

# **A Study Of American History**

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*The principles are printed in the text in blue colour.*  
– The Publisher

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## Preface

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The Theory of Development is a direct application or extension of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of life to Social Evolution. It has been enunciated into 32 major Principles and 357 minor expressions. These Principles apparently clear to mental comprehension will still largely retain the mystery of His Yoga. In the 'Study of American History' a theoretical exposition of American History I have endeavoured to express these Principles through various historical events of the USA. It is done in the hope that the abstract is thus made concrete as the event speaks for itself. The Theory says the Infinite emerges in the Finite. The peasant, the agricultural labourer, the worker, the have-not of Europe are the social finite in that they had no hope of rising socially or are forbidden to rise by virtue of their class. One class is separated from another class with a vengeance and that is why people boast of blood in Europe, caste in India. The members of the lower classes, the untouchables of India are the *social finite*. No Harijan ever dreams of becoming a

Brahmin in India nor the European peasant or serf harbours an aspiration to become an aristocrat. They forget that today's aristocrat was once a serf or peasant. In India before the castes began all were simply members of the community. In that sense the stratification is man-made. For the peasant the aristocrat is the Social Infinite. For the Harijan and the Sudra the Brahmin is the Brahman. *Transition from one to the other is inconceivable, to the mind, impermissible in the society.* Sri Aurobindo says the Infinite Brahman emerges from the finite Matter which is abstract. The USA has demonstrated **on a national scale** that the slum dwellers move into middle class in about a year and ALL the millionaires are invariably men who made it in the first generation starting with zero. This clearly illustrates the process of the finite becoming the infinite. Not only the USA demonstrates the result but also the process is there laid bare for anyone to see. Hence we say the USA is the evolutionary vanguard.

This book is a preliminary attempt to explain the Theory of Social Evolution as it unfolds in the history of the USA.

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September 2005

N. Asokan

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## Chapter – I

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# Introduction of the Theory

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In ancient days, history meant history of the monarchs. Then it moved on to people and now history refers to the chronicle of events. It is possible to look at the course of American history from an evolutionary point of view. The New World came into existence mainly in response to the individual's aspiration to progress in an unrestricted atmosphere. Luther set that process in motion in Germany when he announced that no intermediary was necessary between Man and God. When the movement for individual progress developed sufficient intensity, Nature responded by opening up the vast lands of the New World for human occupation. Land was literally available in infinite measure and it released the energies of the American settlers in an infinite measure also. The immensity of the land tempted the settlers to achieve everything in equally immense measure such as huge estates, huge dams, huge buildings, etc. This taste for bigness is what probably tempted Sri Aurobindo to comment that the Americans have the knack of getting into the larger

rhythm. The harsh conditions in Coimbatore district forced the farmers there to dig 200' wide wells. After achieving something so great, actual cultivation became very easy for them. In any work the preparatory effort is 95%, maintenance is 5%. The principle here is preparation and maintenance are in different successive planes. In a similar manner, pioneers worked very hard to reclaim land in the USA. It was so strenuous a task that for every one acre reclaimed, three people lost their lives. Once the difficult task of reclamation was achieved, the actual task of cultivation was quite easy.

The early settlers were each given one square mile or 640 acres to cultivate. Later it was reduced to a quarter square mile. Still for somebody who owned only 10 or 20 acres in Europe, it was a very big acquisition. It is the attraction of owning a lot of land that brought the settlers there in the first place. But having come there, they found it a formidable task to reclaim and cultivate the land all by themselves without any outside help. There were only two alternatives. Either they rise to the occasion or face the prospects of ruin. Those who rose to the occasion became very hard working. The overwhelming workload inevitably turned them into self-centered individuals. That may be excused given the pressure of circumstances.

The ever-present danger of attacks from the native population forced the settlers to load themselves with arms. That habit continues to this day with a good number of citizens carrying lethal pistols and firearms. The situation that was available to the settlers was a mixture of potentials and dangers. As such it was a challenge to their capacity for accomplishment. A good number succeeded in that challenge and as a result we find today that the American worker is six times more productive than other workers. The American economy produces 30% of the world GNP with only 5% of the world population.

*Periods of transition bring out the hidden talents of people* and such talents come to the surface from all strata of society. As such periods are very stressful, people have to keep their

talents fully engaged or otherwise they would perish. Such high alertness paid good dividends and the wages of American workers rose ten times above that of workers in Europe. Those who came as paupers to America managed to enter the middle class in as short a period as one and half years.

What Marx aspired to deliver to the working class and what Lenin tried to do through dictatorship was offered to the Americans by Nature if they chose to free themselves from the confines of the class system in Europe and come over to the new world. The Americans tried to convert the European scientific discoveries into practical technologies that would boost productivity. For that they needed organisation. In describing national characters, Andre Siegfried notes that Americans are famous for dynamism.

In the early days of the settlement there was no proper political organisation. People worked hard and preserved their earnings for themselves. As the nation was protected by sea on both sides there was no need for a standing army. There was no police either as those settled on the frontier took care of themselves and were not within the bounds of law. As a result, economic prosperity kept rising without a corresponding development of political organisation or political Will.

The cultural atmosphere of Europe was missing in the American settlements. That helped focus their minds exclusively on practical inventions and work related issues. They developed a confidence in their practical ingenuity and it helped them raise up the foundations of five storey buildings by five feet above the ground. This happened in Chicago where by mistake buildings had been built on sunken ground.

Europe and India have suffered from the restrictions of class and caste. America offered an opportunity to develop a society without these anachronisms. Moreover people of different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds were able to come together and work for the common good. This is in line with nature's intention of forging human unity. As such the American nation

has become the spot where an unheard of experiment in human unity is being successfully conducted. This accomplishment is being challenged now by a hostile reaction from Islamic fundamentalists.

The US before 1860 was a nation of farmers, fisherman, poachers and peddlers. But now the scene is very different. Even the farmers there now deal in the stock markets and read business newspapers.

We hail the USA as the land of freedom. But it is in this same country that slavery was organised on an extensive scale and defended with military strength. This may sound strange. But such a phenomenon is there in life. *It is a truism of life that every Truth has an opposite which is also true.* The US Civil War abolished slavery. Though formally abolished, attitudes pertaining to slavery did not disappear from people in the American South for a long time to come. Even the Blacks preferred slavery in the New World to poverty in their native Africa, as living conditions were much better here.

FDR was once questioned by a journalist as to what would be the one book that he would gift to a communist. He humourously replied that he would present him with a copy of the Sears catalogue, as that would give him all that socialism had failed to deliver in the USSR. Marx's call to socialists to unite and inaugurate the communist era failed to deliver the promised goods, as the state in the USSR refused to wither away. Nature evolved capitalistic entrepreneurship as an alternate means to meet people's needs. J.P. Morgan, the financial magnate, emphatically asserted that *the market is a great regulator and kept human greed in check by ruthless competition.* Morgan naturally could not foresee that at a later stage state regulation would have to come into play. Soviet type command economy and free-market capitalism are two extremes. Social evolution will proceed better under a system that is more moderate than either of these. That is, it should be a system that is free of the restrictions of the command economy and also at the same time

free of the laxities of the free market. In other words, it should be more relaxed than the command economy and tighter than the free market economy.

The moral restraint on the frantic struggle for progress came in the form of Quakers with their notions of fair play and justice. The ethical consciousness of man helps to give an organisation to his mind. It will be interesting to observe that *whenever mind is organised it is reflected by a corresponding organisation of nature outside also.* We find rains falling regularly in those countries where people have a fine mental organisation. It becomes erratic in those countries where people are not very well organised mentally. When people see this correspondence they will be forced to organise themselves mentally in order to regularise nature's activities around them. The American settlers realised quickly that they had to be very organised if they wanted the American wilderness to co-operate with them and yield any benefits.

The hard struggle for survival has forged a strong individuality in the Americans. Such a formed individuality will not easily submit to any control even if it be in the form of planning. But nowadays we find Americans to be very good planners. It is puzzling to know how their hardened individuality has been reconciled to meticulous planning. *Individuality gets formed by undergoing long experiences which involve much trial and error.* On the other hand, *planning abridges time and removes trial and error.* Americans have compromised with their individualism to the extent they have realised the importance of planning in speeding up progress.

In 19th century America, land was very cheap and it was available for lease for as low as 4 cents for fifty acres. At the same time the lease value of one acre in England used to be one pound. The power of money was comparatively much greater than that of land or labour. It is worth studying how money has acquired such importance in America. Money started its role as a medium of exchange. But gradually it has become

a powerful social force dominating all aspects of existence. Man can assume the same importance if society accords the individual the same social weight. Such an importance has been given to the individual in America. This has given him an ability to dominate over money. *Once Man brings money under his control, he can create as much prosperity as he wants.* This is one of the reasons for the higher prosperity of America.

Land was in plenty and labour was in short supply in America. Therefore settlers ignored the cultural and religious differences between them and those they employed for work. *Paucity of labour is a great leveler of differences.* In American history we see a combination of two extremes — freedom and slavery, individuality and planning, broad-mindedness and prejudice. But at present the right side seems to predominate over the wrong side. If this trend continues, we can safely assume that the US will continue to retain its role of an evolutionary leader for the world which it is playing now.

Following the American lead is one thing. It is quite another matter for each country to discover its own unique capacities and contribute that to the world. India has developed the spirit. She can take that process to its climax of helping the spirit manifest in the physical plane. France has developed intellectuality. She can now move to the next evolutionary step of developing Insight which is a subtle capacity. Russia has a tradition of mysticism. She can now try to develop her mind. Her experiments with the socialist style of life have failed. She can try to perfect them at a higher communist level without the state domination that ruined the soviet experiment. China has for long been used to dictatorships of one type or another. She can now experiment with democracy. How much each nation will succeed in progressing to the next step is something only time can answer in the future.

*Though the affirmation of individuality was welcome, prosperity without commensurate education had its own unwanted consequences.* People became markedly superstitious

and indulged in witch-hunting in an indiscriminate manner. As a result many innocent people were falsely accused of committing witchcraft and hanged. *The degree of cruelty exercised by a country is inversely proportional to the extent of its civilisation. The less civilised a country is the more cruel its population will be.* As US population became more educated the level of cruelty decreased. Countries are rated by their GDP, education, human rights, corruption and pollution etc. An attempt can be made to evaluate them by cruelty also. It is necessary to develop scales of measurement in every walk of life. And this is one.

The surge in witch hunt brought out the belief of some learned men in the existence of higher souls. Cotton Mather was a learned man who wanted to probe further into the mysteries of witchcraft. He believed that would lead to the discovery of great souls. His father refused to encourage such an investigation. He had the knowledge that *any contact with hostile forces would lead to a permanent association with them.* This is subtle knowledge.

The US is the one country with full documentary evidence all throughout its history. As such it will be easy for us to find documentary support for the growth of organisation, reversal of consciousness during major transitions and for all our 32 principles of development.

Statistics about the American economy in the 18th century were very inaccurate and even fabricated. Statistics in India are like that even today. Peter Drucker laboured for years to draw some conclusions from the statistics he gathered about demographic changes. His findings were made use of by only two universities. Otherwise they were ignored completely. Accurate statistics can tell us what our present position is, how much we can achieve in the next decades, what our strengths and what our weaknesses are. But all these predictions and assessments can go wrong if the data supplied are not accurate. Goldman Sachs has predicted that India would be the third largest economy by 2030. If that prediction is to prove true,

it should have been based on reliable statistics. Achieving perfection with respect to statistics requires that society must value statistics in the first place. It must have a system for data collection and also a moral value for the accuracy of the data. Even in such a country as America it has taken 250 years to achieve any perfection in data. Statistical data can tell us about the condition of other aspects of society since *all sections of society are interconnected with one another. Statistics about the growth in the number of cars in a country in a decade can be an indicator of growing prosperity*. The growth in the number of hotels in a city in a decade can be an indication of the growth in the inflow of travellers and tourists to the city. When history is written from a statistical perspective, it can help verify our developmental principles and show how they work.

The new world has given man an opportunity to grow endlessly, unhindered by class, caste or creed. She has presented him with enormous physical resources and given a scope for his mind's infinite vertical progress. Land was in plenty and labour was in short supply. That forced employers to recruit men overlooking their nationality, creed or race. Work was so demanding in 1800 that it allowed no stratification. Actually it was acting as a great equalizer. Once society stabilized, these stratifications began to emerge. We see that in the South institutionalising slavery, in the formation of fundamentalist churches and the rigid exercise of parental authority. As American society moved on, the hippy rebellion occurred shaking the establishment at its very core and dismantling established institutions such as marriage. All that has been set right and American society is back to its normal ways. But *the days of individual leadership are gone and what we find now is impersonal leadership in the form of constructive systems*.

Even 2000 years ago life in India was civilised enough to govern society by the rule of law. Social evolution is somewhat haphazard in the sense that the high points of civilisation have appeared early in history and crude practices have also survived

for a very long time. Thus we find lynching by a mob surviving even now here and there.

Around the turn of the 19th century mob rule prevailed in America. There was no army and that vacuum was filled by militia whose members readily joined the mob whenever the need arose. As life was tough and insecure in the wilderness, settlers had no time to think about law and the judiciary and took it upon themselves to arrange for their own defence and to settle disputes. They were mostly drawn from the lowest strata of European society and had no idea about an organised decent way of life. They worked hard and as a result accumulated a lot of money in their hands. Europeans respected the accumulation of wealth in America. European aristocracy was seeking marital alliance with that affluence. He still retained his own sense of social cultural superiority. It may be hard to believe that this was the state of affairs up until the Second World War. Today America's domination is extending to even cultural spheres apart from economy and politics. It may be more true for the Third World countries than for Europe.

We are determined by the circumstances is the popular belief. But Mother says the opposite. She says that *it is man's response that determines the circumstances*. The American settlers were so eager to develop themselves that they found the circumstances prevailing there to be opportunities. Had they been timid and unwilling to work, the same circumstances would have appeared forbidding and inhospitable.

The traditional Christian belief is that fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. But actually, so long as fear is there, neither love nor wisdom will ever be born in men. Though fear was the dominant approach to God in America, one preacher took a radical new stand. He began preaching that God had created the world for Joy. When people believed in His wrath they saw national calamities as expressions of His anger. **They did not realise that such calamities were nature's response to human unconsciousness**. Giving up the fear of God and



looking at him as a benevolent Being is an indication of human psychological progress. It marks a shift from living at the vital level to operating from the mental level.

It is interesting to learn that the American public suffered only a slight tax burden. On top of that they were very good at evading customs. The English were similar to the Americans in evading customs. In many civilised parts of the world people have given up corruption. But it is doubtful if in such places they will pay taxes voluntarily if the government does not use force to collect its dues. Will people refrain from buying smuggled goods if they are freely available? That is a test in which the populations of most countries will fail badly under the present circumstances. If humanity values honesty and proper civic behaviour it can develop indices for measuring these values. Corruption is a big problem in this country. Politicians with criminal records are easily entering politics in India and there are no effective measures to check their entry. Auditors help clients evade taxes and even Judges are not above taking bribes. Therefore any Indian will be doing a great service to this nation if he comes up with an index for measuring probity in Indian public life.

