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## **NADINE GORDIMER'S "A WORLD OF STRANGERS" AS A NOVEL OF MULTIRACIALISM OR LIBERALISM**

**C. Vijayalakshmi & Dr. M. Narendra**

Nadine Gordimer's acclaim, culminating in the Nobel Prize for literature awarded to her in 1991, has established her in the international literary world as South Africa's leading voice depicting the realities of life under apartheid. "Apartheid" means 'separateness' or 'segregation'. Apartheid system in South Africa was a policy of racial discrimination which meant to maintain white domination over the blacks. The racial discrimination was institutionalized with the enactment of Apartheid laws. These racial laws touched every aspect of social life. The whites restricted rights of the blacks. Legislation prescribed how the blacks could live, travel, work, be educated, get married and mingle. Apartheid legislation classified the South Africans into four racial groups- white, blacks, coloured and Asian and prohibited the most social contacts between the races. There was territorial separation. Each race was allotted its own area. Thus, the apartheid policy referred as "separate development". In colonial rule, Apartheid laws were implemented harshly with police brutality. The penalties for political protest were severe. Anyone could be detained without hearing. In 1960, in Africa, the Black Consciousness Movement was started. It was a grass root anti-apartheid activist movement. It had a great impact on the South African Society and its writers. Many South African writers expressed their protest against Apartheid through their writings. One such writer was Nadine Gordimer. Gordimer was an activist writer who questions and challenges the dialectic of apartheid in South Africa through her novels. In spite of being white, she used her fictional house as a means of conscientizing blacks as well as radically altering the mental attitudes of whites. Her novels offer a sympathetic portrayal of the blacks who according to Gordimer form the core of South African literature. Her basic thematic concern is the exploration of the interesting interdependence of the blacks and the whites within the frame work of deep-rooted racial prejudices.

Nadine Gordimer explaining her function as a writer has stated that she has no alliance to South Africa 'as a writer' but she has a