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## **ARUNDHATI ROY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL VIEWS ON LIBERALIZATION, PRIVATIZATION AND GLOBALISATION: AN OVERVIEW**

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### **Abstract:**

*There are two important factors of globalizations. First factor is Liberalization and second is a Privatization. These two factors are extremely influencing the present world. Liberalization of international and domestic law for the benefit of business houses and multinational companies for huge profit is basic idea behind the policy and this policy has implemented through the privatization of the public asset in the third world countries. Arundhati Roy is the most influential thinker of present time. She profoundly understands the dominant policy of LPG and expresses there valuable thoughts on LPG to guide the society in this present age.*

**Keywords:** *Liberalization, Privatization, Globalization, Corporate Capitalism, Human Rights, etc.*

All essays of Arundhati Roy are thought provoking, written in sharp language, which awake our intellectual mind and gives us new vision. Some of her essays has been written and published before seventeen year back, but still today, they are valid and have great values in it, they are valuable for guidance to future generations because it express thoughts about the rights of common people as human being, suggests the alternatives for welfare and social justice of the common people. She displays the true nature of corporate capitalism, how human nature has changed in to corporate nature; she has raise the true voice of oppressed people of contemporary world and Indian society through her essays. Roy's essay focuses on oppressive nature of corporate capitalism in form of Empire and how ordinary people have affected from it at world level.

Arundhati Roy deeply understands the Socio-economic and political roots of Indian society. She is the author of plenty of impotent essays which deals with the Socio-economic and political scenario of Indian society. This paper highlights only some of the selected works i.e. The end of imagination, the Greater common good, Power politics, the algebra of infinite justice, War is a peace etc. These are the examples of her mind-blowing essays which shows real picture of Socio-economic and political condition of Indian society in the age of LPG.

### **• The End of imagination:**

The end of imagination is an essay which worries about the future of nuclear world and nuclear test conducted by Indian government in 1998. This essay clearly shows that, she is worried for the future of Indian people and universe. She thinks that people are unaware about the true nature of nuclear weapons; these nuclear weapons can destroy the whole world. She does harsh comments on the nuclear test conducted by the Indian government. While criticizing the government policy on nuclear weapon and on nuclear test, she writes: "We are a nation of billion people in development terms we rank Number 138 out of the 175 countries listed in the UN DPs 1997 Human Development Index .More

than 400 million of our people are illiterate and live in absolute poverty, over 600 million lack even basic sanitation and over 200 million have no drinking water” (Roy, TAIJ, 26).

She is trying to suggest by this description that, the government is not improving the condition of the Indian people but it is spending millions for nuclear test and nuclear weapon. She further says the truth is that it is easier to make a bomb than to educate 400 million people. She criticizes the opinion polls conducted by the corporate media houses in favor of the nuclear test, which was asking question to the 400 illiterate and poor Indian people. In conclusion of the essay, she concludes her argument as under: “The nuclear bomb is the most anti-democratic and anti-national and anti-human outright everything that man has ever made, if you are religious, and then remember that this bomb is man's challenge to God” (Roy, TAIJ, 40).

● **The Greater Common Good:**

The Greater common good is one of the longest essays of Arundhati Roy which talks about Sardar Sarovar Dam building and displacement of the poor farmers, adivasi and dalits from their lands. In the starting of the essay she argues: “I am not an anti-development junkie, or a proselytiser for the internal upholding of custom and tradition. What I am, however is curious” (Roy, TAIJ, 48).

This essay also gives detailed analysis of NBA Narmada Bachao Andolan led by Megha Patkar and others, in favour of poor farmer, in favour of environment and against displacement of millions of peoples. Through this essay, she tries to give detailed analysis of various displacement stories of poor people from the region of Narmada Valley. She focuses on the oppressive policy of the World Bank which gives loan to the third world countries and in return exploit them through the local government. She also criticizes the private textile industries like S Kumar gaining huge profit, through power purchasing contact with the Madhya Pradesh government. This essay also deals with displacement calamities issues of Gujarat farmers, Madhya Pradesh farmers and Maharashtra farmers and rude behavior of the administration with the poor farmer without any welfare oriented rehabilitation policy for the farmer. She also criticizes the role of prime minister, chief ministers and ministers of the union for not understanding the real problem of the displaced people and environmental issues which occurred due to dam building projects. She also narrates a heart touching story of displaced farmer Bhaiji Bhai and criticizes the big dam project affecting displacing lacks of peoples and the farmers. She says: “Big dams are to a Nation’s development what nuclear bombs are its military Arsenal. They are both Weapons of mass destruction; they are both weapons governments used to control their own people (Roy, TAIJ, 136).

In the last phase of the essay she has also criticized the Indian judiciary system as well as Supreme Court for not giving justice to the displaced people and in favour of environment, but protecting the interest of private Dam constructions companies, World Bank, private companies like S Kumar, State governments and administrative officials which are earning huge profit from the international dam Industry which worth’s \$20 billion a year.