In the course of its social evolution society moves from one plane to another. Warfare is typical of human existence at the physical level. War is an expression of the policy of Might is right and such an attitude is typical of the physical man. *Socrates signifies the flowering of the mental plane in humanity while Buddha is the representative of man's entry into the realm of Spirit.* When man reaches perfection in the physical plane, he should take efforts to move on to the next plane. But unfortunately he has a tendency to stagnate in the physical and develop rigidities there. These rigidities have to be shattered to make way for further progress. There is no better way to shatter rigidities than the act of warfare which physically destroys buildings and infrastructure. It can be seen that *after every serious warfare, great progress is achieved.* It

is not surprising that destruction of rigidity paves the way for progress and advancement.

Honour was a greatly esteemed value in ancient days. Those who fought in defense of their honour were seen as righteous men and somehow it was assumed that righteousness will equip itself with the skill necessary to secure its victory. The war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas was a war fought to safeguard the Pandavas' honour.

The US began its war of independence and secured its freedom in 1776 from Britain. Incidentally it was in 1774 only that Britain won the battle of Plassey in Bengal and began the consolidation of the British empire. As Britain's capacity to maintain an empire was limited, the moment India was gained, America was lost.

The American War of Independence actually helped Britain speed up its Industrial Revolution. The US was the centre of another Revolution in the first quarter of the twentieth century when Henry Ford commenced mass production and began using the assembly line. In the last quarter of the 20th century it witnessed another revolution in the IT sector. That is very closely related to the Revolution of rising expectations that began in the 70s and is responsible for the upliftment and betterment of millions of people all over the world.

The settlers were ready to do anything to ensure their survival. Such a state of mind naturally made them see the native Indians as enemies to be eliminated. The establishment of slavery in the South led to its logical end of the entire South rising in defence of slavery and threatening to withdraw from the union. The quest for freedom and the urge to maintain slavery existing side by side at the same time is a proof of the truism that both a principle as well as its opposite will be true.

When the French came to India they tried to impose their religion on the Indians while the British chose not to interfere with the native culture and traditions. The result was that while the British added India to their empire, the French could only rule

a few pockets. Instead of using non-interference as a strategy, one can follow it as a guideline for action. Those who settled in the new world did not have the wisdom to co-exist peacefully with the native Indians. They destroyed the Indian civilisation indiscriminately and then proceeded to destroy the environment as well. That has left future generations of Americans with a lot of work to restore the health of the environment. While the British ruled India they became curious about the Hindu culture and showed an interest in studying the philosophy of Vedanta. That interest has now led western physicists to explore the parallels between physics and mysticism. The recent spiritual awakening we find in western countries is a direct result of Britain not interfering with the Indian culture.

Though slaves lived a longer life in the USA than in their native Africa, this does not condone the practice of slavery. Political and economic domination can be for a short period only. It can never be a permanent thing. The present-day domination of the world by America will be as short-lived a phenomenon as the British domination of the world during their empire days. Sooner or later this will be replaced by a more egalitarian relationship, whether the other party deserves it or not.

The American nation came into existence mainly to grant freedom of every description. Religious freedom and widening the religious outlook are parts of it. Religion does not occupy human attention when basic survival is in question. Once that is assured, then man starts turning his attention to religious worship. During such times religion can grow very strong and even become extreme in its views. At such times only the attractions of prosperity can divert man from religious fanaticism. *Religion takes a back seat during periods of economic boom.* God can reenter human lives not through religion but through society.

When people's minds are not developed and they live a physical and vital way of life, religious worship becomes

dominant. *When mind develops, to that extent worship will decrease.* The US constitution remains secular and there is no prominence given to any particular religion. But surprisingly the religious freedom granted to Americans has also helped fundamentalists to flourish.

Truth never dominates a nation fully. At best a nation can maintain an atmosphere where Truth can have an upper hand. It will be like the health of a healthy person. Health will predominate in the body of such a person though there may be disease in the atmosphere around. Exclusive reign of Truth can come about only when man transforms himself. The development of the substance called EM gives man a powerful support at the level of physical transformation. Transformation at the vital level can be helped by a series of apologies to communities and nations that were victims of persecution.

Sri Aurobindo feels that the evolution described by Darwin is mainly an evolution of forms. He is aware of evolution at a higher level which he has called evolution of consciousness. That can explain gaps in the evolution of forms for which there is no adequate scientific explanation. *Areas where gaps have occurred are areas where conditions have drastically changed amounting almost to a reversal of consciousness.* Many events in history have caused a reversal of conditions. The introduction of paper currency is one such event. Societies are known to oppose anything that disturbs the existing conditions. The aristocracy opposed the emergence of the business class and frowned upon the introduction of manufacturing. The introduction of paper currency elicited such an opposition and that opposition was led by no less a person than the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, in the 1830s. He was so critical of paper currency that he forced the bank that was serving as the Federal Bank of the United States to close down.

Beliefs about economic matters can turn into ill-founded superstitions. Banks were issuing three times more money than they were receiving as deposits. This surplus money looked

like false money designed to cheat people who were earning “real money” through honest hard work. As such it is not surprising that even highly placed officials were mistaken in this respect. The concept of paper money is a mental concept. *Paper money is a product of mind and as such it is superior to money produced by physical labour.* Therefore it should not be surprising when banks issue three times more money than they receive as their deposits. Nowadays they are actually issuing nine times more money than their deposits.

Though paper money was a constructive step, it was opposed, as *human nature has a tendency to view a blessing as a curse.* Ascending from the physical to the vital and then from vital to the mental are improvements in human personality. But *the inertia in man invariably opposes such improvements and registers its protests.* When planning was considered for speeding up Indian development, opposition came from the last Governor-General, a man known for his acute intelligence and foresight.

Nations have a tendency to obey constitution, protocol and international law during normal times. But *in emergencies they act in an immature way and lose their normal composure.* This is true not only for America, but even for mature nations such as the nations of Europe. When Hitler became a dominant figure in Europe all of Europe barring England submitted to his authority and behaved in an immature fashion. The American President Jefferson was a strict constitutionalist. The French offered a sizeable chunk of territory for sale to the US in North America. The US Constitution had no provision for purchase of land from foreign powers. But the offer was attractive and banks were willing to give the funds necessary for payment. At such a crucial juncture, the President had to set aside his scruples about making use of paper money which was considered false in order to effect the purchase.

*Nations acting in their self-interest and according to their convenience and not according to the constitution or according*

*to their conscience is a phenomenon that fits with our theory of development.*

The American expertise in technology can to be traced to the necessities of survival in virgin land and to the demands of wars. The war with Britain in 1812 led to the invention of the submarine and the steamship.

Land reclamation was a very difficult task that called for the release of a lot of energies. Moreover so many new situations arose that innovative solutions were required for dealing with them. The settlers rose to the occasion by developing new organisations.

The Americans were able to transform their abundant energies into skills that could be used in warfare. Robert Fulton was the epitome of such inventive skills. He built a submarine that could be used in warfare. Though Britain was his enemy, he helped the British Navy build submarines fitted with torpedoes that could destroy invading French ships. The end of war with France made the British lose interest in his submarines. Then he turned his interest to building steamships.

*Technical skills are more difficult to acquire than the skills necessary for farming.* Bending metals into shapes required by men is more difficult than making the earth yield the crops required by man. *It is because technical knowledge is at a higher level than agricultural knowledge that the Industrial Revolution succeeded agriculture and did not precede it.*

Though America is known for industrial accomplishments, there is a cultural dimension to American society also. The elite of Boston are described as the Boston Brahmins as they hold themselves aloof from the common people much as the Brahmins do in India by keeping a distance from other communities. The aloofness is backed by cultural accomplishments and is not a mere pretension. Historians generally consider the East Coast to be traditional and conservative while the West Coast is considered to be wild and unconventional.

Benjamin Franklin invited the European population to settle

in the USA as it offered freedom and prosperity. *When man is preoccupied with bare survival he has no time to think about anything else. Once that is assured, then he has the time to think about law and order, education and other amenities of life. Once these are fulfilled also, then he will divert his attention to gaining some culture and sophistication.*

The excess energies of the Americans first went into innovation. After inventing machinery, *it was used to build up organisations which are a higher order accomplishment consuming a lot more energies. Though organisations involve a lot of expenditure of energy, they can unleash an equal amount of energy also.*

The Indian has developed spirituality by adoring his Self. The American has attained prosperity by taking very good care of matter. *The cleanliness he maintains, the efficiency of his systems, the thoroughness of his practical investigations and his commitment to punctuality are all values that bring out the Brahman in matter.*

*We can say that Western scientific and industrial achievements have helped it to bring the infinite out of the finite. Infinite exists at all levels. The Spirit, Nature, Life and Matter are all infinite. When the Americans assert that all problems are soluble, there is a feeling of infinite mastery in that assertion and that should be taken note of.*

When somebody says that he can solve any problem, he is surely making an extraordinary statement. It cannot be made unless he has been touched by infinity in some way. The vastness of the land and the endless toil that it demanded have given the Americans a sense of infinity in the physical. As time passed, *the touch of infinity in the physical later on awakened the infinite powers of his mind also.*

Their infinite power of production was demonstrated during World War II. They turned out hundreds of tanks, trucks and planes for their own and allied troops. A three-month naval repair job was abridged into a mere 10.3 hours repair job.

The Americans built the biggest cement factory in the world. *The infinite quantity of their production was an expression of the power of Infinity at the physical level.* Churchill's infinite courage turned the situation around in World War II after the whole of Europe had submitted to Hitler's authority.

Wages paid to American factory workers were so high that in three years they could earn enough to buy a farm. Labour was in short supply while the demand for factory goods was high. Therefore there was a need to increase production by adopting standardisation and mass production methods. The invention of the cotton gin by Whitney enormously increased cotton production. *The necessity of improvements in mechanisation released the creative power of workers.*

American businessmen were forced by the high wages given to workers to look for ways and means to improve the productivity of machinery. American inventors responded to this urgent need by constantly refining the machinery and coming up with more and more standardisation. It was this increased standardisation that later helped Ford to launch his assembly line operations. It is significant to learn that at no point was the American defeated by the problems he faced.

*Poetry is a creative activity that is said to flower during peaceful and stable periods.* Milton and Shakespeare were active during the era of Queen Elizabeth that was noted for its stability. A mental culture like that of ancient Greece gave birth to thinkers like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. During a period when Europe excelled in scientific discoveries, America distinguished herself by making technological inventions. That was the need at that time and so the American people expressed their talents in that direction.

Those who want to study the formation and functioning of governments can find plenty of materials that give the needed information. Apart from government documents, diaries, newspaper articles and personal memoirs, biographies can also give additional valuable information. Moreover in ancient

cultures people will also have a good understanding about power and authority. That understanding might be available either as oral sayings or even as written records. Out of all this evidence, we can derive a Theory of Power as follows:-

- a) *Power is the capacity of one individual to dominate over another.*
- b) *It comes from surplus energy at the vital level.*
- c) *The powers of various individuals can merge and emerge as the Power of the collective.*
- d) *An individual can also stand as a representative of collective power.*
- e) *In that case his ego becomes its centre.*
- f) Around the leader a coterie forms and they govern and express his authority.
- g) The coterie can even be the leader's friends.
- h) As the government gets organised, the coterie changes into a cabinet that functions by the principles that brought their leader into power.
- i) Later on law and democracy legalise the formation of the cabinet.
- j) The cabinet wields power as a formal institution.
- k) *Around this formal centre of power the informal subtle centre of power comes to reside also.*
- l) *As power was originally exercised by informal groups, it is not surprising that it goes back to that informal source very often.*
- m) *Finally power is present in a formal set-up. But it can be exercised by informal centres within that set-up.*

Paul Johnson helps us gain a good insight into power and its expressions. He makes a serious observation that the course of World War II was powerfully influenced by the wife of the American War Secretary. *Power does not reside in the surface mind of the person holding it. It resides in his depths and that*

*depth is available to those who are around him.* Rajaji used to lament that he was not there in the 60s to whisper into Nehru's ears. Such whispers can powerfully influence the course of events. In our Theory *we have a principle that describes the power of small but significant acts and events.* The role played by the wife of the American War Secretary, Mrs. Eaton, was one such small but powerful event. When Hitler's generals called for a meeting with a plan to overthrow him, Hitler himself arrived there an hour earlier than they had scheduled. As a result that plan went awry and he survived. Had he been killed, the Second World War might not have taken place. *Ladies like Mrs. Eaton could play decisive roles in history because of the existence of informal power centres behind the official cabinet.*

Earlier I made a reference to American President Jackson's dislike of banking. That dislike comes under a broader heading of resistance to change. The resistance comes from aversion to changing the present practice to something new and the aversion towards new innovations. *The first comes from conservatism and the second comes from the fear of the unknown. The fear arises out of ignorance and lack of proper information.* Such ignorance can be seen even at the level of very top people and organisations. Bill Gates did not realise the full importance of the Internet for a long time. When Fulton brought a ship fitted with a steam engine to a British port, the British Admiralty officers refused to go and see it. The British Prime Minister refused to inaugurate the railways as he did not believe in Stevenson's invention. Galileo was imprisoned and kept under house arrest for expressing views that challenged the views of the church.

In the case of paper currency, no less a person than the President of the country opposed it. This opposition took place at a time when America was changing very fast. But let us see what has happened 150 years later. At present the American dollar is functioning as the unofficial world currency. A lot of nations have invested their hard-earned money in the US



economy now because of the ease with which paper currency can be moved.

The shift from coins to paper currency marks man's ascension from physicality to mentality. The Development Theory says that opposition will be proportionate to the extent of benefits. Further *according to the theory the beneficiary himself is likely to oppose*. That proved true in the US as Jackson used people's fears of paper currency to win a landslide victory. He even had an economist with him who explained how clever people sitting in bank offices were cheating innocent farmers of their hard-earned money.

Today we see only a rich industrialised America. Actually it is the surplus productivity of American agriculture that made such quick industrialisation possible at the outset. Sir Arthur Louis, the Noble Prize winning economist has proved that this was what had happened behind England's Industrial Revolution. It is worth examining all that happened in the USA till 1850.

- Land produced a one-third surplus.
- Conquest of the American West released enormous amount of energies.
- Industrialisation first expressed in the farm sector as mechanisation.
- Credit came easily to farmers in the West as banks were lending the savings deposited by the farmers of the East.
- The Smithsonian Institute helped farmers with weather forecasts and maps indicating water sources. Knowledge came to the help of farmers.

The farmers in the American West were benefitting from the experience of Eastern farmers and were improving on that. Jackson who was defending the 'real money' of hard-working farmers did not notice that the "false money" lent by the banks was helping Western farmers become prosperous. Thus it appears

foolish for man to oppose the very source of his prosperity. *Though it is foolish, this tendency is nevertheless there in man and it will crop up in all places where development is taking place*. Indian farmers enjoy free power supply. The government of India is unwilling to invest more in power generation as it has to supply it free. As it is, the farmers are only getting 3 or 4 hours supply as against the promised 14 hours. Now because of their insistence on free power they are discouraging government from giving them 24-hour supply. Jackson was opposing paper money ignorantly, as he was not aware of the complexities of the currency system. Such ignorance validates Nehru's assertion that *developing a country requires first the development of the consciousness of the people*. This is an important law to be taken note of.

