



The Coolie Trade

By Arnold J. Meagher PhD

Xlibris Corporation. Paperback. Condition: New. 488 pages. The Coolie Trade is an in-depth study of the traffic in Chinese indentured laborers to Latin America. The phenomenon of indentured labor spread throughout the western world in the latter two-thirds of the nineteenth century appearing in such far-flung places as Mauritius, South Africa, Australia, Malaya, the Fiji Islands, and Latin America. With the abolition of the African slave trade, the demands of Europes expanding industrialism activated an intercontinental search for laborers. Natives of the subcontinent of India, Pacific Islanders, and Chinese were the principal victims of a system of indentured labor, i. e. contract labor under penal sanction, which in practice differed little from the system of slavery it replaced. Latin American plantation owners and exploiters of guano and nitrate fields, unsuccessful elsewhere, turned toward the teeming population of China for their manpower needs. Between 1847 and 1874, vessels of 20 western nations transported over a quarter of a million involuntary male Chinese to the Caribbean and tropical South America. This book presents a comprehensive study of this migration, which was larger in scope and much more documented than the contemporary migration of Chinese to California. Chinese migration to Latin America was...



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