● **Power Politics:**

Power politics is another essay published in her collections of essays the algebra of infinite justice in 2001; this is also a thought provoking criticism on the globalization, privation & liberalization. In this essay she depicts how international economical politics is being played on the issue of power, how state won power corporations are being privatized and looted for the benefit of Enron, the Houston based multinational company. The Enron project was the first private power project in India. In business circle it was called ‘the sweetheart deal’. She describes that how Indian officials, ministers work as agents of corporate houses & US Ambassador Frank Wisner works for the benefit of as Enron as agent & after his term as ambassador is over he joins the Enron as Director. She tells about the background of the Enron company which was the biggest corporate contributors to president George Bush Jr’s election campaign and Bush administration also helped to it loot public money in India in so called sophisticated term global business. Power Politics is an essay that argues specifically against the privatization and corporatization of essential infrastructure. In this eloquent work, which proved her powerful commitment to social justice, she talks about her perspective on issues like globalization of the world economy; the privatization of India's power supply by US- based energy companies, and the construction of monumental dams that will dislocate hundreds of thousands of people.

• **The Algebra of Infinite Justice:**

The algebra of infinite justice is an essay which deals with the aftermath of the unconscionable 11 September 2001 suicide attack on the Pentagon and World Trade Centre in America. In this essay Roy minutely observes the American politics, History of Taliban and situation in Afghanistan and benefit earned by billion dollar war weapon manufacturing corporate industry and diversion of huge amount of money to the defense industry. Roy says Afghan war made the space for neo capitalism and corporate globalisation again dominated by America. Globalisation's structural adjustment programmers and drug lord's are tearing the Country like Afghanistan into pieces. Roy compares the corporate enterprises with terrorism enterprises. She sees similarities between terrorism and corporate enterprises. She argues: "Terrorism has no country. It's transnational, as global an enterprises as Coke or Pepsi or Nike. At the first sign of trouble, terrorists can pull up stakes and move their 'factories' from country to country in search of a better deal. Just like the multinationals" (Roy, TAIJ, 233).

In the conclusion of Roy criticizes the American foreign policy and full spectrum dominance of American corporate sector. She says: "It's marauding multinationals who are taking over the air we breathe, the ground we stand on, the water we drink and the thought we think' (Roy, TAIJ, 237).

• **War is Peace:**

War is a peace is another essay which deals with the American attack on Afghanistan backed by international Coalition against terror on the name war against terror, which shows close relationship between War and defense industry and weapon manufacturing industry. Beginning of the essay, she says: "Nothing can excuse or justify an act of terrorism whether it is committed by religious fundamentalists private militia, people's resistance movement - or Weather it's dress up as a war of retribution by the recognized government. The bombing Afghanistan is not a revenge for New York and Washington; it is yet another act of terror against the people of the world" (Roy, TAIJ, 242).

Roy gives list of 20 countries that America has been at war with since World War II. She also focuses on the history of Afghanistan, the history of Taleban and American interference In it from the decades. She's shows that how CIA trained Talibani Mujahideen for act of terrorism and supplied weapons to them against the Soviet occupied Afghanistan like Indian Army who trained separatist Tamils of LTTE Responsible for countless acts of bloody terrorism. On political hypocrisy and people's mentality she observes and made a beautiful comment "People who are living in the societies ravaged by religious or communal bigotry know that every religious text from the Bible to Bhagavad Gita can be mined and misinterpreted to justify anything from nuclear war to genocide and to genocide to corporate globalization". In the conclusion of the essay she gives detailed analysis of American arms industry and oil industry and the major media network made a profit from the war against terrorism. She says that the Carlyle group- one of the world's largest private investment funds with 13 billion under management invest in the defense sector and makes its money from military conflicts and weapons spending, former US defence secretary Frank Carlucci is Carlye's Chairman and managing director. Other partners in Carlye's are US Secretary of State James Baker, George Bush seniors election campaign manager George Soros and Fred Malek. The President George Bush junior and Vice President Dick Cheney both made their Fortune working in the US oil and gas industry and it is a coincident that Afghanistan's Northwest area holds world's largest 3rd gas reserves and an estimated 6 billion barrels of oil reserves. Dick Cheney then CEO of Halliburton was major player in the industry. In the conclusion of this essay she declares: "In America the arm industry, the oil industry, the major media Network and indeed US foreign policy is all controlled by the same business combines (Roy, TAIJ, 260).

To conclude, Arundhati Roy is prominent and eminent woman writer in the field of the non-fiction prose writing in India. She has agreed on many points and also disagree various points. She is powerful thinker of the present age as creative writer and essayist. She always thinks about society, social justice, and welfare of common people. The socio-economical and Socio-political views about LPG presented by Roy are very helpful for new generations as a guideline in the age of LPG. As women writer, she has made creative and constructive criticisms through her essays on the issues and topic like Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization, corporate capitalism, human right etc. in the age of LPG.

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