Nations do not commit themselves to functioning on the basis of moral principles. They act according to convenience and therefore their behaviour is not very rational. Russell was a famous philosopher of the 20th century. He was known for his pacifist views. When the hydrogen bomb was made, he advocated armed invasion to get rid of the Soviet regime. When this was pointed out to him long afterwards, he replied that his stand towards the Soviet Union was not different from his earlier viewpoint. If this is what a philosopher is capable of, what can we expect from lesser people? People can be rational in their beliefs. But when it comes to areas involving one's own emotions, they put aside their rationality and act as their emotions lead them.

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## Chapter – II

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# The Evolutionary Energy

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This is the general behaviour of nations. There are only a very few exceptions. King Ashoka was a rare individual who renounced war when his Kingdom was at its height. In general however, the reality is very different. Might is right is the normal policy of nations. Whenever strong nations have overrun weak neighbours it has always met with approval from other nations of the world.

*The role America is playing in world affairs is evolutionary and that is not necessarily moral.* Mechanisation made agriculture very productive and therefore American farmers became very rich. Their prosperity added to the nation's prosperity as farming was a major occupation at that time. *Economic might translates itself into political might which in turn induces military aggression.* In both the World Wars the US expanded its economy by supplying arms to belligerent nations. It entered the Second World War only after the attack on Pearl Harbour. Even the massive financial aid offered to

war-torn European nations later paid rich economic dividends.

A Frenchman Alex de Tocqueville has written a book on democracy in America and it is a source of valuable insights into how democracy functions in America. It has been in print for the last 170 years. He was impressed by how universal suffrage granted to American citizens helped them elect legislatures. He also noted the near absence of anti-clericalism in America while in France it was such a raging issue due to clerical misuse of power. He attributed the absence of hostility towards the church to a general sense of freedom that the American citizens enjoyed. He felt that religion instills a sense of discipline that helps institutions to function properly. Governmental control and authority is normally present everywhere in most countries in a pervasive manner. But in the USA he noted its marked absence. The individual enjoyed a great sense of liberty and was not restricted by social inhibitions which an organised society would have imposed on him. Since a well-established society was missing in America, the individual escaped all those inhibitions. His thoughts were mainly focussed on himself and his needs and this helped build up his individuality.

*De Tocqueville attributed the heightened political awareness of the Americans to the greater spread of education in their country.* He compared the US and Germany and felt that the US was ahead of Germany in mass literacy. While they lived in Europe they were looked down upon by the higher classes for lack of education. Here in the US they sensed an opportunity to get that education and gain that respectability. They knew that the aristocrats in their homelands based their superiority more on their education than on their wealth. Education gave them a culture which they cherished as a prized possession. So here in America, *after passing beyond the survival stage, the public showed a great interest in acquiring education.*

During the 19th century, Germany was considered the most literate country in Europe and possessed the best universities. But De Tocqueville found that the USA excelled Germany in

the rate of literacy. We cannot take for granted that spread of prosperity will inevitably promote greater education also. It will be true only when the aspiration for more education is already there. The Blacks living in the North enjoyed the same freedom as the Whites. But they did not share the same eagerness for education that the Whites exhibited. Only 28 had graduated till the Civil War.

The emigration of people from Europe to America was not a mere social phenomenon. *It signified a spiritual awakening that prompted people to free themselves from the restrictions of the class system. The interest they showed in education signified the awakening of the Mind to the Spirit.* Colleges were springing up in the USA as soon as people settled in new lands.

The American eagerness for education was a clear sign of the awakening of the spirit in Mind. At the time that the American public evinced interest in education, scientific enquiry began to flower in Europe. *Interest in studying the laws of Nature is a direct result of the spiritual awakening of the mind. That is, the Spirit hidden in mind awakes and seeks expression. It took the form of interest in education for the general American public.* They sought knowledge in work, in agriculture and in all areas of productive engagements. This is proof that the *spiritual awakening at the mental level had become a pervasive descent in life.*

*The American nation has a marked urge for social evolution. The spiritual awakening witnessed in the mind is a proof of that.* That awakening tried to express itself in the practical work done by the people. In the 19th century agriculture was the major occupation of the American people. So the awakening came there first. First agricultural colleges came and then they were turned into universities. *The practical nature of American education was an expression of mind presiding over work.*

### **The American Character**

The American culture has a tendency to produce experts. Production in America is very much standardised and automated. As such the knowledge required by the individual worker is very little. At the same time ordinary workers cannot respond to crisis, emergencies and opportunities. Only an expert can handle such situations and therefore the nation has produced experts also.

The expertise Americans developed in designing machines made them acquire a fascination for producing big machines. That fascination brought a distortion into the picture. *Machines became an end in themselves instead of remaining means only.*

Europe has a long cultural tradition that has helped the human individual gain some importance. Martin Luther gave the European individual the right to think for himself. But people settling in America had to do so much work to merely survive that they had little time to think. Settlers in slums in the US cities observed that others like them were able to get out of slums in as little as one and a half years. That meant that they should also work non-stop in order to get out of the slum with sufficient earnings to move into the middle class. This made it obvious that there was no time left for leisurely thinking.

The Americans have something in parallel with Germany. The Germans are very methodical and objective. Their country is situated between Russia which is mystical and France which is intellectual. But Germans chose to develop their own unique attribute which is the value for methods and objectivity. The Americans have gone one step farther and become fascinated with tools and machines which are products of their practical inventiveness. Andre Siegfried, visiting the USA as a professor noted that the American professors were able administrators, fund raisers, etc. They were conversant with the practical side of ideas with a mastery over the detail.



The American nation has a forward-looking tendency. The future beckons them more than the past as they have very little past to preserve. The future meant hope and the possibility of progress. Visitors to America are able to see that Americans are full of enthusiasm and confidence. Europe experienced a similar optimistic phase during the 19th century. It did not extend into the 20th century there, but it did so in the US.

The Americans discuss work, and discard forms of conversation. They plunge into the aspects and details of work straightaway. Nehru noticed it and advised Indians visiting foreign countries to visit America at the end. That would help Indians to know the distinct culture of each foreign nation he visited.

Two things stand out in American culture. They are as follows:-

- Focus on the future.
- No problem is insoluble.

Only a nation that has been touched by Infinity in some way can assert that no problem is insoluble. Moreover infinity prefers to express itself in young people and not in old rigid personalities. The people in America were unencumbered by the weight of tradition and usage. That freedom from tradition was a spur to new thinking. But at the same time life in the USA was very mobile and many settlers were constantly on the move. The internal migration was so great that his body was ready to move all the time.

The immensity of the land and the variety of opportunities available generate an optimism and sense of adventure on the part of settlers. But at the same time the same immensity gives an intimidating effect by posing problems of effective control and management.

- The immensity tempts settlers to keep on expanding.

- *The immensity intimidates the weak and inspires the strong.*
- *The physical immensity has a broadening effect on the mental horizons.*
- *The availability of enormous territories appeases man and makes the conquering impulse needless.*
- The urge to become dictatorial or aggressive towards other countries also diminishes.
- *Those nations that have been in subjection for long are known to turn aggressive once they taste freedom. But nations that have been free from the beginning don't exhibit such tendencies.*
- The New World offered such scope for progress that people could move from the lowest plane to the highest straight away.
- *The Americans conquered the immensity of their land by organising transport and communication. It was actually a conquest of Time and Space.*

*Whatever be the nature of our personality such as physical or psychological, it is our conceptions that shape our life.* As such, spiritual conceptions can play a decisive role in shaping our life. In old cultures preserving the past becomes very important. Those dedicated to this task become slow and turn inward. But those who went West to shape their own future developed a different personality. They became industrious, ready to face danger and developed self-reliance. Their achievements bear the stamp of physical perfection, especially the stamp of practical organisation.

*The physical frontiers of the USA came to an end at some point. Not so is the case with the psychological frontier. That keeps expanding more and more.* When the western frontier came to an end, the energies engaged in that exploration switched over to the mechanisation of agriculture. When technology improves it helps to diminish Space and Time more

and more. In 1820 the US had a population of 9.6 million and an area of 3 million square miles. With such a size and such a population it has managed to achieve this much evolutionary growth. The USSR has a 200 million population and 8 1/2 million square miles. Surely it can achieve much more progress if it comes forward to make the effort.

All over the world people seek comfort and wealth. Though sought by many, it is achieved only by a few. But in the USA it has been achieved by many. If we compare the position of the American working class to what it was in Europe, we can confidently say that all of the American working class has achieved comfort and wealth. *Comfort gives a sense of physical ease while wealth gives a sense of psychological ease.* The average earnings of the American worker is ten times higher than that of the European worker. The policy of isolationism pursued by the US during the 19th century was partly responsible for this higher prosperity. But, WWII changed all that and now we find the American presence everywhere. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, American presence has increased even farther as the US has intensified its search for Osama bin Laden. American hostility towards terrorism has resulted in the birth of democracy in Iraq. Even the Saudis are now talking of elections for their municipalities. When the USSR tried to spread Communism everywhere, the whole western world raised protests about soviet infiltration. Now America is doing the same thing. But there are no protests from Europe. What the US is doing is not very different from what the USSR did. But the response of Europe is not very rational.

The desire for comfort can lead to obtaining it at the cost of another's comfort or even freedom. It is such situations that make the evolutionary law that opposites are true and valid in social functioning. One would expect American settlers who gained freedom by coming to the New World to respect the freedom of others. *It is true that those who are free sometimes respect the freedom of others. It is also true that those who have*

*gained freedom can also oppress others to the point of reducing them to slavery. The dividing line is whether the individual deserves that freedom or he has truly earned it.*

The US offers a great scope to study the nature of minorities, as it is the composite product of a number of minorities. No one group there is dominant enough to claim that they are the main national element in the American population. The Anglo-Saxons may claim that honour but it is likely to be contested by other minorities. We can say that Nature is trying to develop a cosmopolitan individual in America who belongs to the world and not to a particular nation. The Irish, German and Scandinavian minorities have infused the American culture with a healthy variation. The Irish have a strong vitality that helps to develop leadership. The Germans and the Scandinavians are a hard-working people and as such have received a warm welcome from the American nation. The predominant tendency of the American population is to be conformist. The Irish and the Jews have a certain unpredictability that helps to break this conformity.

- The American population is not a dominant parent stock that has assimilated incoming members. What exists is a blend of various minorities that is trying to emerge as a new composite.
- Those immigrants who had a peasant background brought with them the habit of parsimonious savings. That has remained with the American culture.
- The serfs of Europe found in the USA a haven of freedom that would help break the bonds of their serfdom.

The Americans are known for their continued efforts to improve themselves. First they exerted themselves tremendously simply to survive. When that was assured, their energies did not level off. The excess energy continued to express itself and kept improving their living standards. Europeans lived a way of life

that made them conservative by nature. They tried to protect their holdings since at any time they could be evicted from their lands. But the picture in the US was very different. Settlers had nothing to lose and the very immensity of the land tempted them to expand. Moreover their past was very unpleasant to their memory and therefore it was not worth retaining. The future looked bright and hopeful and they felt thankful to the Lord for granting them such a new lease of life.

The early Puritan settlers were men known for their discipline and self-denial. They sacrificed comfort and sleep to develop the wilderness. Those who came later did not have to strain so hard. Still the sacrifices of the original Puritans entered the national psyche and affected the later immigrants also.

*So long as the human pace of progress is in tune with that of society, everything will be harmonious. Some individuals develop a quicker rhythm and try to grow faster than the society. In such cases the harmony is disturbed and such advanced souls invite the persecution of society. Society has a tendency to ossify and as a result what was a progress before becomes an obstacle now. Nations try to break such obstacles by bringing about calamities such as cyclones and earthquakes that alone can shatter their rigidity. Nature tried to shatter European class rigidities by offering a new habitation where people can develop in a more egalitarian manner.*

Geography can overwhelm historical traditions. This proved true in the case of America. The demands of taming the land were so great that it left no time for people to worship or engage in pleasure pursuits. Back in Europe people spent their time in lifeless rituals and mechanical piety. But here serious hard work demanded all their time. Such hard work had the positive effect of boosting their self-confidence. The American found work as the prayer of the body.

The development that America is undergoing is something that has already been undergone by other societies in the world. Still the American experience will be unique because it is taking

place in an evolutionary context.

The Great Depression made the American worker come face to face with the stark realities of unemployment and poverty. Depressions and recessions are cyclical in nature and bound to come again and again according to Marx. While communism is an organised political and economic creed, capitalism cannot be described so. The capitalism that prevailed in 19th century Europe was the manufacturing economy that was functioning with minimal regulations. It gave birth to a new class of entrepreneurs and employers who were called capitalists for investing their capital in manufacturing concerns. Organisation of economy in the proper sense of the word was non-existent. At best there were trade associations which were formed for protecting their self-interests. *An unorganised economy is sooner or later bound to come into conflict with changes in circumstances.* The Great Depression may seem to be a mysterious phenomenon. *Actually it is the result of a part of society that has gone wrong and thereby affected the whole.*

The economy consists of several parts such as producers, consumers, financiers, workers, middlemen, etc. If any one of them gains a dominant position, it can start impacting on the other sectors for better or worse. Money can easily gain such a dominant position and those in control of money such as financiers and investors can exercise that power for good or bad. The traumatic effects of the depression have made governments wake up to the negative effects of unorganised functioning. As a result they have been able to prevent the return of depression. But minor recessions come and go. Even these can be eliminated if those in power appreciate the validity of the Theory of Development.

What is unique about the American society is that it permitted growth in an evolutionary manner. *In Europe the social elite cherished the existing social stratification so much that any new progress could come there only by violent revolution.* But rigid class barriers were absent in the USA. Labour shortage

made workers very valuable and their wages were ten times higher than European workers. Even employers were one-time workers only and therefore felt an affinity with their employees.

*What the Soviet Union tried to achieve for the proletariat through violent revolution America has achieved through a normal evolutionary manner.* Moreover it has achieved prosperity for the whole of society and not confined the benefits to the proletariats alone. Seeing the prosperity of American workers, a Supreme Court Judge there refused to believe that capital could rob labour.

American workers never developed the kind of class-consciousness that can lead to a violent working class protest. Revolutions usually spring from a base of mass poverty. There was so much prosperity in the US that workers could hope to one day become entrepreneurs themselves. As such their energies were mainly focussed on their own improvement. Therefore no extra energy was available for planning revolutions or launching imperialistic aggressions.

Higher wages would normally mean higher product costs. *But in America we find higher wages for labour combined with lower cost of manufactured goods.* This is a contradiction. But the American nation has turned this contradiction into a complement by its organisational genius. Let us see how the American economy has managed this feat.

*The field of work contains infinite possibilities.* In stagnant societies these possibilities are not utilised as nothing progressive is attempted. *But in times of crisis human ability for improvisation comes into play. When an organisation for mere practical work is given a human touch, thoughtfulness comes into play. Work involves many components such as materials, labour, time, space, energy, money, systems, market, etc.* It never occurs to us to study how much these components can grow and give scope for expansion. Americans have grown up with a constant sense of crisis and therefore have exerted themselves

to make the best use of all that is available to them.

