Shakespeare and Race: Postcolonial Praxis in the Early Modern Period

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Description
Shakespeare and Race is a provocative new study that reveals a connection between the subject of race in Shakespeare and the advent of early English colonialism. Citing generally neglected archival evidence, Imtiaz Habib argues that a small population of captured Indians and Africans brought to England during the 16th century provided the impetus for Elizabethan constructions of race rather than existing European traditions in which blackness was represented metaphorically. He explores Tudor and Stuart dramatic representations of black characters, focusing specifically on how race affected Shakespeare personally and historically over the course of his career. Using postcolonial paradigms combined with neo-Marxist, feminist, and psychoanalytic insights, Habib discusses the possible existence of a black woman that Shakespeare knew and wrote about in his Sonnets and examines the design of his black male characters, including Aaron, Othello, and Caliban. Shakespeare and Race represents a significant contribution that will fascinate scholars of literature as well as those interested in the cultural impact of colonialism. [Amazon.com]

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The Early Modern Colloquium at the University of Michigan invites abstracts for papers for their interdisciplinary graduate student conference, "Representations of Race in the Early Modern Period" at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 21-22, 2014 with conference keynotes by Professor Arthur Little (Department of English, University of California- Los Angeles) and Professor Peter Erickson (Department of Theater, Northwestern University). This interdisciplinary conference will engage with the fruitful field of early modern critical race studies, examining the myriad ways in