

Socialism in Animal farm: A Study

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Abstract

In 1948, after the Second World War, the theory of socialism was accepted by many countries of the world. Orwell observed that many countries started to act under the influence of socialism. Britain was also one of them, but he realized that society was not free from problems. A correct society of which the socialists of the world had imagined was still far away from its goal. He was of the opinion that the political parties that acted as govt were not purely socialist. Even the British Labour Party was not a purely socialist one. This party belonged to trade unions. It laid its emphasis on the improvement of labourers. But it was concerned with the welfare of the people of the world at large. It took a step towards socialism by setting up of a united states of Europe so that half of the skilled industrial workers might be united. But the background of this step was more political than socialistic because the British Labour Party which governed the country during that time tried to expand its existence through this step. Therefore, the theory of socialistic ceased to work in the actions of this party. Orwell was of the view that individual development made the general development he neither desired that the poor should become the rich nor thought that the rich should give up their prosperity. But he expected a harmony between the

rich and poor. He wanted to see a change in the mentality of common men. He laid emphasis on the fact that money is not greater than the virtues of men. He was of the opinion that this fact could make man free from many problems.

Keywords: Socialism , harmony, prosperity ,virtues

Introduction:

Eric Arthur Blair known as George Orwell enjoyed the soothing feel for being an English novelist, journalist, critic and essayist. His prose works are full of lucidity, highly pinching social criticism. Orwell thought that socialism is the most effective remedy to modern ills. He was tooth and nail opposed to the totalitarian regime of Stalinist Russia and Fascist regime of France in Spain. In fact, he was an English socialist who was opposed to the continental Marxist type. According to him, the so called socialists of Russia and continental countries had interpreted man as a mere economic entity. Man is much more than that. He is loyal to mankind."Orwell stuck to the simple and positive conception

of Socialism based on general ideas of brotherhood, air play well honest dealing ,and he distrusted the involved metaphysics of Marxist though he didn't forget that socialism once aimed at human happiness, nor did he confuse the means, once considered necessary to this end with the final aim. He did not believe in deliberately destroying a relatively happy society simply because it was not organised in a particular way.

Orwell being an attractive personality and intelligent writer has warned the world against the catastrophic dangers of totalitarianism in his two classics- '1984' & Animal Farm. George Orwell was also a dedicated socialist who desired to gear up a more egalitarian and fairer society.

Every line of serious work that I have written since 1986 has been written directly or indirectly against totalitarianism and for democratic socialism as I understand it. Why I Write, P-394

According to Orwell showing respect to democracy, liberty and equality to a real socialism which was rejected by soviet communism Orwell says that a truly democratic socialist regime would support liberty.

And the only regime which in the long run will dare to permit freedom of speech is a socialist regime. If fascism triumphs. I am finished as a writer that is to say finished in my only effective capacity

that of itself would be a sufficient reason for joining social paths.

“Why I join the independent party”

George Orwell possessed a great political awareness. He has discussed the problems created by the capitalists in his various essays and novels. He strongly believed that socialism was the only system in man's life. He was also of the opinion that both the world-wars were the result of the conflict between two ideologies. He opposed all those policies which did not contribute to the progress of the poor. In Animal Farm old major tells other animals about their exploitation at the hands of Jones. Old major tells,

“Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He doesn't give milk, he doesn't lay eggs, and he is too weak to pull the plough he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits.”

Yet he is lord of all the animals to bring socialism to the farm. But Napoleon is a hypocrite and he has secret ambition to become rich. Snowball is driven away by him and he sets the opportunity to dominate the farm. The policies that he adopts are causing more and more suffering to the animals. His aim is to enrich the pigs only with modern luxuries. He provides the pigs with all luxuries, and at the end of the novel the pigs became very rich while other animals fall down from the poverty line. The novel ends on a pessimistic note.

Russian Revolution of 1917 is the main theme of Animal Farm. Orwell

observed that Russian revolution of 1917 started with high hopes and noble ideals. But Stalin, who was the leader of the revolution, oppressed the common man of Russia with his tyranny. As a political thinker, Orwell attacked the dictatorship of Stalin-through Animal Farm. The novelist believed that equality at the economic level among people was not possible under communism. The novelist had belief in socialism. He doesn't appreciate capitalism that is why he praises Russian Revolution was based on high ideals. But after the revolution, the leaders could not put the theories of communism into practice. They did not pay any attention to the problems of common man but they were engaged in making money.