Scientific organisation of work is America's contribution to the field of work. *Work gets organised when it is seen in relation to the human beings involved in it. When the various components of work are studied and measured, work gets scientifically organised.* The advent of computer has made that work much easier by bringing in facilities that were not available before. For example, spell check and dictionary are available on the computer now. These can endow the computer with an ability to evaluate a paper and give it a grade. *What are components now can merge into a unified skill of a higher order tomorrow. Human languages have grown in this manner only. Science itself has grown in this manner only.*

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## Chapter – III

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# The Value of Organisation

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*When work is scientifically organised it helps an individual to become part of a team. The team work done in a scientific manner helps the individual to realise more of his potentials than he is aware of.*

The intense physical work that Americans have done to develop their country has made them very physical. They have lost the higher creativity that their European counterpart has. Still it is the Americans who have the evolutionary urge and Nature is relying on them only to lead the evolutionary progress.

American history written from an inside view of Americans can be very revealing. It can show how Man was reborn in America as a free soul. All human traits are fit for study from such an inside viewpoint.

Henry Ford had an inventive genius that enabled him to mass produce cars and sell them at a cheap price so that even working class people could own cars. According to Sri Aurobindo, Ford

had what he called “Pragmatic Mind”. *That enabled him to earn great profits at a lower price.* It is an accomplishment which is a rare feat in the field of marketing. He had a sense of loyalty to his working class origins which spurred him to do something generous to that community. *His desire to do a selfless service gave him a creative idea that helped him realise his dream of producing a cheaply priced car.* His experience proves a principle of our Theory that *selfless creativity can bring beneficial results that serve our self-centred interests too.*

His experience proves another point also. Ford had a belief that workers would be frightened of ideas. Therefore in his company he did not recruit any specialists. He only recruited simple farmhands and found that they were able to learn quickly all the skills required for fabricating a car. Some were so quick that they could learn in a matter of a few hours only. Those whose hands were nimble and sensitive were able to learn quickly.

When Ford spoke of people’s aversion to ideas, he meant ideas in the work spot and certainly not philosophic ideas. *People with a lot of physical energy can organise it all into physical skills with the help of their physical minds. The physical mind is the seat of sensory skills. It is not a centre for creative ideas or even for simple ideas.* Those who have built the factories and machines that characterize America today are men who operated with their physical minds. It may be hard to believe were it not for the fact that physically the American civilisation stands before us today. Men as described by Ford in 1930 have been successful now in creating a laptop computer that can hold an entire library inside it. *The physical plane is endowed with infinite possibilities.*

Ford found his workers satisfied with what they got. He would have liked them to strive for more accomplishment and exhibition of greater skills. *Human potentials are always more than what is exhibited on the surface. The potential for*



*progress is always more than what is achieved on the surface.*

In the American context, progress is defined as achieving higher standards of living. As such it is an economic goal and that can be achieved by organising the nation's productive energies.

*Energies can be released by social aspiration.*

- Ford found his workers a contented lot unwilling to exercise themselves to bring out their hidden potentials or acquire greater skills.
- The contentment comes from the fact that they were earning ten times more than workers in Europe.
- *Unwillingness to rise to higher levels can mean that there was simply no mental energy available for that purpose.*
- *When vital energies have been fully exhausted, then mental energies will get activated.*
- The aspiration of workers in America was to save enough to buy a farm for themselves. That would have signalled the full saturation of their vital energies.
- Ford exhausted his vital energies by establishing Ford Motor Company. Then he developed a mental aspiration to launch his mass production system.
- He had a lot of good will towards the working class and wished them to raise their living standards. But he had no theoretical knowledge of development.
- We see in India and other developing countries a careless and negligent attitude towards utilising the technological developments and opportunities that the world is offering them.
- *An awakening to use these opportunities will come to India only when she makes full use of her energies at the previous stage.*
- *Education is the previous stage where she has to exhaust her energies.*
- In India education is confined to the schools and colleges

and it is of poor quality also. But in the US the social milieu itself has an educational effect and the standards of education are also higher.

- India is fortunate in having a spiritual atmosphere which can help the country fully exhaust its energies.
- *That spiritual atmosphere has given this country a subtle knowledge which can be used also.*
- *That subtle knowledge can help us adapt Western technical education to suit our spiritual atmosphere and heritage.*
- *This subtle spiritual knowledge of India can be used by the whole world through the Internet.*
- Ford's perception of unused potentialities is very much true. *Converting unused potentialities into an actuality is possible through an educational system designed according to the Development Theory.*
- Studying the American educational system from the view of the social aspiration of her people — factory workers, farmers, retailers, etc. — will make clear the Development Theory we have developed. As the US has a lot of statistics available in any field, such a study will be possible.

Andre Siegfried, the French economic geographer, believes that Americans developed their own distinct personality in the 19th century that began to diverge from the European personality. The divergence was helped by the marked rise in the standard of living. The immigrants from Europe came mainly with the hope of improving their incomes. After coming here they realised that the higher income came along with higher opportunities. The awareness that came about the higher opportunities signalled the dawn of mental awakening among the Americans.

Children born in India after Independence were psychologically different from their parents who were familiar

with the oppression of British Raj. *The children were born in a free atmosphere and therefore were psychologically free. In a similar manner, children born in America after that country had developed its own personality expressed that individuality.* They no longer resembled the Europeans who were the parent stock. *The new personality developed inventiveness which in turn gave birth to the practical organisation* exemplified by Ford's assembly line production. We see the material abundance of the American economy. *What we don't see is the invisible practical organisation that is behind it. It will be interesting to find out that this inventiveness and practical organisation was made possible in the USA only because her people rejected the superstitions and anachronistic traditions of Europe.*

Though individual liberty is very much cherished in America, gangsterism that violates individual liberty is very much there. In the early days of unsettled frontier life, looting other people's harvest and valuables was something quite common. Some people took to it as a way of life basing themselves on the strength of their muscles. What started in the frontier days has persisted even to this day, as there is collusion between gangsters and politicians who need them to organise strikes or beat up opponents.

*In a democracy the aspirations of the lower sections of the population sometimes find expression in such ways of looting and extortion. Sometimes when the population is illiterate, democracy may even help gangsters to become dictators and assume the reins of power.*

- Negroes in America are more integrated with the American society than other immigrants.
- Jews don't exhibit any hostility towards the German people.
- The Indians hated the British rulers but not the British people whom they liked very much.

If we want to understand the truth in those opinions about Negroes, Jews and Indians that have been expressed by scholars, we need to know more about human nature and what the Theory says on such themes.

- *The human mind as such does not have the tendency to forgive those who have been the cause of humiliation. But the human vital can do so if it knows that it is advantageous at present to do so and be friendly now with those who have humiliated before.*
- *Deep-seated resentment buried in the physical can have two types of expressions. 1) It can make friends with the very people who have given offense if it is convenient now. 2) The mind in the physical can remember the offense and react automatically.*
- The Divine Mother's body was sensitive to fire even in this birth as her body still remembered being burnt at the stake during her birth as Joan of Arc. *Actually neither the mind, vital or body can forgive any wrong. The vital's changed behaviour seeking favour is only an inversion of its original attitude.*
- Draupadi had a secret attraction for Karna. Outwardly she did not know that he was a Pandava. But the mind in her body was aware of that truth and therefore she had a physical attraction to him.
- Ralph Bunche's expression of love for America can be accepted if that love will be still forthcoming if America were poor and not prosperous. *The Theory states that any principle is true only so long as its opposites is true also. If Negroes are loyal and Jews are broad-minded, then the opposites of these qualities must also be found in them.*
- *The statement, "Those who are adored receive it on the strength of their exalted position and not from right" deserves to be examined.* If history or great literature

gives us examples to the contrary it will be interesting to observe.

- *Assimilation is possible only through integration. Integration requires mutual appreciation of each person's need of the other with an objective comprehension and not any condescension.*
- *Transformation can be lasting. Mental control can only be a temporary phenomenon. At some time the control can go and the original characteristics are bound to surface.*

Let us consider the following set of views:-

- The US is progressing towards maturity.
- The American has developed a distinct personality that differs from the European.
- His vital energies are abundant and overflowing.
- It is due to nervous excitement.
- His span of attention is limited.
- His impatience for the result tempts him to overwork and leads him to nervous exhaustion.
- His infatuation has led to hatred.
- *His increasing reliance on automated machinery will lead to mental sloth.*
- He values technological advance and relies on export.

*Had the Americans been satisfied with their great achievements in agriculture they would have levelled off. It would have also stopped the growth of their maturity. But they kept on progressing and even achieved in a shorter period what Europe had earlier achieved. Outdoing another in a shorter period required enormous energies that were qualitatively and also quantitatively superior. The higher quantity raised the standard of living while the higher quality increased the freedom they enjoyed. As they were working in a new*

*environment it led to not only greater results, but also newer forms of organisation.* These newer organisations helped them achieve a perfection in productive capacity. But even that did not exhaust their overflowing energies. An excess skill remained and expressed as a nervous instability. *Their mental powers did not progress as fast as their sensory skills. Therefore they have not developed abstract thinking.*

*When there are no proper values to shape the energies of an individual, those energies can get deranged and turn into hatred and social hostility.* The main focus of the energies was production and perfection of machinery. The aim was more on greater production than on finer goods. *With so much energy focussed on production it is not surprising that not much was left for improvement of political organisations. The result was that some politicians with excess energy became gangsters.*

*The personality of a nation can have many dimensions and each dimension has opposite directions.* Studying all of these dimensions and the different directions helps us to validate the principles discovered by the Theory. *Great literature is usually produced by mature societies that have enjoyed many decades of peace. Great revolutionary movements have their origin in the writings of creative thinkers.* It is interesting to note that the Indian independence movement did not inspire a spate of fiction expressing the aspiration of the people. The novel Uncle Tom's Cabin powerfully impacted the American public and was one of the main reasons for triggering the US Civil War. Except Bengali, none of the Indian languages witnessed any marked renaissance. *The renaissance occurring in Bengali could be attributed to its contact with English due to the choice of Calcutta as the capital of British India for some time.*

*Law requires the endorsement of public opinions to be effective.* Without that endorsement, legal enactments will be there only on paper. After the US Civil War slavery was abolished in the US. But many Americans in the South did not change their attitudes and kept insulting the Negroes. Things



changed for the better only after the civil rights movement.

*Man by nature is selfish and mean and these two tendencies make him irrational. Social progress is compelling man to offer selfless service to others.* Business in America is going all out to please customers and thereby promote sales. Money-back guarantee came into operation with a view to please customers. It has been misused, as in the case of a customer of Sears who returned a box of rusted hand tools he found in a house he had bought and insisted on replacement. *The irrational tendencies of man are checked by similar irrational tendencies coming from the circumstances.*

The laws enacted by the government under the constitution become procedures at the administrative levels. These procedures need to be in tune with the prevailing tradition and usage in order to be effective. If such tuning and alignment is not there, the law becomes toothless and people do what they want. They find various loopholes to evade the law and can even twist the law to justify their actions. Whites violating Negro women were not prosecuted. But Negroes doing the same thing to white women were publicly lynched. Only the Civil Rights movement initiated by Martin Luther King brought about any improvement in the status of Blacks. But it cost him his life.

*Pioneers arise in society now and then to take society ahead. They may be accepted or opposed depending upon the maturity level of the people in the society. Pioneers are the conscious tip of society whose subconscious majority remains like the submerged portion of an iceberg. The New World compelled every settler to be a pioneer and do everything necessary to ensure his survival. Those who feared for their safety were not fit to emigrate to US from Europe. Pioneers are the result of formed individuality.* The US is a nation of pioneers.

*If the majority of a nation is composed of pioneers, that nation is bound to be very progressive and dynamic.* Certainly the reason for America's domination of the world can be traced to the pioneering mentality of her people. The harsh conditions

there compelled Americans to do many things.

1. *They were forced to overcome obstacles.*
2. *Improvise on the spot.*
3. *Arrange for their safety.*
4. *Train themselves in self-defence.*
5. *Improve organisation to improve production.*
6. *Turn obstacles into opportunities.*
7. *Adjust with rivals and enemies in order to survive.*
8. *Recognise the supreme value of education.*
9. *Keep on working hard.*
10. *Consider all problems as amenable to solution.*
11. *Realise infinity in the physical plane.*

Assimilation of races does not occur very easily. *The rate and speed of assimilation depend upon the political, legal, social cultural and spiritual attitudes.*

- Politically other foreign races are permitted to enter the territory of a local race.
- Extending equal rights to a foreign community is a sign of great generosity and issues out of broad-mindedness. It is possible only when the local community perceives no threat to its rights and privileges.
- *Moving from equal legal rights to according social equality is a very big step forward and it is done only when the foreigner gives no room for suspicion.*
- *Moving from social equality to cultural identity is another big step forward.* People won't so easily let another foreigner participate in their cultural functions.
- *Spiritual assimilation is commonly interpreted as religious unity.* But people of different races and temperament don't usually seek religious unity. It is not a stage the world is ready for now.

As generations pass by cultural differences are accepted and honoured. *Economic considerations can override cultural differences. Moreover if there is overwhelming romantic attractions between the man and woman then also differences are overlooked.* In the initial euphoria of assimilation, the cultural differences are temporarily forgotten. Later on as the years pass by these differences raise their heads and complaints begin to come. It is reasonable to expect members of the superior group to voice regrets. But we will be surprised to find that the members of the inferior groups complain also. *These differences become acute in matters of language and food.* Only the passage of time weakens these differences and promotes assimilation.

- Franklin, Jefferson and many other leading Americans believed that liberating the common man from traditional injustices will help him live rightly and virtuously.
- The priestly hierarchies of the Catholic Church are alien to the American mind.
- On one side there was a strong resentment towards the Catholic Church and on the other some conversion to that church also.

Many people believe that Money is the major determinant of accomplishment and that if that is available, everything else will be taken care of. The failure of many enterprises in India is a proof that money is not the only determinant. *There are other determinants that have to be present in proper proportions. Finally there must be Grace which in a social context would mean the presence of social sanction.* Mother believed that if the material needs of sadhaks were satisfied they would focus their energies on seeking the Supermind. But the actual experience proved otherwise. Inmates pursued their own interests and not necessarily the Supermind. Settlers in America did the same. They were all self-made men who owed

their success only to themselves. They did not feel that they owed it to their community, church, family, etc. Developing this point further will be difficult without enough statistics to support the argument one way or another.

*In man's social development economic and religious considerations powerfully intervene.* The theory can comment on how much these factors are decisive in social progress. Theoretical statements need a serious study to prove their validity.

