

SYNOPSIS

George Orwell is one of the significant writers of 1930's. His significance lies in his political and social consciousness which he exhibits almost in all of his writings. He is sensitive particularly to the social issues around him. He himself had experienced poverty, social snobbery, corruption even in religion, exploitation and oppression. His novels and essays reflect his awareness to such social issues. Orwell always stands against social injustice. He, therefore, resigns from Indian Imperial Police in Burma and joins the groups of tramps and destitutes. The present dissertation attempts to study Orwell's social awareness with special reference to three of his novels : Burmese Days (1934), A Clergyman's Daughter (1935) and Coming Up for Air (1939).

The dissertation has five chapters. The first chapter serves as an Introduction. It deals with the life and works of George Orwell. In fact Orwell's life and his works are the two sides of a coin. His writing does contain autobiographical element to a large extent. The chapter discusses various stages in Orwell's life. The chapter also gives a thematic outline of Orwell's novels. The second chapter concentrates on Burmese Days. Orwell himself had experienced the agonies of Imperialism in Burma. He couldn't

withstand the oppressive climate in Burma. After serving the Indian Imperial Police in Burma for five years he resigns, and returns to the company of beggars and tramps. Flory, the protagonist of Burmese Days, too, can't bear the exploitation of the natives in the hands of white rulers. Orwell attempts to record the interaction between the white and the black, and also between the white. The third chapter deals with Orwell's novel, A Clergyman's Daughter. Dorothy Hare, a clergyman's daughter is a victim of exploitation. After amnesia, she like Orwell, joins the company of hop-pickers, tramps, and beggars. Through Dorothy Orwell presents his own experiences of poverty in London and Paris. The novel also points out certain obvious foibles in the existing religious and social structure. The fourth chapter discusses Coming Up for Air. In this novel, through the hero of the novel- George Bowling- Orwell criticizes the drastic effects of war and technocracy. The present is so intolerable for Bowling that he fears of facing future. He desires to return to the past by visiting his native place. The advancement that industrialization and modernization have brought, has changed the entire face of Bowling's Lower Binfield. Eventually only frustration exists for him. The fifth chapter of 'conclusions' sums up the entire discussion of Orwell's social awareness with particular emphasis on Orwell's three major novels.