

## ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the individual's response to the issues of fascism and authoritarian structures and it argues that following the racist behaviors and so-called united front of multiculturalism, a distorted and crippled shadow of the individual has emerged. British literature has become increasingly preoccupied with institutions, and with structures that hem the individual and hence true representation is significantly altered.

This thesis opens with a sketch of the definition of fascism and the manner in which it is interpreted today in modern-day Britain. Writers such as Hanif Kureishi (b: 1948) and Nadeem Aslam (b: 1966) respond to various forms of authoritarian structures as markers of fundamentalism more broadly in the context of religion and society. These institutions of religion and society that cannot control nature are reflected through factors such as identity, sexuality and art. However, in the context of today's racism, these writers appear increasingly concerned in probing the dilemmas faced by British Muslims and even more extensively by mere individuals.

I will discuss in detail three novels that exemplify the conflict an individual faces against a fascist society and a belief system that borders on fanaticism: The Black Album (1995), Intimacy (1998) by Hanif Kureishi and Maps for Lost Lovers (2004) by Nadeem Aslam. While these two writers portray Muslims of different nationalities living in Britain and evince vastly contrasting attitudes towards the predicaments that their communities face, I argue that the very essence of the individual is destroyed and rendered useless and they are only deemed fit to follow and carry out orders. The writers are concerned with the importance of the individual regaining one's own identity and standing up against the forces that persist in wiping out any indication of self-creativity. The novels are set in a British landscape. The writers trace each character's struggle to retain his own identity and at the same time manage fluidity in order to experience life on a creative note.