- *Social progress occurs along a continuous course that begins with survival, proceeds through growth and development and ends with evolution.*
- *Economic and religious considerations will be relevant and applicable only to the extent they are useful for fostering this process of social change.*
- *What is a determinant at one stage may not be so at another stage.*
- *How the determinism varies at different levels may be another matter. But the basic thrust of social change will remain the same.*
- *Europe's history of major sufferings makes her hesitant to glorify success.*
- *Absence of suffering makes America be very confident about unflinching success.*
- *Catholicism is drawing converts in America due to the attraction some people feel for its colourful ceremonies.*
- *During these modern days, religion must exhibit a practical character in order to win adherents.*
- *The Protestant formula believes in shaping one's own destiny and leading one's own life.*

*Suffering is the result of lack of opportunities in the social environment. In such a situation only the strong and talented*

*are able to thrive. The weak and inefficient invent excuses such as a belief in destiny or karma that justifies present suffering for the sake of future good. Prolonged suffering makes such people skeptical about the success of others. The suffering undergone by the early settlers in America was mainly physical due to the enormous workload. It was not social or psychological as witnessed in Europe.* Settlers were spurred on to greater activity by the attractive prices they got for their farm produce or for the industrial goods they made. They saw slum dwellers quickly moving out of the slums. Often people were simply swept along by the wave of progress sweeping the country and found themselves rising for no reason. *They saw only success all around them and failures were rare or even absent. It was not very long before settlers became convinced of unflinching success.*

*The Theory describes the various levels of social development and stresses the fact that life subordinates all other things to one central movement. In other words, we can say that this means that ethics, religion and politics are for man and man is not for them.*

The historian makes two observations about American social life. First, he records that there were conversions to the Catholic faith. The colourful ceremonies of the Catholic Church attracted some new recruits. *This increase in conversion leads us to conclude that Americans had crossed beyond the survival stage. Men usually do not worry about religious affairs when basic survival is at stake. If they are showing interest in religion, it means basic survival has been assured. The second observation made by the economist Siegfried is that religion must be practical.*

It is worth mentioning here the experience of the Irish Republic. Ever since the creation of Ulster, this nation has been subject to civil and religious strife. Unable to find any solution, many Irish simply emigrated to the New World in search of a living. There they made a mark in local politics and civil affairs.

They drew some benefits from the improvements in agriculture and manufacturing that were occurring in the US. Still they did not get any excess energy that could equip them to go back to their motherland and do something to lift her up. That kind of boost came to them only after the IT Revolution hit the United States. That gave many Irish descendants enough financial strength to go back to the motherland and set up business there. The IT sector has helped Ireland immensely and today she is on par with her rival UK in national income and sometimes even better.

*In India secessionism raised its head in Tamil Nadu and later in Punjab. When the Centre took a strong stand and prohibited secession, the leaders of the separatist movement abandoned their interest in separatism and redirected their energies in the direction of an anti-Brahmin movement. When they were told that there was scope for them in politics, they readily responded and the politics of hate lost its steam also.*

*In Punjab the rising prosperity due to the success of the Green Revolution made the Sikhs become assertive and voice a demand for an independent Kalistan. The government took timely police action to curb the activities of the extremists and also tried to divert the energies of the people there in the direction of developing small-scale industries. Both these strategies worked and separatism in Punjab is not a serious problem anymore. The laws of development prove true.*

- *Primary interests endure.*
- *Secondary interests may assume a temporary significance and distort the picture.*
- *But in the end developmental concerns prove victorious.*
- *Life by its very nature is progressive and expansive if Mind does not choose to intervene.*
- *The Great Depression was the result of one such mental intrusion.*

- *A similar depression was feared at the end of World War II. The war machine was consuming a lot of goods and its sudden cessation was expected to lead to a slump. The fact that it did not happen brings out clearly the progressive nature of life.*

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## Chapter – IV

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# The Civil War

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*Life progresses not in a simple arithmetic progression, but in a geometric progression. Every succeeding generation is better off than the previous generation is what we find. If this has been true from the beginning of history, why should it not be true after the Second World War? The war brought to an end the atmosphere of fear in which people were living. Freedom from fear will inevitably release the energies of people. If the extra energies are not productive of goods, they will still be the reason for formation of new ideas, new attitudes and new outlook. It is that surge in energy that is responsible for the continuous expansion of the service sector that we are witnessing now.*

*War is an attempt by Nature to shatter physical rigidity by violent means. It symbolises the physical destruction of the body. Actual casualties of World War II came to fifty million and another six million were gassed to death. Such a severe punishment to the physical body helped the mind to escape its physical confinement in the body and become more free. War*

was a period of great privation and hardship. The end of war put a stop to that privation and increased the energies of the people. *A mind less bound to the body is less likely to interfere in the social process. A liberated mind and increasing physical energies no doubt paved the way for an expanding economy.*

Common sense and past experience predicted a recession following the end of the war. *It required a creative imagination to correctly predict what would actually happen. That imagination should have been aided by a knowledge of the laws of social growth.* That knowledge was missing in those days. What projections were made were based on past experiences. The Development Theory can supply that missing knowledge now. What happened in the USA after 1945 is a revelation of the tendencies of life?

- 1) *A tragedy like war is followed by a boom.*
- 2) *War was destructive of life. The end of war resulted in the release of a higher level of energy.*
- 3) *It was a war waged to put an end to all wars. As such its culmination caused a big sigh of relief among people.*
- 4) *The rebuilding of areas devastated by wars opens up a very big market.*
- 5) *To the extent that money played a constructive role in rebuilding, it became positive.*
- 6) *The cold war hostilities that broke out between the USA and the USSR partly sustained the war machine.*
- 7) *45 Asian countries winning freedom after the war created an enormous new market.*
- 8) *The post war generation was a bigger market than the previous one.*

— Europeans who are intrigued by the behaviour of Americans are at the same time attracted by their unrestrained behaviour.

— The Americans rely on their educational system to

prepare their future generations.

— American men prefer other men for company.

— *Economy is dependent on employment.*

— American housewives are more organised than their European counterparts in managing their households.

Europeans tried to acquire culture after their material needs were fulfilled. When Europe was acquiring culture, the USA was still busy ensuring the physical survival of her people. On the work front the Americans achieved many feats such as transforming a hostile and unfriendly environment into a friendly and co-operative one. While men busied themselves with work the women folk also put in their share of work. *The pressure of survival fostered close co-operation between family members. There was no leisure time left to develop affectionate family ties among family members. By the time physical survival was assured, the American society had moved on to the modern era which required that man wean himself from his family. So neither during the survival period nor during the post survival period was the American allowed to form close family ties.*

*With the father busy in work and the mother busy organising the household, the child shifts his centre of attention to the school and focusses his energies on acquiring education. He grows up without the family atmosphere missing the sweetness of family ties. Men who are busy with work prefer to have other working men as companions. The American housewife is flooded with a supply of domestic goods that is unheard of in other parts of the world. That makes her turn into an organiser of the household more than the nourisher of a family.*

— The price of slaves kept rising in the South (1850).

— The North felt that the South was exploiting slaves while the South in turn accused the North of exploiting the South.

— Jefferson Davis, the leader of the South did not believe

that slaves were ill-treated there. He was blind to the faults of his own people.

*That the price of slaves was rising in the South clearly shows that slavery as an institution had an economic sanction in the South. Without such a social and economic sanction no institution could ever survive. The emergence of accusations of exploitation against the South by the North was a sign that the time had come for such an exploitation to stop. Awareness of human rights comes first as an accusation of unfair exploitation. Before that such exploitation is not seen as exploitation at all. It is seen as the natural order of things.* In pre-independence India there was no complaint from Harijans that they were being exploited. Women in those days did not complain about male domination. *Domination was justified as being necessary for the protection of the weak and deprived sections of the population.*

*As said earlier, accusations of exploitation is the first sign of awareness about rights. From then on efforts will be taken to check the domination. Such efforts will have its ups and downs. The war with the North, the abolition of slavery, the subtle discrimination that persisted in the South and the eruption of the Civil Rights movement are all part of the long-drawn out process of emancipation of the Negroes. Such ordeals are the way for lower consciousness to progress to higher levels.*

- *Ignorant certitude issues out of insularity.*
- *Ignorance develops a passionate certitude which in turn causes a self-indoctrination.*
- *Such people with shallow emotions may accuse others of the very defects that they are guilty of.*
- For those who are seeking proofs for the Development Theory, American history is a goldmine of facts.

| <u>The Civil War</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>South</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Population           | 21 million   | 8 million    |
| Army                 | 2 million    | 1 million    |
| Free males           | 4.4          | 1 (ratio)    |
| Factory production   | 10           | 1            |
| Iron                 | 15           | 1            |
| Coal                 | 38           | 1            |
| Firearms             | 32           | 1            |
| Wheat                | 412          | 1            |
| Ship-tonnage         | 25           | 1            |
| Wealth               | 3            | 1            |
| Railroad mileage     | 2.4          | 1            |
| Farms                | 3            | 1            |
| Draft animals        | 1.8          | 1            |
| Livestock            | 1.5          | 1            |
| Cotton               | 1            | 24           |

- Historical experience shows that defeat in Civil Wars usually is the result of one side exhausting its money supply.
- Davis was wrong from the outset. *Going by the rule of decision-making all external factors that should have been positive were indeed negative for the South. As for internal factors, where there should have been confidence, Davis had only expectation.*
- Those who want to study the relationship between emotions and knowledge can read the life history of Davis, his belief and the truths on which those beliefs were founded.
- The South had no gold. They relied on paper currency only and it kept depreciating so fast that they had no alternative except to use Northern currency.
- *During the course of the war a million more immigrants arrived in the North and out of them 400,000 joined the*



*Northern army. This is clear proof that the cause of the South had no supporters.*

- The appointments that Davis made all proved ineffective and he himself became sick and invalid.
- *Emotions are blind to facts and it is not in the nature of emotions to understand. They can only feel.*
- *The typical emotional response is to act contrary to facts.* Nobody with common sense will launch a war when facts are like those given above.
- Lincoln engaged in the Civil War more with the intention of preserving the unity of the country than abolishing slavery.

*When we want to achieve a goal, the necessary skills must be there. Capacity is the overall requirement. A skill can yield a productive result when it acts in an atmosphere of capacity. One of the important requirements is that there must be basic unity at the foundation level.* Sri Aurobindo has assigned for India the mission of becoming the spiritual guru of the world. *Before achieving that she had to first attain unity and then freedom.* Nature found India in fragments. *She could bring unity only by bringing about a foreign invasion.* Muslim occupation unified large parts of the country. The later British occupation unified Greater India in the sense that it brought India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Malaysia and Singapore all under one flag. Those who brought unity to the country later refused to grant it freedom. Sri Aurobindo gave that freedom. *The next step was to gain prosperity. That prosperity could come to India through the practice of spiritual values. Prosperity itself is at two levels. First there is material prosperity and then there is psychological prosperity. Both can come through adoption of spiritual values. The spiritual values India knows are those that have issued out of the Timeless Spirit. Self-denial, chastity, submission to authority, endurance and detached work are some of the values derived from the spiritual heritage of India. The Timeless spirit*

*is immutable. India needs the values of the evolving spirit also. Accomplishment, harmony the eternal romance of the individual seeking the Universal, Surrender, obedience to the Inner Authority disregarding the outer circumstances are some of the values of the evolving Spirit.*

*The prosperity of America required the unity of the country first. As slavery was the cause of secession, the effort to retain unity also became an effort to abolish slavery.* While unity was recovered fully, abolition of slavery was only nominal and discrimination continued for another hundred years. The US is now poised to initiate the efforts for achieving global unity. In that effort it will be fitting if she helps India recover her unity. That way the US can undo what her ancestors, the British did to India at the time of her departure. It is interesting to observe that the US is now waging war with Muslim countries, one of which is troubling India. *If the Muslims are tamed it will be a big step forward for achieving global unity. It was the Muslims who unsuccessfully tried to unite India territorially.*

- The mobile frontier that America had solved all of its problems. As Europe did not have such a mobile frontier, she was unaware of such a solution.
- America is unique and distinctive.
- *The American West has made that country constitutionally violent.*
- Duelling was as popular in America as in Europe as a method of defending one's honour.

When the nomad discovered that farming could increase his food supply, the inexhaustible supply of land around him made him realise that his food supply could be made infinite. When man discovered electricity he could immediately see the infinite applications it could have in society. Software developers are also sensing the endless scope they have for software application in all fields of social activity. *If a historian feels that the mobile*

*frontier of America is solving all her problems, we can take it to mean that as opportunities expand, problems and constraints dissolve.*

The inexhaustible supply of land in America continued till the number of settlers increased. *The concept of infinity as a remedy for problems can be nicely illustrated through a patient's experience.* A patient with a rupture of retinal blood vessels was told by the doctor that the problem could not be set right. He was advised to imagine as if his mind was expanding in both directions up to infinity. *That imaginary expansion relieved the stress in that area and healed the rupture.*

*When land was fully settled and its supply came to an end, the attentions of people were then turned towards production and distribution of household goods. The buying power of farmers was immense as land was very productive. Manufacturers as well as retailers sprang up in great numbers and began selling to slum dwellers who were aspiring to move up to the middle class levels. Those keen on moving up realised the value of new information and the necessity of acquiring education. Their European background made it easy for them to gain education. Their European heritage made them value not only education but also duelling to save honour. This practice was so pervasive in the American West that the whole area acquired a violent character.*

*The physical frontier may have come to an end, but the psychological frontier continued in the fields of education, manufacture and retailing. Success in business endowed people with a great amount of purchasing power. The original excess energy that the immigrants displayed spilled over into many fields. Finally it has now entered the field of science and technology.*

- Industry existed from the time of the Napoleonic wars.
- Competition was accorded great respect.
- US history can be summed up as one of awakening,

creation, adventure, competition, corruption, credit and innovation.

- *Bankers were the movers behind the scenes.*
- Sugar lobbies were buying up legislatures wholesale.
- There was no income tax.

During the Napoleonic wars, Americans were still struggling for survival. *Once that was assured they began to feel secure and then started to think about their rights. Their astounding success in agriculture gave them surplus money that could be invested in business and industry.* Moreover, banks also came forward to lend money. *The unlimited opportunities available to settlers made them lose all fear of competition. People became mature enough to even respect competition.*

*Survival on the frontier demanded constant improvisation. The infinite opportunities available also sharpened the creative faculties. These creative abilities helped individuals to obtain a living, create new tools, improve existing tools, organise a home and forge new relationships.*

*Progressing from one level to another demands a whole new organisation. Such a need came when industries were born.* Money power in the form of corruption came into play by influencing legislatures to enact favourable laws. *Corruption became an organising force.* Income tax as such was not there at that time.

- Six reasons for the increase in US production.
  - Even by the Civil War period America was the wealthiest country in the world.
  - The Civil War gave a big thrust to American industry.
  - In a span of fifty years her industrial output rose by 18 times.
  - World War I magnified the economy by 33 times.



- The Civil War period could be considered the take-off period.
- In 1840 her position in manufacturing was fifth. By 1860 she came to the fourth place and by 1894 she arrived at the number one position.
- By 1894 her production was double that of Britain and half that of Europe.

The reasons are as follows:-

- 1) Patent laws were liberal. By 1894 there were a million patents.
- 2) *Scarcity of labour forced industry to invent labour saving machinery.*
- 3) *Success in agriculture energised the formation of industry.*
- 4) Energy sources were abundant. Waterpower, steam from wood and coal and electricity. From 2946 million hp in 1860 it jumped to 42,931 million hp.
- 5) US economy combined free trade and protection. By 1900 the home market itself was consuming 97% of its products.

