

Political Ideology of Journalist Premchand: In the Context of Human Rights Victims in World War

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Abstract- Who knew that the soldier of the pen, who advocated for the Dalit and exploited people of the country, would not only be honored so much in India but would also be considered a hero in foreign countries. Premchand was such a journalist of his era who gave space in his literature to those exploited classes whom a person started considering himself impure just by touching them. Premchand understood the pain and suffering of the exploited poor laborers and farmers of this country and not only understood but wanted to make the whole world understand that a country whose poor laborers are victims of double exploitation and slavery can never prosper. Through his various newspapers and magazines, Premchand not only expressed sympathy towards the exploited class, but also instilled in them the feeling of awakening and salvation. Premchand wanted to organize public opinion against the exploiting class through his journalism. His journalism is still striving to take things from social reform to national reform. Premchand's speech could not be limited only to the Indian exploited people, but the exploited people of foreign countries also became the subject of his journalism.

Introduction:

Premchand's ideological writings are not only limited to the social, political and economic activities of British India, but his writings also document the ongoing politics and social upheaval in India and abroad. The field of journalism of Premchand is very wide. Just as the realistic understanding of British India has been depicted in his journalism, similarly various political situations going on abroad have also been depicted. It has been a great feature of his literature and journalism that he always took the side of the defeated, the exploited and opposed the capitalists or the exploiters. He has written hundreds of such articles in 'Hans' and 'Jagran', in which there is a real sense of various activities going on abroad. Some of the titles of those articles are as follows –

Blessings of the Ottawa Conference' (Jagran, 12 September 1933 AD), 'Resignation of Liberal Members of England' (Jagran, 5 October 1932 AD), 'Mr. Churchill against democracy' (Jagran, 26 October 1932 AD), 'Wheat income from Australia' (Jagran, 26 October), 'Japan's economic crisis' (Jagran, 31 October 1932 AD), 'America's threat' (Jagran, 7 November 1932 AD), 'America's Debtor' (Jagran, 21 November 1932 AD), 'Progress of Soviet Russia' (Jagran, 28 November 1932 AD), 'Iran's Oil' (Jagran, 19 December 1932 AD), 'Foreign Politics' (Jagran, 6 February 1933 AD), 'Ashanti' (Jagran, 27 February 1933 AD), 'The Future of Germany' (Jagran, 20 March 1933 AD), 'Massoulin as a peace administrator' (Jagran, 27 March 1933 AD), 'America turns yellow again' (Jagran, 3 April 1933 AD), 'Atrocities on Jews in Germany' (Jagran, 10 April 1933 AD), 'Japan's courage' (Jagran, 10 April 1933 eo), 'Japan and China' (Jagran, May 1933 eo), 'Two slow progress of the world' (Hans, 1933 eo), 'Huapeku' (Jagran, 22 May 1933 eo), 'future epic battle' (Jagran, 22 May 1933 AD), 'Economic Conference of London' (Jagran, 12 June 1933), 'Britain's Treaty with Iran' (Jagran, 19 June 1933 AD), 'Good intentions' (Jagran, 3 July 1933 AD), 'Situation of Ireland' (21 August 1933 AD), 'Farmers' Revolt in America' (Hans, August 1933 AD), 'Progress of Newspapers in Russia' (21 August 1933 AD), 'Wheat Conference' (Jagran, 28 August 1933 AD), 'Stop international trade' (Jagran, 28 August 1933 AD), 'Dictatorship or Democracy' (Jagran, 18 September 1933 AD), 'Organization to reduce agricultural production' (Jagran, 9 October 1933 AD), 'Germany Boycott of non-Aryans' (Jagran, 16 October 1933 AD), 'Communists of Germany' (Jagran, 30 October 1933 AD), 'Assassination of Nadir Shah' (Jagran, 13 November 1933 AD), 'Progress of disarmament in Europe' (Jagran, 4 December 1933 AD), 'Terror of Socialism' (Jagran, 15 January 1934 AD), 'Kashgar and Muslim Uprising' (Jagran, 5 February 1934 AD), 'future great war and japan' (Jagran, 5 January 1934 AD), 'Labour Party's protest against Dictatorship' (Jagran, 12 January 1934 AD), 'Tension in Russia and Japan' (Jagran, 19 January 1934 AD), 'Clouds of war in Europe' (Jagran, 16 April 1934 AD), 'Capitalism in Russia' (Jagran, 23 April 1934 AD), 'Hitler's Dictatorship' (Hans, July 1934 AD), 'Death of Van Hindenburg' (Hans, August 1934 AD), 'Preparations for France' (Hans, September 1934 eo), 'Insult of the immortal poet Goethe' (Hans, November 1935 eo) etc.

