**Abstract:**

The ethnic structure of Sub-Saharan African countries has created an environment that is most conducive for ethnically based conflicts that trigger internal displacement of population in those countries. This paper surveys the evidence of the ethnic factor in population displacements during the colonial and independence periods. The theoretical framework used to interpret the evidence in colonial Guyana-"predisposing" and "triggering-igniting" factors-is applied to the situation in SSA.