We tend to see war as a means of destruction. Nevertheless *it is also true that war plays a constructive role by destroying stagnant fetters to growth.* As society develops, it develops modes of production, ways of functioning and beliefs and attitudes that are suitable for that time. *When society undergoes constructive changes for the better, existing customs and beliefs can be obstructive and inhibiting. The defeat and destruction of the American South was in a way helpful to the growth of the country as a whole. The South took a divisive and separatist stand which was an attitude of ignorance.* Its leader Davis cherished slavery and his emotional commitment to it as a cause gave it a passionate intensity. *When such an entity is destroyed,*

*all the energy locked up in that gets released and it can be used for constructive purposes.*

*One principle of the Theory is that the finite when transformed becomes the infinite. Infinity has to be seen in a context.* For somebody working in an office, the chief post there will be his infinity. *If he succeeds in realising his infinity, he will lead the organisation.* Americans sensed infinite hazards in conquering the virgin land. *They rose to the occasion and exhibited an infinite energy. The result was that the youngest nation soon became the richest one. The principle of transformation states that the lower the level of the transforming entity the higher will be the ascension.* Six reasons are cited for this transformation and we have to see how they stand our scrutiny.

### 1. Liberal patent laws

*Life progresses by consciousness and consciousness progresses by organisation is a principle of the Theory. Organisation is a powerful force of development. Education is an organisation of knowledge. The difference between prosperous and poor nations can simply be the presence or absence of education. Organisation of consciousness can be even more powerful than the organisation of knowledge. Data, for example, is mere information. When it is organised it becomes very valuable. Information can be a powerful asset. When the required information is not there it can be a powerful handicap.* During World War II German submarines were sinking Allied merchant ships indiscriminately. The Allies were helpless as they did not know the German submarine code. Once they cracked the code, the German submarine attacks stopped.

*Law is an organisation of public conscience. When law is in our favour it means the full support of society is there for us. Patents help the owner of the patent to fully dedicate himself to production of what he owns. In many other societies there will always be opposition to production of any sort. When no*

*opposition is there production goes on in full steam.*

## **2. Scarcity of labour and its high cost**

*When labour is scarce it pushes up its price and thereby compels industry to opt for labour-saving machines. Designing labour-saving machines makes one think and be creative. According to Sri Aurobindo, thoughts originate in the body. Therefore he felt that freedom is essential for the body if thinking is to flourish. The physical enslavement of the Indians to the British has led to loss of thinking power according to Sri Aurobindo. Americans were physically free and therefore they were able to think better. Their thoughts were not in the abstract plane. They were all directed to the physical plane. That is why they were able to produce such productive machines.*

## **3. Standardisation of parts and machines**

Americans have adopted 110 voltage for their electrical system while we are following the British system of 220 voltage. Such disparities are not helpful when it comes to standardisation. *Global economic unity is based on standardisation and as such standardisation can be a powerful boost to global production.*

## **4. Free availability of power supply of many types**

*When man wants to work hard, Nature can give a helping hand by offering all types of power supply such as power from water and wood and electricity. Lenin felt that with electricity alone he could modernise the Soviet Union. Americans have achieved their progress through initiative and entrepreneurship.*

## **5. Combined presence of free trade and protection**

*These two are contradictory principles but they can become*

*complementary when they are combined in a harmonious manner. The free market in the United States becomes most beneficial when it is regulated by the state. Similarly the command economy of the Communist countries also becomes productive when a certain degree of freedom is allowed. This has been proved right when China liberalised its command economy. Freedom and discipline can be combined in a harmonious manner though on the surface they are contradictory. Political leadership in a democracy functions in an atmosphere of freedom. But the administrative machinery goes by inflexible rules and functions on the basis of authority. The French have described administration as the fixed axle on which the political wheel rotates.*

## **6. The extra-ordinary success of American agriculture**

*There is an economic thesis that agricultural surplus promotes industrialisation. Stated otherwise, completion of a first work leads to the initiation of a second work. Agriculture is the earliest activity in which man exercised his organising powers. The manual skills of planting, weeding and harvesting he learnt in the farm only. Division of labour was learnt in farming operations only. The farmer developed vital alertness when the necessity arose to safeguard his crops from animal raiders. By saving seeds for planting in the next season he developed forethought. Organisation is common to both agriculture and manufacturing, though there may be variations peculiar to each field.*

There is an anonymous poetic description that has gained ground in the USA that there are three types of crops in the state of Nebraska. There is the crop produced for the farmers. The second crop is for the freight rates charged by the transport companies. The third crop is for the interest charged by the banks. This may have been said to stress the point that the railroads and banks were fleecing the farmers. Whatever be the

intention behind the statement, there is a truth here that has several aspects.

- *When society is undergoing a change, old ways of functioning become out-dated and fit to be discarded.*
- *The new ways of functioning can eliminate old ones. However, it is also possible that the new ends up energising the old and changing it beyond recognition.*
- *Times have changed so much that the first salary that the son receives often exceeds the last salary drawn by the father.*
- *Modernised agriculture can be even more lucrative than manufacturing due to hidden potentials coming to the surface.*
- *Farmers simply sell their produce to the local market for a small price. Railroads take the produce to a distant place where a higher price can be expected. When a lot of produce comes to one particular place in the hope of getting a higher price, that glut leads to a crash of the price.*
- *When society grows, people move to higher levels. Educated youth from villages rarely go back to the fields. Whether his income improves or not, he will stay put in the town and not go back to the village.*
- *During the days of barter, grain was simply exchanged for some other goods and there was no element of profit in it. Only the market economy gave scope for profit. The railroad widened the market for the farmer and made the whole nation become his market.*
- *Farmers typically have forethought, parsimony and frugality. Forethought enables him to preserve some seed stock for the next season. It enables him to be ready with his instruments for ploughing the moment it rains. Those who had forethought, parsimony and frugality were able to make use of bank loans and prosper. Those*

*who did not have these good qualities were ruined after taking bank loans. Any new facility can be misused. That however does not invalidate the positive benefits it can bring.*

### **Robber Barons**

- *Jim Fisk and Jay Gould will qualify to be robber barons.*
- *Vanderbuilt started his career as a humble boatman. But as he built up his career he learned to bribe judges and even buy legislatures wholesale. He even owned a pirate boat and the yacht he built for his wife was the most expensive one till date.*
- *There was a judge named George Barnad who was on the regular pay list of Vanderbuilt.*
- *Fisk and Gould exploited the Erie Railroad.*
- *The US enjoyed the best railroad system in the world in the 19th and 20th century.*
- *The rate of innovation in the US far exceeded that of other nations.*
- *The productivity of labour in freight services more than doubled.*
- *Though labour productivity was high, the actual freight rates were the cheapest in the world.*
- *Americans invested an enormous amount in modernisation, safety and speed.*
- *Railroads cornered 98% of passenger traffic.*
- *The railway companies wielded enormous influence over government officials.*
- *The corruption was not incidental to running a business. It was organised with the tacit approval and collusion of the politicians.*
- *One can even say that the progress of the American nation is equal to the progress of corruption in that*

*country*. We find a similar situation prevailing in India also. The Theory must be able to comment on corruption based on the available facts.

- *Corruption is an inevitable phase that every nation must pass through.*
- We are evaluating corruption that existed a hundred or two hundred years ago with the present attitude.
- *Corruption and clean administration can alternate with one another.*
- Corrupt politicians are able to get re-elected with a great majority.
- *It is interesting to note that the rate of GDP growth is high in corrupt countries.*
- *Countries with minimal corruption do not progress.*
- We are confining our study only to corruption during the phase of development. We are not extending our enquiry into periods of war, famine, disaster, etc.
- Corrupt leaders easily escape punishment and there is no great public sense of outrage. The public seem to silently support their corrupt ways.

*Corruption gets associated with development when the pace of development demands widening the structures of society. When the widening is not enough, corruption steps in to sustain the momentum of development. Actually, when corruption stops development also stops is an interesting observation.* Gopis who used to complain about Krishna stealing butter also complained about his not coming when he stopped his burglaries. Even the cows gave less milk.

The nation-building that was going on in the 19th century needed strong men. Such men are not easily controlled by law. They cannot wait till development comes up with a new set of higher norms for society. In the interval they act as they please. Such men can commit even murder with little hesitation. As

time passes on, they refine their ways and substitute bribes for murder. As such *one can even say that there is a progress from violent physicality to flexible vitality.*

### **Thought-Power in American development**

Sri Aurobindo in 1920 remarked that there has been a tragic loss of thought-power in India. *The foreign invasion did unite the country but in the process India lost her thinking capacity. The widened physical base diluted the mental power.* A few millenniums ago Indian intellect was able to conceive of the unknowable Absolute, which it designated as Brahman. *The discovery of the Absolute gave India a mastery over mind. What subtle knowledge the primitive man had, the sages could have from above. The Avatar of Sri Krishna brought down the Overmind and also gave birth to psychic love. The Mother says that the spiritual consciousness is there in the very bodies of all those Indians who have not been corrupted by the western influence. Sri Aurobindo felt that the time had come again for India to recover her thinking capacity. It has to come not from the soul, but from the evolving soul.*

*The American conquest of the new world was not an accomplishment of hard physical work alone. The Americans valued knowledge that could be used for work. They sought all types of practical knowledge and their success is the direct result of that. The next higher knowledge is that of life. But Americans are quite unaware of such higher knowledge.* The Internet can now give all the information necessary for us to acquire the subtle higher knowledge of life and mind and work. Indians do not value their own knowledge. They will value it only when the American values it. *Developing life knowledge requires a base of work knowledge.* As America has that base, she is suitably equipped to acquire that higher knowledge. The Indians have a knowledge of software that equips them to obtain the higher knowledge. *The computer can turn spiritual*

*concepts into a computer programme. There are software programmes that use spiritual knowledge to design physical exercises that can cure breathing problems. Psychological skills using spiritual knowledge can also be imparted through suitable computer programmes.*

*Accomplishment in work requires many psychological skills. Decision-making is a major skill of that category.* Child rearing is a big job and schools are to some extent helping parents rear their children. The computer can greatly help in this field. The need is very much there in the US and the computer facility is there also. The knowledge Sri Aurobindo has given can be used to recover thought-power. *Knowledge of life response can signal the recovery of thought-power. This knowledge can be developed as a computer programme. If this is done successfully, it can help the spiritual power of India to come to the surface again and wipe out her poverty, backwardness and the shallow and superficial personality that the Indian has developed.*

- Around 1880 the US had no proper financial system worth mentioning.
- *Of the three primary duties of a government — external defence, maintenance of law and order and the issuing and maintenance of a stable currency — the US government surprisingly provided none.*
- Taxes covered only one quarter of the cost of the Civil War. The rest was covered by issuing paper currency.
- In a free market, the circulating coins had unpredictable effects on the national economy.
- Among the financiers, only J.P. Morgan could be trusted.
- Morgan held the opinion *that the market was the best regulator of the public interest.*

The above mentioned points raise a few fundamental

theoretical issues.

- 1) The relationship between social progress and public finance.
- 2) The role of external pressure offered by Nature.
- 3) What does war mean to a country from the financial aspect.
- 4) Role of gold and silver coins especially during inflation.
- 5) Value of men known for moral integrity.
- 6) The ability of the market to regulate currency.

It is surprising that the US managed to be the richest country in the world without a proper financial system. Does that mean that developing a healthy financial system will hamper the growth of the economy? *The Theory stresses the importance of a dividing line that operates in every segment of life. The same rule operates in opposite directions for those people above and below the line.* If we accept this statement we can build on it further.

- *When a country is highly dynamic, absence of regulations can help spur economic growth.*
- *Introduction of public regulation will help the economy achieve the maximum growth that the system will permit.*

These are very powerful laws of social development that are unfortunately difficult to quantify. But the truth in these laws can be verified by a parallel in the field of education. *When a child enjoys full freedom, his learning increases greatly. His own individual capacity to gather knowledge is however much limited. The system of education that the world has developed can bring to the child the full scope of that education.*



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## Chapter – V

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# The Great Depression

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*As a system it will have some deficiencies and the child can escape those deficiencies when the time comes to once again operate in freedom. When the child takes to self-education, again the scope for learning will be endless. When a lot of developmental work was required in the US an atmosphere of freedom helped. It could not be allowed beyond a point as it would have degenerated into lawlessness. Therefore the timely introduction of regulations and the organisation of public finance improved the benefits to the American citizens even further. The automatic regulation carried out by the market can be true only in the initial stages. Such self-regulation has its precise limits. Beyond that, additional reinforcements through the creation of government regulations are necessary.* In the beginning the coastal waters on both sides gave America enough protection. But that was not enough as days passed by and today the US has a regular army for defence. The same is true for public organisation of finance. The Theory that is uniformly applicable

to any situation is *'Regulation is beneficial and necessary when social initiative has exhausted its organised capacity to yield results providing the individual a free hand'*.

*War is an activity of the whole community and it is paid for with goods or currency. The currency in circulation must tally with the worth of the goods produced. It cannot err even a little. Money as a symbol can be extended in its meaning but in fact it cannot afford an extension that does not correspond with the actual level of production. Therefore inflation can be allowed only to a limited extent.*

- *A symbol can be extended or abridged. But not a fact.*
- This can be illustrated by using imagination as an example. *Imagination is creative and can accomplish what is not possible in reality. But excessive imagination can turn into meaningless fantasy. Social symbols are the products of social imagination.*
- *Money is a socially imaginative act that functions as a symbol. Coins can give a physical representation to that imagination. But paper money fully embodies the power of money and fully expresses the value of money. But it needs to be handled delicately.*
- *The psychological link between the symbol and the fact is the trust that the public displays in the financial soundness of the society. The Government should be able to assess that trust correctly.*
- The North faced the Civil War with one quarter taxes and three quarters of paper currency. *This means that the currency system permitted a four-time expansion of the real currency available in the country. Without that flexibility, such an expansion is not at all possible.*
- *War is a physical activity. Currency is a mental organisation in the vital plane. War is a physical attempt to resolve a crisis brought about by vital emotional stress. As the mental and vital planes extend to the physical*

*plane, so can the value of currency be extended also. But it is all within limits.*

- *Credit allows man to enjoy now the benefits of his future income.* A house mortgage that extends for twenty years helps the individual own a house that is worth twenty years of his future income. *In that sense credit is an agency responsible for advancing civilisation.* They say the speed of light is fixed admitting not even a slight change. Should there be a change it will be another world. If twenty years of future income can be drawn upon, it admits of endless expansion. Production of money is limitless, provided appropriate innovations are introduced. As infant mortality is low, a scheme to utilise the full income of the full life or the child can be introduced and monitored at each crucial change for modification.
- *Society advances mainly through such symbols. War itself is a symbolic act. Instead of two nations physically destroying one another, they send two representative armies to do battle and accept the result as proof of their strength. Currency is such a symbol designed by the mind to regulate activities on the physical plane.*
- *As armies are headed by generals, currency systems can also be under the authority of one man. His moral integrity matters very much. How much the public trusts the man and how much he deserves that trust are important issues. Such individuals are the products of society and they arise in response to the productive activities of society. They are not avatars who descend from heaven, but very much the product of society that has sprung up from its subconscious base.*
- *The US has become mature enough to appreciate co-operation instead of competition.*
- *In a free society, economic activity that is unregulated can lead to chaos.*

- *As each man struggles to survive and prosper, a certain savage conflict is bound to ensue.*
- *Morgan was a lone individual who believed in order. Order is helped by the concentration of money in the hands of a single trusted individual.*
- *Corporations and Trusts qualified themselves to amass such money in their hands.*
- *Currency circulation increased a hundred fold from 1945 from \$300 billion to \$30 trillion now. Gold with the banks is only 11.9 of the market value.*

*Society is a living organism which is always on the move. During times of stability its movement is not perceptible. But during times of change the movement will be impressive as is the flow of a river over a gradient. As individuals develop skills, opinions, attitudes and values, so does society acquire these things. Social habits are its skills and organisations are its values. Co-operation and competition are social organisations and the former is superior to the latter. Self-centred individuals functioning competitively in the economic arena bring about a chaotic situation. It results in destruction for many and forces people to come up with an alternative way of functioning. That search leads to co-operation. Co-operation may not be total, but even partial co-operation is beneficial.*

- *Competition gives way to co-operation.*
- *It may generate co-operation within the family and friends who will then compete with outsiders.*
- *Coming to visa card, there is an agreement among all member banks for basic co-operation in rules and regulations and then the field is thrown open to competition. This is co-operation to compete.*
- *The co-operation can widen to even cover the entire social field. It will then permit competition on the basis of a wider co-operation.*

- Competition yielding to co-operation has many stages. Unstable currency giving way to a stable currency is one such transition stage. The role that men of integrity can play during such times is exemplified by J.P.Morgan who had a lot of confidence in corporations and trusts.