Premchand's era was living under the dark shadow of world war. There was an uproar all over the world. Due to the First World War the whole world had become a victim of economic crisis. Due to economic crisis, fundamental changes were taking place in world politics. The political war in China, Japan, Germany and America had crossed its limits. Bloody hooligans were being played everywhere. The social, economic and political conditions of countries like England, Russia, London, Italy, Australia, Iran, Afghanistan, Arabia, etc. were becoming a part of Premchand's writings. Premchand edited newspapers and magazines like 'Zamana', 'Maryada', 'Madhuri', 'Hans' and 'Jagran' etc. While Premchand's literary works were published in these magazines, social and political editorial comments were also published. Therefore, turning away from Premchand's journalistic career by merely highlighting his literary importance cannot be justified in any way. Premchand's journalistic form is no less remarkable than his literary form.

The First World War, which lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918, is also known as the 'Great War'. The world war was fought between the main powers and the allied countries. The Allies included powerful countries like France, Russia and Britain. The major countries involved in the Central Powers were Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria. Germany gained a brief advantage in the war in 1914, after which the Western Front stabilized and a long and brutal war began. Two incidents occurred in 1917 that changed the course of the entire war. Firstly, while on one hand the United States joined the Allies, on the other hand, after the Russian Revolution, Russia came out of the war and signed a separate peace agreement. Turkey and Austria surrendered respectively in October–November 1918, leaving Germany alone. Due to defeat in the war and economic crisis, a situation of rebellion arose in Germany and the German Emperor Kaiser William II had to abdicate the throne. The Allies together put the burden of the immense loss suffered in the First World War on Germany. Germany lost all its colonies and the victorious countries took them back.

Later, an important treaty was signed between Soviet Russia and Germany in Rapallo city of Italy. After the First World War, the Allied countries had also invited Germany and Soviet Russia to the European Conference held in Geneva, Italy in April 1922 as part of the economic recovery plan. The Allies in Geneva insisted that the Soviet Government should recognize the loans taken by the previous governments of the Russian Revolution and make arrangements to repay them. In response, the Soviet delegation led by Georgy Chicherin said that it would do so only if it was compensated for the destruction it suffered due to the intervention of Allied forces. Germany felt that if the Allies and the Soviets made a treaty, it would be isolated, so in this atmosphere of deadlock, the German delegation met separately in Rapallo, Italy and made a treaty. Through this treaty, both the countries agreed to give up all the wartime claims against each other and a new chapter of diplomatic and economic relations started between them. This was the first agreement made by Germany as an independent agent after the First World War, which angered the Western nations.

When could Premchand lose sight of these movements going on abroad? He praised this agreement between Russia and Germany very much and while criticizing the Allies, he wrote in the title 'Treaty of Russia and Germany' (1922 AD) published in 'Maryada', "Here the ministers of the countries and countries of Europe They gathered in Geneva to arrange peace, while a treaty was signed between Russia and Germany. In this treaty, all the plans of the allies were destroyed. The friends had thought that they would get arbitrary trade facilities from Russia and also recover the money loaned to the Tsar with compounding, gradually digest the Soviet Government, and then destroy our present economic and social system (or missystem). There will be no one left to oppose. In fact, this conference was held to humiliate Russia, but Russia's policy-cleverness deceived its friends into thinking that you people were left with gritted teeth and a blunt opinion. Germany may have lost the war, but it does not mean that it sold itself forever to the Allies. When the Allies expelled it from the community, Germany was forced to seek refuge in Russia. It had to be taken...The friends should remain alert even now, it is in their benefit, otherwise if Germany also gets fed up and establishes a Soviet state in its own country, then nothing else will be achieved except a lot of regrets. Right now, alone and weak Russia has shaken the world, if organized and smart Germany also joins forces, then the hegemony of the capitalists will definitely end."¹ Due to the First World War, the economic condition of the entire world had started deteriorating. As a result of this economic decline, new schemes started being made in the country and abroad. From July 21 to August 20, 1932, an agreement was reached at the British Imperial Economic Conference (Ottawa Conference) held in Ottawa, Canada, and the Commonwealth Fund, etc. was established. Ottawa is the capital city of Canada. Condemning the business decisions taken in this conference, Premchand writes in an article titled 'Blessings of Ottawa Conference' published in the weekly newspaper 'Jagran', "...a conference of businessmen is held to discuss how things can become more expensive. . How to extract as much money as possible from buyers' pockets. How can a businessman suffer loss? Cut the buyer's throat, don't care. This is the religion of this age.... That's what happened in Ottawka"².

