

ABOUT PERSPECTIVES

The future of humanity is the subject of much debate and discussion today. It is a characteristic of Progressive thought that it desires a society free from inequality and oppression. But there is no consensus among progressive thinkers about the contours of such a society. The debate that took a definitive shape with Marx is yet to reach a conclusion. As history brings to the fore ever new forms of - and even new points of view about - inequality and oppression, the debate is taking a more incisive shape. And is also becoming more complicated. As some of the newly uncovered manifestations of inequality and oppression are infact quite old, the legitimate question why they have been invisible to progressive thinkers till today comes to the fore, and adds some heat to the debate.

Persons of diverse viewpoints and diverse political struggles are joining the debate. Some are focussing on hitherto invisible forms of oppression and inequality; some insist that current revolutionary philosophies are incapable of accounting for them; some believe that the attempt to set up new areas of oppression as subjects of political theory and practice is a diversionary exercise; some believe that existing revolutionary theories are quite capable of comprehending all dimensions of human existence; some believe that revolutionary 'theory' and 'organisation' are in themselves a hindrance to human progress; some believe that all the attempts at progress that have hitherto taken place are a colossal waste of effort; some believe that lessons can be learnt from the successes and failures of these attempts; some are participants in political struggles; some have nothing to do with political practice. Such are the varied hues of the participants of this debate.

PERSPECTIVES has a certain view point regarding this debate. From times as ancient as that of the Buddha, philosophers have thought and theorised about human society. They have set up unquestionable

ideals as the goals of human society. They have indicated the means of attaining the goals. It was Marx who gave this search a rational basis and stood it on its feet. Ever since Marx, the debate has centred on his ideas and his theory of progress. Those who accept them, those who would revise them and those who reject them have all equally taken his ideas as their point of departure. The current debate that has surfaced with the changes in the erstwhile Soviet Union, China and East Europe is no exception to this. And we believe that in future too no debate about human social transformation can ignore Marxism.

And yet it cannot be said that Marxism has satisfactorily overcome all its theoretical and practical problems. Indeed, even as old problems are tackled, new challenges to Marxism are coming forth and reinterpretations or alternatives to Marxism are being proposed. The debate about Marxism is part of the larger radical debate about social transformation.

It is the aim of PERSPECTIVES to provide a forum for all the trends and all the view points in this debate about social transformation, without prejudging any viewpoint. Any idea that opposes inequality and oppression is a democratic idea, a progressive idea. And the differences beyond this basic commonality must necessarily be heard, studied and debated. In this sense, PERSPECTIVES believes that the call :-

Let hundred flowers blossom

Let hundred schools of thought contend

- issued by Mao at a certain point of Chinese history has general validity and meaning. It is with that understanding that PERSPECTIVES undertakes its publications.

It is our aim to further the ongoing '*Great Debate*' by publishing competently written works with a broadly democratic viewpoint, principally in Telugu, but also in English.

- PERSPECTIVES

Hyderabad (A.P.)
January 1995

6-3-252, Shilpa Appartments
Erramanjil Colony, Somajiguda,
Hyderabad - A.P.
India - 500 482.