Competition is natural to man, but not co-operation. When people found that indulging their natural propensities was not helpful, they chose to give them up and come together in a co-operative manner in the form of organisations. Such a reversal in social interactions takes place at many points. Competition turning into co-operation is a major reversal. But many lesser reversals have taken place. When the nomadic hunter-gatherer settled down to fixed cultivation it was a reversal that marked an important stage in human civilisation. The Theory says that each such important stage in the progress of human civilisation is accompanied by such a reversal. This happens in the field of spirituality also. Those who seek Truth find that as they progress on the path their friends and relatives give them up. The relationship cannot be retained unless they also accept Truth in an equal measure.

The birth of paper money and the emergence of banks mark the progress of money from the physical to the mental plane. To the extent people have accepted paper money and deal with it, we can say that they have mentalised their understanding of money. Apart from banking, many professions have become more mental than before. Wherever mentalisation has taken place there will be a reversal.

American corporations are known to be big. This American penchant for bigness suits the size of their country. It comes from the abundant and infinite energies of the early settlers. That continued afterwards and developed into an American tendency for a larger rhythm. When infinity tries to express itself naturally the first expressions will be through very big forms. The infinitesimal is infinity is perfect form. The

forms may be imperfect also which is characteristic of early expressions. Corporations were born to give a form to business and financial activities. In law they are claimed to be fictitious entities. Though fictitious, they are suited to the task of handling money which is also a product of human imagination.

How Morgan saved the big houses:-

- On October 20, 1907 Morgan called all the big industrial houses.
- He made an assessment of who was worth saving and who was not.
- He requested the banks to lend money and that piece of information calmed down the stock exchange which was in a panic.

Corporations are organised entities and as such theoretically imperishable. Individual achievements being unorganised may not survive for long once the central guiding inspiration is gone. But corporations function on a systematic basis and as such have a greater staying power. As corporations give some organised shape to the economic activity, banks streamline finance. They act like nerves in the body and govern financial transactions. They can speed up the activities or slow them down depending on how perfect they are. The Federal Bank which is the banker's bank regulates the banks themselves. It follows the fiscal policy guidelines set by the government and very often initiates them also.

The Federal Bank was established in America only in the 1930s. The American economy was doing well and money was even in surplus. The rising economic activity could have led to a peak like the rising pyramid leads to a peak. Though possible, however it is not compulsory. Morgan functioned like a Federal Bank and acted as its predecessor. He was eventually replaced by the Federal Bank.



*Once the Federal Bank came into existence, the power of society to prevent economic crashes magnified immensely. The efficiency of individuals like Morgan is like the alertness of private individuals guarding their homes against thieves. The formation of the Fed is like the formation of the police department which can be much more effective in handling thefts and crimes. The effectivity of a system is always superior to that of individuals.*

- *Institutions are preceded by individuals.*
- *For an institution to be born, the social consciousness must be ripe at that level.*
- *The individual is a temporary phenomenon while the institution can be everlasting.*
- *While the military system is physical, the financial system is vital.*
- *Politics belongs to the vital plane while finance belongs to the substance of the vital plane which is more material.*
- *The stock exchange is the nerve centre of finance and it is meant to function as a support for the capital market. But human greed can tamper with its functioning and cause havoc.*
- Rapid expansion of the American economy from the Civil War.
- The physical expansion of the country was simply tremendous. New York and Chicago are proofs of that.
- In the 19th century it took a few decades for cities to spring up. But the emergence of Chicago took an even shorter time as the builders used the latest technology.
- The population of the city that was a mere 300 in 1830 rose to 800,000 by 1887.
- The army took up the job of clearing the obstructions caused by sand bars.
- Balloon Frame was invented for house construction. One

hundred trains used to arrive a day on eleven different railroads.

- By 1850 the city council decided to raise the entire city by four feet by a new jockeying-up process.
- A hotel that was five storeys high and still working was lifted up.
- Author Paul Johnson comments that such a feat could not have taken place in Europe.
- The Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed 17,000 buildings.
- After this devastating fire, architects learned to use fire-proof material for building.
- A steam elevator appeared in 1857, a hydraulic one in 1864, an electric one in 1895. The city contained 3000 elevators.
- Tall buildings were financially rewarding. Therefore a good number of these were built in spite of the availability of land.

The speed and extent of physical expansion that the American nation witnessed correspond to the evolutionary role that nation is meant to play in the world. *The pace of expansion was quickened by the occurrence of the Civil War.* Expansion was not only quick but also massive which is evidenced by the growth of New York and Chicago.

- *The massive extent of development that took place in America seems to be a demonstration of man's determination to discover infinity in work and life.*
- Normally cities take a century to grow into their full size. Only in the 19th century did cities in Europe spring up in a mere few decades. But what happened in America makes the European experience seem very small.
- *The availability of technology does not necessarily mean that it will be quickly adopted.* For example, India has not accepted all the technology that is available in the

West. The fact that the *Origin of Species* was sold out on the first day itself means that the public was aware of evolutionary issues and eager to know more about it. *The general American public itself was inventive by nature. Therefore new inventions were constantly upgraded by suggestions from the public. In the absence of such an atmosphere, the rate of invention would have slowed down very much.*

- That a city of 300 expanded to a population of 800,000 in 50 years shows the rapidity of expansion. *The city gave an impression of having been built in an emergency. The city also acquired a reputation for harbouring rowdies. This is in conformity with the principle that whenever there is growth, positive and negative elements both grow equally.*
- The fire of 1871 that destroyed 17,000 homes is theoretically significant for us. *It occurred because the pace of expansion was faster than the development of people.*

*There is an equilibrium between the activities of a society and the physical atmosphere in which those acts take place. The physical atmosphere is not insensitive or inert. It is very much alive and responds to disturbance in the equilibrium between itself and the society.* In any other country a disaster of that magnitude would have made the people give it up as hopeless. But the Americans did not give into despair. The whole town took a big effort and helped by external aid initiated reconstruction.

*Though Americans were progressing at a very fast pace, the fire disaster indicates that somewhere they had crossed the limit.*

- The intensity of transport activity gives an indication of how wide and extensive development was at that time in

America. Everyday about a hundred trains used to arrive at the Chicago railway station which indicates a lot of traffic on the rail tracks even by today's standards.

The raising of the town by four feet was a remarkable achievement that has not been repeated anywhere else in the world. People lifted up five storey buildings by operating jacks at a thousand different points. *Americans enjoy doing difficult things and it is this enjoyment that helps them to accomplish on a large scale also.* The author makes the observation that such an achievement could not have taken place in Europe. The European mind was looking for mental adventure only. Luther freed the European mind from religious fetters by declaring that man did not need an intermediary between him and God. *Such liberation from tradition activated the thinking mind of the European. What is active is the physical mind in the American.*

- *When a community is destroyed by a natural calamity, we very often see the community restoring itself back in the course of time. It is a sign of social dynamism and is a proof of society's unwillingness to accept defeat.* The Americans used fire-proof material and a new type of steel developed by Carnegie that was available at cheap rates. *When one section of the society suffers we see another section offering help by way of innovation. This is a sign of social alertness.*
- The elevator operated by steam, hydraulics or electricity was quickly accepted by the Americans. Without the invention of the elevator, American high-rise construction was not possible.
- The American fascination for tall buildings has more to do with money than with any passion for bigness.
- *Contradictions are complements.*

- *Al Capone was born in the crowded working class area of Chicago.*
- *The slums of Chicago have given birth to great industry and even great art.*
- *The US was led by New York. She turned penniless immigrants into confident money-earning individuals who became an asset to their country.*

*It is difficult for us to believe that the slums of Chicago could give rise to high-level art. There is a process behind how the impossible becomes possible. Matter appears to be dull and inert to our physical eyes. But the electronic microscope reveals the intense activity of subatomic particles that goes on within matter. A muddy pond gives birth to a beautiful lotus. There are sweet water reservoirs, which also harbour destructive microorganisms. Further, there are good microorganisms also which are capable of converting the bad ones into positive organisms. The presence of evil makes us wonder how it came to be there. Sri Aurobindo has an explanation here. He says that the Good turned itself into Evil so that it can have the Joy of transforming itself back to its original condition.*

New York was able to turn penniless individuals into productive people who helped America generate wealth on an unprecedented scale. A question may be asked as to how this was possible. *It was possible because apparently useless people had deep within them creative potentials that could help them achieve when they were brought to the surface. Such enormous generation of wealth was necessary because from a spiritual point of view money is the link between man and Supermind. In the twentieth century America is playing the evolutionary role of leading the world. Europe played that role in the 18th and 19th centuries and prior to that Greece and Rome had played that same role. But that mantle has now fallen on America's shoulders and she needs to develop self-confident individuals to help her accomplish her mission.*

### **Edison and Tiffany**

The second half of the 19th century witnessed intense competition between telegraph companies. Western Union increased its offices from 2250 to 10,000 between 1866 and 1890. Between 1869 to 1910 Edison secured 1328 patents. In his peak period he was applying for a patent once in eleven days. There was a pile of books on chemistry on his table that was five feet high. He read those books in six weeks.

- Edison was an artistic scientist while Tiffany was a scientific artist.
- He started a business at the age of 25 with only a thousand dollars of borrowed money. Soon he built it up into a very profitable business. He was selling diamonds to queens and buying gems at the rate of 1.6 million dollars. The table lamps that he designed were selling for \$750 when a six room house was worth only one thousand dollars.

Edison was an inventive genius. Men of genius appear only very rarely. Socrates appeared in Greece in 600 B.C and then Jesus appeared in Palestine 2000 years ago. In between there was a gap of 600 years. Shakespeare had no worthy successor for four centuries after he appeared. The blooming of inventions that characterised 19th century America is a sign of mind expressing in matter and enriching it in a manner unheard of before. The invention of the telegraph caused a revolution in communication and abridged Time and Space. Edison was a great inventor who was lucky to be born in a country that was appreciative and supportive. Not all inventors were this lucky. Some were thrown in jail and some others were ridiculed and ignored. Edison received a welcome because the general American public itself was inventive by nature. Edison was only a magnified version of the typical American citizen. We

can say that he was the epitome of American inventiveness. Tiffany was his social complement. He was also an inventor who possessed a remarkable entrepreneurial ability.

These talents that came up to the surface were all buried in the people who settled in America. Most of them were from the slums of Europe. The hardships of survival in America brought out these talents. After survival was assured, normally people would have levelled off. But it did not happen like that in America. When external pressure ceased, internal urges took over in the form of rising expectations. *To the extent that the Americans kept responding to the proddings of nature, we can say that they are playing a leading evolutionary role.*

A succession of great minds occurred during the period of the Vedas and Upanishads in India and after that it diminished. A similar flowering was witnessed in America in the 19th century in the physical plane and in the field of science and production. *It is possible that the spirit of curiosity and invention that was blocked in Europe due to class rigidities got diverted to America and succeeded in expressing itself there.*

- It was not only robber barons who thrived. The entire society thrived under the lax atmosphere.
- Government can guide social affairs only to a limited extent.
- Remaining poor in the USA when the social atmosphere was full of opportunities would have been an unforgivable crime. Today opportunities of a higher level await the Americans, but they are invisible.
- The future is not for fraud or deceit any more. *Corporate integrity is the need of the hour and companies like Infosys have earned that reputation.*

Robber barons were quite prevalent in the USA in the 19th century and they were powerful enough to spoil the judiciary. A good number of rich men in India today would qualify for

such a description.

- *Theoretically robber barons are a sign of overflowing Prosperity that breaks social norms.*
- Some events can be reflective of the culture of the nation as a whole and should be taken as such. One Westerner heard a servant discussing karma in India and wondered how a servant could talk about such lofty things. Bertrand Russell travelling in a taxi in the USA learnt to his surprise that the driver was holding a Ph.D. A servant talking about karma in India reflects the pervasive spiritual atmosphere of the country. A taxi driver holding a Ph.D shows the high level of educational achievements in the USA.
- *The existence of robber barons is only an indication of abundant prosperity.*
- *Our theoretical position is that government can only be a catalyst of development. It cannot assume full responsibility for developing society. Society must cultivate the aspiration to develop itself. If the movement of development gets initiated, government can guide that movement through enacting appropriate laws and regulations. There its role stops and it does not go beyond that.* Only in the post war period has the association between development and government become intensified. Europe was practising the policies of welfare state to a limited extent in the first half of the 20th century and now it has been strengthened.

The idea that the state has a responsibility towards helping the weaker sections thrive was unheard of before the Second World War.

We have to examine the rules and responsibilities of government fully if we want to understand whether the government is capable of promoting development. The original

role of the government was to protect the borders from outside invasion. Internally it had to maintain law and order also. People were originally settling quarrels through a physical fight. *Leaving the task of settling disputes to the authority of the government was itself a progressive and civilising step.* This led to the formation of the police force and courts. Till 1950 all over the world governments were doing only these two things. *Trade and transport are important activities that came into existence on their own without the participation of the government.* In many developing countries the government is running the railways as private parties do not have that much capital. Even education was largely a private affair. Looking at all this makes it clear that government did not have much to do with the welfare of the people. *The first organised government came into being in a developed country. Society is a bigger entity than the government and it cannot have the same precise organisation that a government has.* America is unique in the sense that it did not form a society from scratch. It formed a society that was composed of members from other developed countries. These immigrants started their lives from where they left it in Europe and not from scratch. *The theory that claims that it is people who initiate development and not governments has a good vindication here.*

Even now people in India look up to the government when a new scheme is to be implemented. Even a superficial reading of American history will make it clear to us that people did not think of the government at all when it came to founding a new settlement. Cities and towns came up by themselves and since there was no tax collection, there was no government either.

