This thesis is about the Booker Prize—the London-based literary award given annually to "the best novel written in English" chosen from writers from countries which are part of or have been part of the British Commonwealth. The approach to the Prize is thematically but not chronologically historical, spanning twenty-six years of award-winning novels from the Prize's inauguration in 1969 to a cut-off point of 1995. The twenty-nine novels which have won or shared the Prize in this period are examined within a theoretical framework intended to map out the literary terrain which the novels inhabit. More specifically, the thesis is arranged in chapters which explore individually themes that occur within the larger narrativethat is formed by this body of novels. The chapters, which are prefaced with thematic introductions and framed by theoretical commentary, explore aspects of the cultures, social trends, and movements that the novels invoke collectively, spanning the stages of British Empire perceived by their authors over the last three decades. Individually and collectively the novels provide a reflection, often in terms of more than a single static image, of British imperal culture after empire, contesting, and reinterpreting perceptions of the historical moment of the British Empire and its legacy in contemporary culture. It is my thesis that the body of Booker Prize winning novels from 1969 to 1995 narrates the ending of British Empire and the emergence of different cultural formations in its aftermath. This idea is pursued in the seven chapters of the thesis which discretely explore groups of novels which deal with aspects of the transition from empire to a post-imperial culture—the stages from early imperial expansion, to colonisation, to retrenchment, decolonisation and post-colonial pessimism, to the emergence of tribal nationalism and post-imperial nation-states in the aftermath of empire. Throughout this thesis the focus is primarily literary and contingently cultural.
This book is about the Booker Prize, the London-based literary award made annually to the best novel written in English by a writer from one of those countries belonging to, or formerly part of, the British Commonwealth. The approach to the Prize is thematically historical and spans the award period to 1999. The body of Booker novels narrates the demise of empire and the emergence of different cultural formations in its aftermath. The novels are grouped for discussion according to the way in which they deal with aspects of the transition from empire to a post-imperial culture - from early imperial expansion, through colonization, retrenchment, decolonization and postcolonial pessimism, to the emergence of tribal nationalisms and post-imperial nation-states.

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker-McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel, written in the English language and published in the United Kingdom. You might easily be convinced that the highest literary award given in Britain and the Commonwealth, the Booker Prize, contains a long list of classic titles. I’m sure none of you would question that many of the titles that have won the Newbery Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize; Booker Prize (twice).

James Gordon Farrell (25 January 1935 – 11 August 1979) was an English-born novelist of Irish descent who spent much of his adult life in Ireland. He gained prominence for a series of novels known as “the Empire Trilogy” (Troubles, The Siege of Krishnapur and The Singapore Grip), which deal with the political and human consequences of British colonial rule. Farrell's career abruptly ended when he drowned in Ireland at the age of 44, falling to his death in a storm. “Had he not sadly died so young,” Salman Rushdie said in