



Environment, Empire, and Resource Extraction in Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace*

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Abstract

This paper examines the connection between environment, the empire, and resource extraction in Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace*. The novel connects the British conquest of Burma with the commercial use of teak forests, oil fields, rubber plantations, animals, rivers, and migrant labor. Through a postcolonial ecocritical approach this study analyses how colonial power converts natural wealth into imperial profit. The paper also examines the teak camps, elephant labor, oil extraction at Yenangyaung, and the plantation economy connected with rubber. These environmental concerns are read along with displacement, exile, migration, and family loss. In *The Glass Palace*, environmental damage and human suffering belong to the same imperial system. Due to the imperial rule, forests are cleared, animals are turned into labor, land is reorganized for profit, and people are moved across Burma, India, and Malaya. The novel portrays how the empire changes both ecological relations and human lives. It also gives historical value to spaces often ignored in official colonial history, such as forests, timber routes, oil fields, plantations, and refugee paths. *The Glass Palace* is a powerful literary account of environmental violence under colonial capitalism.

Keywords: Environment, Empire, Resource Extraction, Postcolonial Ecocriticism.