Similarly, on September 12, 1932, in an article titled 'Resignation of Liberal Members of England', targeting this conference held in Ottawa, it was written, "The Liberal government in England is getting exposed day by day. So to speak, it is a national government, that is, its cabinet includes prominent leaders of all political parties, but in reality it is a government of imperialists, because the number of liberals and labor parties in its cabinet is very less. What little there was, fell apart due to differences on the Ottawa convention."³

Due to the world economic crisis that occurred after the First World War, Japan's economic condition had also reached a pathetic state. Due to this recession, the Japanese government was forced to reduce the export of fake silk to America by 45 percent, resulting in millions of Japanese becoming unemployed. In such a situation, if 390,000 square miles of fertile land of Manchuria (the region bordering Japan and China) were captured, then Japan's economic problems could have been solved. China considered Manchuria as an integral part of its country. Raw materials, iron, steel, coal etc. were available in sufficient quantity in Manchuria. China did not want to let it separate from its state under any circumstances. By 1931, Manchuria became a symbol of the conflict of interests and selfishness of China and Japan. Thus, seeing this tussle between Japan and China, Premchand wrote in an article titled 'Japan's Economic Crisis' on 31 October 1932, "The economic condition there (Japan) is becoming very critical. That too is a country of farmers and the farmers there are not only dying of hunger but are even selling their girls. They are passing the day by eating grass roots and the revenue ban has started there too. This is the condition of the subjects and the officers are determined to fight with the neighbors. This is the condition of those countries where there is self-rule"⁴.

America too could not remain without being affected by this world economic crisis. Since America was becoming established as a powerful state in the world. He had made countries around the world the market for his business. While presenting the details of the declining economic condition of America, Premchand writes, "It is said that the economic condition of America is becoming very worrying. Thousands of banks broke down, crores of people are unemployed. Nevertheless, due to the collapse of the disarmament scheme in the League of Nations, America's President Mr. Huber has threatened to build warships. They say that when a nation is not ready to reduce its military power, then why should America remain silent.... This is the condition of those countries where there is self-rule"⁵. Was. Due to the decrease in the value of the produce, more than half of

the farmers of America began to be burdened with the burden of debt and the situation reached so far that even their properties were auctioned. In such a situation, when could the voice of journalist Premchand remain silent. Wherever he saw injustice being done to the farmers, his pen started advocating for the poor. This is the biggest feature of Premchand that he always organized public opinion against injustice. Targeting the movement against the exploitation being done by the farmers in America, he writes in an article titled 'Farmer's Revolt in America' published in 'Hans' in August 1933, "The farmers have been hurt the most in this recession, and In agricultural countries, a type of rebellion is spreading among the farmers. America's biggest business is agriculture and the farmer's rebellion has taken a fierce form there..... For years the poor American farmers kept expecting help from the government. The government also tried several times to save him, but all those efforts failed. Now being forced, he started working with his methods, and these methods are becoming more successful. They formed groups and blockaded the roads of many cities and stopped the goods coming from the countryside to the city. Where necessary, animal power was also used. In this he did not get complete success, but he did not fail at all"⁶.

After the First World War, the Allies held Germany responsible for the terrible loss of life and property in the First World War. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 resulted in the imposition of so many harsh sanctions and heavy fines by the Allies that resulted in the rise of Nazism in Germany. The following sanctions were imposed on Germany by the Allies:

1. Germany was given limited army orders.
2. A complete ban was imposed on the navy.
3. The territories won by Germany were taken back.
4. Some areas of Germany were handed over to the League of Nations.
5. A huge amount of 650 crore pounds was imposed as fine from Germany.