Through Animal Farm the author laments the death of those ideals which were the bedrock of Russian revolution. He tells us that the common animals who stand for common men began to suffer in the regime of Napoleon who represents Stalin. As for others, their life, so far as they knew, was as it had always been. They were generally hungry, they slept on straw, they drank from the pool, they laboured in the field in winter they were troubled by the cold and in summer by the dries: sometimes the older ones among them racked their dim memories and tried to determine whether, in the early days of the Rebellion, when Jone's expulsion was still recent, things had been better or worse than now. They could compare their present lives: They had nothing to guide them except squealer's lists of figures, which invariably demonstrated that everything was getting

better and better". The author tells us many other incidents that were related to the tyranny of Stalinism. The episode of wind-will project, facilities provided to the pigs, pigs' attempts to unite human beings, killing of ducks and hens, death of Boxer etc are some of the incident, that are symbols of the tyranny of Stalin. The observation of the writer is like that of a socialist. Orwell's Animal Farm presents a moral lesson that equality in the economic field is an urgent need of every society. Equality is the only object which can bring justice to the society.

Through the revolt of animals against the human beings the author does not convey, the message that animals also desire to rebel against the exploitation of the human being. The causes that are responsible for the miseries of lower class people can be removed by the policies of govt. The author strictly believes in democracy. But at the same time he advocates socialism. According to him socialism aims at the development of the whole of society capitalism proposes at the prosperity of a particular class. Socialism is the best reply of the shortcoming created by the devil of capitalism. The novelist as a social philosopher measures communism with its merits and demerits. He finds that communism also lays emphasis on the progress of a particular class and aims at totalitarianism. The author is shocked to see the miserable conditions of general people, ruled by communist. In fact, the novelist wants to convey only one message to the society that socialism is the only way through which progress can be brought

about. In *Animal Farm* nowhere does he condemn Old Major who represents Karl Marx? But fairly he pays his best tribute to Karl Marx and Lenin by making the character of Old Major respectful and more respectful and more outstanding. But as a pro-socialist he could not believe that the people of Russia were the best fed and most advanced. He disclosed the fact that the communist experiment in Russia was a lost revolution. Orwell, who saw the evil effects of two world wars, was shocked to note the miserable condition of the common masses. Both the world wars were the results of the conflict between exploiters and exploited. Hitler the remarkable personality of the Second World War, attempted at the exploitation of lower strata of society. After a deep meditation the novelist concluded that socialism is the only remedy of every type of injustice the novelist dreams a free and just society a society in which all the people may prosper. He points out very humorously that in *Animal Farm*, all animals are more equal than others.

Keep the *Aspidistra Flying* deals with the theme of money. The author could not keep his experiences of life away even in this book Gordon Comstock the hero of the novel decides to use his talent in the writing work. He gives up an opportunity of a job in an advertising company. He joins a Job of book-shop assistant at two pound, a week. Thus he is able to get time for writing. But he could not continue his desire of writing because his poverty dominates his life so much that all the problems of life to him become the source of the lack of money. He finds himself at

the war of money and respect for money. He realises that the society is insolent because he is poor. Coming up for *Air* was Orwell's seventh book which achieved some success for him. In this novel he advocates socialism. Basically the novel contained two themes, first socialism and secondly the impacts of war. George Bowling the main character of the novel is sometimes nagged by his wife and another time he is irritated by his children.

He tried his best to make himself free from illusion He is very critical of the society in which he lives. He is aware of the political and economic swindle, practised on him. He knows the effects of war. Thus unlike other Orwellian heroes, he is old and skeptical and with a sense of humor about himself. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, the novel of Orwell is also a social sermon rather than a piece of orthodox fiction. Winston smith the hero of the novel is civil servant. He revolts against the totalitarian system under which he works. The writer imagines that by 1984 everyone is to become a coward a spy or a betrayer. He also believes that money and lust for power will dominate the society of 1984. Casting a simple glance at all the statements & matters mentioned above we can conclude that George has not conspicuous social vision but he also stands out as an interesting social critic of modern era like G.B. Shaw, his purpose of writing was to present the shortcoming of society in a humorous manner. But the element of humour didn't affect the truth that he wanted to convey. As a patriot, he loved his country with its customs and traditions but did not hesitate to condemn those traditions

and customs which were responsible for the miseries of common people. Because of his attempt at social and political problems of his era his idealism had been mixed with an element of realism. Like other literary figures, he too believed that materialism was an obstacle in the achievement of peace of mind. Therefore he laid emphasis on the spiritual impulses. His novels are the best criticism on the social and political problems of his time. These novels highlight all major problems of modern era. viz economics, domestics, spiritual, and euthenics, social and traditional. Being a champion of democratic socialism he

seconded the substantial amelioration in every walk of life. He was not against any cracies but they must be for the betterment of humanity. He always supports the thought.

“Everything of nature should be managed in the way that makes the creation of almighty beautiful and progressive”

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