



# Middle Passage: Impressions of Five Colonial Societies

*V. S. Naipaul*

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## **Middle Passage: Impressions of Five Colonial Societies** V. S. Naipaul

In 1960, Dr Eric Williams, the first Prime Minister of independent Trinidad, invited V. S. Naipaul to revisit his native country and record his impressions. In this classic of modern travel writing he created a deft and remarkably prescient portrait of Trinidad and the Caribbean societies of four adjacent countries, Guyana, Surinam, Martinique and Jamaica. Haunted by the legacies of slavery and colonialism, and so thoroughly defined by the norms of Empire that it can scarcely comprehend its end, Naipaul catches this poor, topsy-turvy world at a critical moment, a time when racial and political assertion had yet to catch up -- a perfect subject for the acute understanding and dazzling prose of this great writer. 'Naipaul travels with the artist's eye and ear and his observations are sharply discerning.' Evelyn Waugh 'Belongs in the same category of travel writing as Lawrence's books on Italy, Greene's on West Africa and Pritchett's on Spain' New Statesman 'Where earlier travellers enthused or recoiled, Mr Naipaul explains. His tone is critical but humane, and he tempers his inevitable indignation with an admirable sense of comedy.' Observer 'Dazzling reportorial skills and a sharp historical mind' New York Times Book Review

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