

58

Odeen Ishmael

THE GUYANA STORY Volume 1

From the Earliest Inhabitants to British Colonisation

The Guyana Story is a collection of short essays attempting to relate the story of the Guyanese people in a generally chronological order. It is obvious that not all the details of the periods described are included, but the aim is to build awareness among young Guyanese, in particular, of the rich heritage of the Guyanese people.

These short essays were originally written to acquaint young Guyanese (of high-school age) of the history of Guyana from the earliest times to the attainment of independence. The intention is to get the readers to follow the historical progression of Guyana's development, and to encourage them to do more advanced reading of this history – and eventually for those whose interests are whipped up, to conduct their own detailed and scholarly research into any of the various aspects described in these essays.

It is hoped that *The Guyana Story* will continue to encourage others to conduct and document further research into various aspects of Guyanese history. Indeed, by knowing about our past, we will be in a better position to understand and appreciate the present.

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10

8

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