



## Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America

By Vivek Bald

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

**Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America** By Vivek Bald

Nineteenth-century Muslim peddlers arrived at Ellis Island, bags heavy with silks from their villages in Bengal. Demand for “Oriental goods” took these migrants on a curious path, from New Jersey’s boardwalks to the segregated South. Bald’s history reveals cross-racial affinities below the surface of early twentieth-century America.

[!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f\_img.jpg\) Download Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asi ...pdf](#)

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1\_img.jpg\) Read Online Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South A ...pdf](#)

# **Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America**

*By Vivek Bald*

## **Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America** By Vivek Bald

Nineteenth-century Muslim peddlers arrived at Ellis Island, bags heavy with silks from their villages in Bengal. Demand for “Oriental goods” took these migrants on a curious path, from New Jersey’s boardwalks to the segregated South. Bald’s history reveals cross-racial affinities below the surface of early twentieth-century America.

## **Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America** By Vivek Bald Bibliography

- Rank: #155213 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .80" h x 6.10" w x 9.20" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages



[Download Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asi ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South A ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

Vivek Bald's work on this untold story is meticulously researched, movingly told, and absolutely timely. (Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, author of *An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization*)

Vivek Bald's *Bengali Harlem* is a monumental achievement. It brings to life a slice of the U.S. population unknown to the history books: South Asian migrants who came into the United States between the 1890s and the 1940s, making their lives in between African American and migrant spaces. Elegantly assembled, the stories of these migrants and their families are fascinating and heart-rending. (Vijay Prashad, author of *Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today*)

Grounded in extraordinary research, *Bengali Harlem* reveals how South Asians became an integral part of black and Puerto Rican communities in the early years of the twentieth century. Historians of black life, culture, and commerce will never again be able to ignore the South Asian presence in African American communities and families. (George Lipsitz, author of *How Racism Takes Place*)

Vivek Bald's extraordinary account persuasively places these first Bengali migrants at the heart of our multiracial American experience. A virtuoso act of recovery. (Junot Díaz, author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*)

**Bald** vividly recreates the history of South Asian migration to the U.S. from the 1880s through the 1960s. Drawing on ships' logs, census records, marriage documents, local news items, the memoir of an Indian Communist refugee, and interviews with descendants, Bald reconstructs the stories of the Muslim silk peddlers who arrived in 1880s during the fin-de-siècle fascination for Orientalism; the seamen from colonial India who jumped ship at ports along the Eastern seaboard; and the Creole, African-American, and Puerto Rican women they married. Bald persuasively shows how these immigrants provide us with a 'different picture of assimilation.' Global labor migrants, they did not necessarily come seeking a better way of life, nor did they follow a path of upward mobility. In the cases of the silk peddlers who maintained ties to the subcontinent to obtain their goods, they forged extensive global networks yet also assimilated into black neighborhoods, building multiethnic families and communities at a time of exclusionary immigration laws against Asians. By the 1940s, those who stayed had followed the jobs, becoming auto or steel workers in the Midwest, storekeepers in the South, and hotdog vendors or restaurant workers in Manhattan, and, thanks to their wives, had quietly blended into neighborhoods such as Harlem, West Baltimore, Treme in New Orleans and Black Bottom in Detroit. (*Publishers Weekly (starred review)* 2012-11-02)

[Bald] has produced an engaging account of a largely untold wave of immigration: Muslims from British India who arrived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Sam Roberts *New York Times* 2012-12-29)

**Bald** opens readers eyes to a rarely depicted part of the U.S. melting pot. (Richard Pretorius *The National* 2013-02-02)

Captur[es] a unique narrative of inter-marriage and inter-ethnic community making in America. (Yogendra Yadav *Indian Express* 2013-01-29)

A revelatory book...**Vivek Bald**'s new book on Bengali migration tells a history that has been largely

unknown. (Mini Basu *CNN.com* 2013-02-14)

A revelatory account of how the first Bengali migrants quietly merged into America's iconic neighbourhoods. (Mohua Das *The Telegraph (Calcutta)* 2013-03-19)

*Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America* is a landmark work at exhuming an unknown past of South Asian emigration...It deals in fascinating detail with the little-known narrative of Muslim men travelling from undivided Bengal from the 1880s onwards to seek a living in the U.S. (Shamik Bag *Mint* 2013-06-08)

#### About the Author

Vivek Bald is Associate Professor of Writing and Digital Media at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the director of three documentary films: *Taxi-vala/Auto-biography*, *Mutiny: Asians Storm British Music*, and *In Search of Bengali Harlem* (forthcoming). More information can be found at <http://bengaliharlem.com>.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Anthony Edwards:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what yours problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question mainly because just their can do that will. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America to read.

##### **Laura Thompson:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand up than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America book as basic and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

##### **John McCraw:**

You will get this Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America by visit the bookstore or Mall. Only viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve difficulty if you get difficulties for ones knowledge. Kinds of this guide are various. Not only by written or printed but can you enjoy this book by simply e-book. In the modern era similar to now, you just looking of your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your own ways to get more information about your reserve. It is most important to

arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still upgrade. Let's try to choose right ways for you.

**Carl Johnson:**

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This specific book Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America was vibrant and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America has many kinds or style. Start from kids until youngsters. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading that will.

**Download and Read Online Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald #RM4GUQ28V3D**

# **Read Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald for online ebook**

Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald books to read online.

## **Online Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald ebook PDF download**

**Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald Doc**

**Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald MobiPocket**

**Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America By Vivek Bald EPub**