Hitler established his power in 1933 AD by assuring the people of Germany to restore their lost pride and dignity and to give them political and economic rights. After becoming dictator, Hitler started taking actions against the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler prepared his army for attack and conquered cities in Poland, Norway, Denmark, France etc. Condemning Hitler's autocratic rule established in Germany, Premchand wrote, "After the amazing victory of the Nazi Party in Germany, the question arises whether Germany will actually become fascist?...If once the Nazi rule is firmly established, If he gets a chance to do so, he will suck the German's democratic life and his democratic desire with the power of his army and power in such a way that there will be no opponent of the Nazi Party in Germany for twenty-five years.... The Kaiser will come to Germany. They are asking for permission....The Emperor's old flag is being hoisted on the royal palaces....According to the Treaty of Versailles, Germany cannot even hoist the Emperor's flag. The exile of the Kaiser was also done with the consent of all the nations, but the Nazi leader Hitler is not worried about these things. ... The rapid suppression of the illegitimate army of the Nazi Party in Germany and the crushing of all the opposition forces before the elections is what will lead to the Nazi victory. is the reason. Where was the justice in this that elections should be conducted by sending the class plaintiffs to jail, by beating up the opponents, by shutting down even the opposition papers like Mussolini and its victory should be called the victory of the national vote."⁷

The whole world is familiar with the manner in which Hitler massacred millions of Jews against his opponents as soon as he came to power. Historians have presented a figure of about 6 million Jews murdered in 6 years, in which about 1.5 million were children. The way Premchand has used his pen against the exploiters of the Indian people, be it the British government or the Indian capitalists, in the same way he has used his pen against the exploiters of the exploited people who are suffering abroad. Premchand has advocated for the innocent people suffering in India and abroad through his journalism. Seeing the atrocities being committed on the Jews in Germany, he writes on April 10, 1933, "The Nazi party attacked the Jews as soon as they arrived in Germany. Jewish shops are being looted, Jewish properties are being confiscated, Jewish scholars and officials are being insulted. Fighting and bloodshed have also begun, and Jews are not being allowed to escape from Germany. There has been blockade all around. They cannot protect their lives....What could be a more horrific form of class struggle than this....Struggle is an element of that civilization, there is no scope for compromise in it. To be strong there means to grind and drink the weak and the defenceless... Here, whatever else may be there, there is no humanity"⁸.

Japan is victorious in the ongoing war between Japan and China over Manchuria. Japan not only gains control over Manchuria and Korea but also makes China's Jehol a part of its country. Japan not only wanted to establish its control over the entire territory of China but also wanted to establish its control over the entire continent of India. When could Premchand remain silent in such a situation? On May 22, 1933, in an article titled 'Huapeku', while criticizing Japan, he wrote, "Japan's lust for empire has become so intense at this time that it is not able to feed itself with just a little... No country can be so powerful. How despicable a country can be, how cruelly a country can treat its neighbour, how a country can turn a blind eye to history while seeing the end of every imperialist country, an example of this is Japan and today we hate Japan just as much. As much as he deserves. And that is why we say again and again that how is it possible for Japan to expect India's sympathy...Japan wants to take over the entire continent of China and establish its trading empire over the entire continent of India. India is not weak and weak like China. This is Japan's dream, and we want to warn Japan that the sale of Japanese goods in India is decreasing not only because the government is imposing customs duty, but also because the public has accepted the sale of goods from a tyrant country. Have started considering buying as a sin"⁹.

In this way, Premchand was organizing public opinion by presenting realistic portrayal of various situations happening in the country and abroad in his journalism. Just as Premchand made the exploiters of Indian farmers and laborers the subject of his criticism, similarly he did not spare the exploiters of the oppressed and exploited people in foreign countries. Premchand's journalism not only presents a vibrant picture of British India but also presents a realistic picture of the contemporary problems of the entire world. Premchand kept an eye on various political and social events in the country and abroad. Wherever any incident against humanity took place, it became the subject of Premchand's writings. Premchand's various forms of journalism and the exploited people of the country and abroad depicted in it and his journalism advocating for those people were a torch against the exploiting class, which could not be extinguished under any circumstances.

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