

extends from 1939 to 1979 with 1964 being a very important year for the characters.

The novel is a sweeping history of two families, one Indian and other English, that are deeply shaped by events following the departure of the British from India in 1947.

Ghosh's writing reflects the recent concern of anthropologists with the porosity of cultural boundaries. As Renato Rosaldo argues,

In contrast with the classical view, which posits culture as a self-contained whole made up of coherent patterns, culture can arguably be conceived as a more porous array of intersections where distinct processes cross from within and beyond its borders.

The story unfolds through flashbacks, then progresses occasionally in the present. The narrative is intricate and Ghosh is laudable for handling the complex flow of time, from starkly different historical perspectives, masterfully.

Ghosh's most recent work, "In an Antique Land", is an unusually constructed book that deals with themes of historical and cultural displacement, alienation, something we might call "Subaltern Cosmopolitanism", and the complexities of imagining other person's view of reality. Ghosh told one interviewer,

Within the parameters of history, I have tried to capture a story, a narrative, without attempting to write a historical novel. You may say, as a writer, I have ventured on a technical innovation.