultural heritage and how various cultures and traditions shape who we are.

*A Japanese Artist in London;* All themes include culture shock and adaptation, identity and belonging, art and creativity, and friendship and community. A memoir that features challenges faced between differing cultures and how one can overcome indifferences.

## Themes for critical exploration:

*Colonialism & Environmental Degradation*; Like forementioned in OMV 2, prior to the introduction of Christianity in these Asian countries and cultures, their religious beliefs were different. This idea that the introduction of Christianity allowed Anglo-Europeans to establish colonies, allies, and economic dominance— gaining control by using their abundance of resources to increase power and wealth. In these readings, there are a lot of first-middle-ending pieces that follow the lines of “I was introduced to this new belief, I follow the new belief and teach others, our lives are now better”. Throughout these texts one will notice both philosophical and artistic movements that arose from Christian churches that pushed people to modify their personal beliefs to match up with Anglo-European ideas. This idea of modernism prevents diversity. Along the lines of colonialism we also see how missionaries brought to foreign countries pushed their religion onto others, brainwashed these people, bribed these people, and took a part of their heritage and roots away, in order to homogenize and create a society that is closer to the majority's ideal. This includes the works, *Letter to A.M. Chirgwin*, *Sultana's Dream*, *South Seas— Mangaia*, and *Treaties Between Great Britain and Ethiopia*, and *Between Great Britain, Italy, and Ethiopia, Relative to the Frontiers Between the Soudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. Signed at Adis Ababa, May 15, 1902*.

*Gender Roles*; Though not a main focus of most of the pieces of literature, these pieces explore and challenge the idea of misogynistic roles. These pieces focus on creating empowering and utopian worlds in which women are treated as equals. This includes the works *South Seas. — Mangaia* and *Sultana's Dream*.

*Race & Identity*; There is a common theme of racial minorities that are prevalent in each of these pieces of literature and how this creates a sense of identity crisis. This idea that minorities are easily persuaded and are impressionable is an issue I draw from the themes listed above, because of their race, the other themes were able to take place due to positions of power and access to resources due to white privilege— an issue that is still prevalent today. Along with this, people and communities are unable to feel a sense of self and cultural pride. This includes the works *Letter to A.M. Chirgwin*, *Praying for Rain in China*, *The Outcast from China Brought Safely Home*, *Japan*, *South Seas. — Mangaia*, and *A Japanese Artist in London*.

## Critical Works:

*Colonialism and Environmental Degradation*;

*Settler Colonial Studies, Asian Diasporic Questions*; This article examines how settler colonialism has shaped Asian and Indigenous peoples experiences and identities through an

intersectional approach to understanding marginalized communities. This is relevant in how it argues that colonialism has created and took resources away from marginalized communities.

*Post-Colonialism Compared: Potentials and Limitations in the Middle East and Central Asia;* This article explores two different regions and their experiences during colonialism and the challenges they now face post. This is relevant in how these societies are still facing the repercussions of colonialism.

*A Pure Invention: Japan, Impressionism, and the West, 1853-1906;* This article explores the influence of Japanese art– when it was introduced in Europe it was seen as something radical, new, and free from western constraints– in turn we learn about a cultural exchange that shapes art creation. This article specifically relates to *A Japanese Artist in London* in which we see how his artwork transformed and transpired in Europe.

*Gender Roles;*

*Redefining and Feminising Security;* This article analyzes how security concerns affect men and women differently by highlighting examples from India. In most of my articles I chose to stay within the regions of the Middle East, South Asia, etc.. and specifically examine these regions– this article relates to the theme of the gender disparities within this region.

*Feminism's Futures: The Limits and Ambitions of Rokeya's Dream;* This article credits Rokeya's work for inspiring feminist work throughout the region, but also questions its limitations because of Rokeya's social and class status. This article relates to *Rokeya's Dream* specifically as it argues that Rokeya's knowledge of gender disparities may be limited due to her social and class status.

*Women in Mangaian Society: A Historical Portrait.;* This article takes historical records to paint a picture of domestic and public life for women in the 19th and early 20th century in Mangaian society– the article argues that in comparison to others, women in this society were treated relatively equal in terms of gender, but there were definitions between social classes. This article argues in this Asian community, gender disparities were small– which was uncommon for most communities during this time.

*Race and Identity;*

*China's Search for Cultural and National Identity from the Nineteenth Century to the Present;* This article discusses how China's cultural and national identity was shaped by its engagement with Western culture. This article argues how China's entire cultural and national identity was shaped by Western culture to which we see present in *Letter to A.M. Chirgwin*,

*Praying for Rain in China, The Outcast from China Brought Safely Home, Japan, South Seas. — Mangaia, and A Japanese Artist in London.*

*Identity Change, Anxiety and Creativity: How 19th Century Japan Sought to Leave Asia and Become Part of the West;* This article examines Japan and its experience with Western imperialism that oppressed Japan's political and cultural expression. Again we see this idea of how westernization limited Japanese creativity, this is relevant in terms of not only does this affect one's own identity but also argues how Western influences shaped identity— specifically in this case, Japanese identity.

*Rethinking 'Race' from Asian Perspectives;* This article examines how in an Asian context, race has been shaped by all things colonialism, imperialism, and nationalism used to reinforce social construct. This relates to two of our themes in examining how Asian communities were shaped by Western impact— arguing that skin color and biological differences were not as relevant as they were in the case of African American shaping, but language, religion, and cultural dominance was more prominent here.

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