The Indian situation was very different. Sri Aurobindo observed that during India's subjection to the British Raj the Indians lost their thinking power. How could a people who have lost their thinking power act? When independence came, some measure of initiative was restored to the Indians. Thousands of private schools came up and entrepreneurs with money started

a bus service or a hotel. Such business people were looked upon as important people. When the nursery schools exploded in numbers the educational movement spread to the founding of schools and colleges also. All this was mainly due to social effort and the government entered the scene only in the form of regulations which led to corruption only. Had the government been forced to run shops and industries, the economy would have become very inefficient and it would have led to a cumbersome bureaucracy.

Education has an awakening influence. Political freedom encourages economic initiative. When awakening increases, the human value of currency increases also. India has plenty of money now in the form of savings in banks, in foreign exchange and in the form of jewels.

By Indian standards it is a lot of money. We see that enterprise and activity have generated a lot of wealth in the US. Though we see it, the economist misses the point. Historians however see *the truth that society develops itself and it is not government that develops society.*

*Government realising that it has a role in developing the public signifies the birth of social evolutionary consciousness on the part of the government and state.*

Karl Marx believed that at the peak of socialistic development the state would wither away. We can visualise the role of the government and state at various stages of social development.

- *Society emerges as a collective entity.*
- *The initial grouping is achieved on the basis of physical strength. Whoever is physically most strong in the group becomes the leader.*
- *Several such local groups keep merging with one another and finally a large group with a distinct cultural identity forms.*
- *The nation comes into existence by developing a nation-soul. It fosters a common culture and operates within a*



*unified geographic area.*

- *Upto this point a nation's main concern is defense of its borders and maintenance of law and order.*
- *Nationhood is not the last step. Society can proceed beyond it and develop a common humanity.*
- *Economic development that connects various parts of the world and promotes global unity seems to be the route taken by the world to bring about global unity.*
- *The decisions of many governments to turn into welfare states is in the direction of promoting global prosperity. Many governments are now committed to uplifting the weaker sections of their populations. Had they not taken such a stand, the depressed populations of many countries would have simply perished by now.*
- *Nature uses the method of promoting economic interdependence between two opposite groups so as to intensify unity. If such interdependence is generated in social and cultural activities, then world unity will proceed at a faster and more accelerated pace.*
- *Whether the state is going to wither away or continue as an active organisation depends upon two things. It depends on the extent of education given from below and the extent of spiritual awakening coming from above.*

*As a tree bears an abundance of fruits in response to man's aspiration to eat some fruits, so does society flood a man with opportunities in response to his desire to grow. These opportunities are not merely in potential. In America, these were concrete opportunities in reality.* Workers who were earning only a shilling in Europe were paid a sum of half a pound as wages in the USA. This made their earnings increase ten times and nine tenths of these earnings went into savings. This enabled most of them to move out of the slums into a middle class neighbourhood in one or two years. Such a conducive atmosphere exists in potential in India today. It has become

actual only in the IT field now.

What happened to Enron and Arthur Anderson is a pointer to how corporations should behave and what is expected of them nowadays. Though robber barons existed in good number, it is also true that honest individuals like Morgan were able to save the country from financial disasters. *The personal integrity of Morgan should become the impersonal integrity of corporations is the need today.*

*That robber barons were unable to gain legal and social recognition and existence is a clear indication of the direction in which American society was moving. Though slavery and lobbying managed to gain legal sanction, robber barons failed to do so. This is a matter that is surprising to us.*

Infosys has earned a moral reputation for fairness and integrity in India. The incident at Enron shows that *the social atmosphere is very sensitive to reputation. Reputation itself seems to be fragile and once lost may be very difficult to recover. Even if corruption and criminal behaviour continues in the world, respect for personal integrity will survive and may even become a dominant force in its corporate form.*

#### The First International Nation

- *Religion can be meaningful to man only in the measure it helps to shape his character.*
- *For those who are straight forward, reaching the top can be an easy and straight journey. But for dishonest politicians it can be like climbing a greasy pole.*
- The two World Wars destroyed old Europe permanently.
- Teddy Roosevelt was a tough taskmaster who believed in the power of the executive more than in the constitution. He handled the miners effectively and forced them to come to a compromise.



*A nation can acquire an international character by securing the following attributes.*

- 1) *She should have a message for other nations.*
- 2) *There should be occasions for her to relate to other nations.*
- 3) *Life should make the other nations come towards her.*
- 4) *She must have the cultural equipment, size, and character to play that role.*
- 5) *She and the other nations must be moving in a direction that is identical.*
- 6) *She must have one major strength either military strength or the vital strength of money power or the mental strength of ideas.*
- 7) *In honour of the law of equilibrium, she must be willing to receive from those nations that she is offering to help.*

The USA has many messages to give to the world: 1) *She wants other nations to break all barriers;* 2) *Conquer all obstacles;* 3) *Form a nation where all people relate to each other freely and enjoy equal prosperity;* 4) *Develop self-reliance;* 5) *Foster a spirit of harmony by accommodating all types of people;* 6) *Apply the mind to work and thereby make it more productive;* 7) *Know that Life will shatter anachronisms if we insist on them;* 8) *Transform work from being personal to a collective organisation;* 9) *Conquer time and space;* 10) *Know that all problems are soluble;* 11) *Attempt everything on a big scale.*

The US was responsible for one third of the world production. But her own domestic market consumed 97% of it. Her immense capacity was brought to light when she supplied arms to her European Allies during World War II. That effort continued through the Marshall Plan in the form of financial aid to war-torn European countries. The Second War was won

by the Allied powers mainly on the strength of the manpower and resources extended by the US. She defeated Nazi Germany and opposed the expansion of Soviet Communism. Military supremacy later gave way to political leadership to safeguard democracy. The World Wars served as occasions for her to prove her economic and military might. At short notice she was able to produce enough arms and ammunitions to sustain the European War effort. Though she was in an isolationist mood, she quickly reversed that attitude after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. It is this flexible capacity to rise to the occasion that is the special feature of the personality of the American nation.

She was improving herself on many fronts such as literacy, longevity, innovation, urbanisation, standardisation, etc. At the same time she gave up as unnecessary such things as class difference, slavery, monarchy, racial discrimination and poverty. Her two main deficiencies were culture and spirituality. She can learn these things from other nations.

Religion is a big support for man. *When man is confronted with serious problems, he seeks refuge in religion only. Therefore religious values are very useful to him. A child is first trained by his mother and then by his school. Beyond that whatever he learns is from society. His first big test in life comes from marriage which has a markedly chastening influence on him. When he faces the danger of losing his job, money or even life he stops and thinks. Such crises compel him to reverse his attitudes. During such occasions it is religion that offers him guidance and support. Whatever people value most in their lives becomes the religion for them. In that case, for Americans the standard of living or money has become their religion. When that is threatened, the Americans put up a spirited fight and at such times it is religious values that sustain them.*

If Americans are concerned with standards of living, Indians are worried about their basic survival. The Indian personality is shallow and also lacks self-respect. *Though there is a spiritual*

*tradition in India it has degenerated into mere superstitious rituals. Indians need to follow spiritual values in their lives if they are serious about reviving their spirituality. Next to standard of living Americans value practical organisation most. It has become so pervasive that even the ordinary American citizen is familiar with scientific advances.*

*Politics is one field where values find it difficult to make an entry.* In India there is a tradition of not seeking the post. Though the ideal is not fully upheld, politicians pay some nominal respect to the ideal. But in the US people are ambitious and don't hesitate to seek posts. In general the smaller the people are, the more tempted they are to seek posts. *Posts and men move towards each other depending on their relative strengths.*

We find men like Caesar and Napoleon rising to the top post at a comparatively early age. *This becomes all the more true if the individual carries the evolutionary force with him.* Talented men rising to the top most quickly is a frequent occurrence in the USA. This is not so in Britain where by tradition top posts are usually reserved for men above 60 years. Aristocrats were so confident of securing these posts by virtue of their status that they did not even consider acquiring education as worthwhile. It is in America that tradition was broken and talent was recognised irrespective of class.

American politicians of the 18th and 19th centuries swore by God. Though they relied on themselves for their accomplishments they were humble enough to pay lip service to God. As Americans are result-oriented they have developed a way of life that stresses mass production, Standardisation and practical programmes. Europeans care more for their culture than practical benefits. A European farmer is more of a gardener and a European worker is more of a craftsman. Europeans discuss ideas while Americans discuss facts. An American housewife organises a house while a European housewife organises a home. She trains her children in values at home

while the American mother packs her children off to school for training. Such an ideal contrast is no longer valid since the Europe of olden days has changed a lot and a good deal of Americanisation has taken place.

Teddy Roosevelt was a president who believed in taking strong executive action to guide the affairs of the nation. *The transformation of what is in the constitution into workable legislative laws is a long and arduous process.* We know the immense interval in time that occurred between abolition of slavery in the American Constitution and the actual restoration of civil rights to Negroes. Going by the principles of the Constitution requires a politician who understands long-term interests of the people rather than what will get him the votes. The American President draws his authority directly from the people. As such it is not surprising that a President like Teddy Roosevelt felt bold enough to use strong-arm methods to bring the striking miners around.

— At Harvard Charles Eliot served as President for nearly 40 years beginning in 1869.

*Such a distinguished tenure usually goes only to founders and to those who have turned an organisation into an institution. An organisation is a collection of systematic activities designed to achieve a specific goal. An institution is a live organisation that infuses these activities with values. Energy turned into activities is an organisation. When the same activities are energised by values it becomes organisation.*

*When teaching is done by the teacher expanding his energy it becomes a mere activity. But when the lesson is given with the support of educational values, the organisation turns into an institution. Harvard has attained its pre-eminence in the field of education because of its espousal of educational values such as curiosity in learning, classification of knowledge and factual representation.*

Moreover it was a period when America was moving from an agricultural stage to an industrial era. That required a knowledge of her mineral and energy resources. *Turning that knowledge into usable results requires entrepreneurship and a sense of adventure.* Harvard took part in that adventure and that was responsible for Eliot's long tenure.

The founding of Harvard marked the organising of national education as the backbone of national existence. In that sense there is a parallel to Oxford and Cambridge. These two universities laid the foundation for religious education that the intelligentsia loved. The Universities of Paris and Vienna developed the academic culture that Europe was famous for. *That academic culture served the prewar aristocratic class that was used to luxury and comfort. But the 20th century needed a work culture that would bring prosperity to the common man and be more universal in the sharing of prosperity.*

*This need for a wider movement led to new trends. One of them was the interdisciplinary approach that explored the mutual connections between various fields of knowledge. Biology was looked at from the point of view of chemistry. Economics was looked at from a human point of view and not as something technical. Physics and Mathematics found so much in common between them that they almost effected a merger. Economics was looked at from a geographical point of view. Statistics attained an independence of its own with a mathematical precision.* New sciences like demography were born. The science of surveying extended to the oceans also. The relationship between biology and mathematics was explored. The era of patenting gave way to an era of exploration.

- *Mind commenced an expansion on all sides and entered life through the back door. It tried to forge a unity between the various branches of knowledge.*
- Income tax came in 1913.
- Eight hour work schedule came in 1916.

- Minimum income tax was 1%. Maximum was 7%
- Randolph Bourne (1886-1918) realised that war will speed up the importance of the state and government.

During the first 300 years of its existence, the American nation did not even have an income-tax. We normally would expect a richer nation to be taxed more. Though America was ten times richer than Europe, the taxes were not ten times heavier. When they were imposed, it was one percent only both in Europe and USA. The question arises as to how the government survived in those days. It survived by imposing custom duties and collecting prison penalties. On the whole however, absence of income tax meant that government presence was very weak in those days.

When man worked for himself he did so for countless hours. However, when factory labour arrived regulations limiting work to 8 hours arrived by 1916. The Russian revolution alerted European governments to the threat of impending revolutions and made them ready to bring about all the socialist reforms required. The US was not in danger of suffering a revolution. But it brought about an 8-hour work schedule nevertheless.

*There is a brutal side to the human personality which finds war a good outlet for expression. Civilised life offers no scope for brutal activities. War activates the economy as well as the administration. Conducting a war and maintaining supplies makes a government receive a good training in administration. Such training can be used later for peace-time governance also.*

- The army grew from a mere 200,000 to 4 million during the First World War.
- WWI was ten times as costly as the Civil War.
- The cost of US involvement in WWI was more than twice the cost of running the federal government since 1789. It was \$112 billion.

- Internal Revenue Service became important in the lives of ordinary citizens.
- During WWI most European governments took over the industries either for management or outright ownership.
- This was described as “War Socialism” in Germany and Lenin was very enamoured of it.
- The American President Wilson initially struck a neutral pose during WWI. Later on he got dragged into the war due to German attacks on American ships.
- Roughly half of the US army was composed of conscripts.
- The American delegation to the Versailles conference was the best informed group in the party.

Though the US was isolationist by tendency, she was dragged into both the World Wars by Germany and Japan. Though the US was building up her strength in all ways and seemed destined to assume the world leadership, it never struck her to enter the World Wars on her own. She had to be compelled to do so. *This is because human nature is physical. Physicality reacts only when it is directly touched.* Then it was only after 1945 that the US assumed the world leadership.

*Life has a tendency to repeat an act. Whether an act is good or not, the repetition will continue.* IRS was formed to collect money for the ten billion dollar loan. But it remained even after that work was finished. Many Boards were set up during war time for war management. Even these continued after the war was over and engaged themselves in war-related activities.

- *We think of War and Peace as separate and opposite activities. In reality they are not. They are interlinked and peace is a continuation of war only. Life is common to both and that is why war-time Boards are able to continue in peace time also.*
- *War is a show of strength. Exercise of power continues*

*to repeat.* Lenin used force to seize the government in Russia in 1917. That initial use of force continued in the Soviet Union for the next 70 years. *Power is one of the earliest manifestations of consciousness. As such it does not learn very easily.*

- Germany made “War Socialism” very popular during WWI. Actually people do what they want and give their activities very laudable names.

It is surprising to know that 5 years of warfare can be costlier than running the government for a hundred years or more.

- *To the extent that human life is routine, it ceases to be creative.*
- *The destruction caused by wars is positive in the sense that it clears obstructions and creates fresh opportunities for progress.*
- *An opportunity for new construction is really an opportunity to learn something new. But man is more keen on accomplishing than learning.*
- *In the human process of learning, results come first and the knowledge comes later.*
- *Results are in the physical plane while knowledge is in the subtle plane.*
- *Those who instinctively act in a way that accomplishes fail to do so when they think and act.*
- *One accomplishes on the strength of the support given by the circumstances and not necessarily by thought-power.*
- *As time passes on, civilisations accumulate a lot of impediments and anachronisms. The mind that values these things is so inflexible and rigid that it cannot be reformed. It can only be destroyed. The brain that houses such a mind has to be physically destroyed to make the destruction perfect. That is why war is physically so*

*much destructive.*

- *War is a crisis in the physical plane and as such it has to be tackled on that plane only. It cannot be solved by efforts in other planes.*
- *Physical forms have a tendency to endure. By enduring for a long time many of them become unnecessary. At that point they have to be removed or destroyed.*
- *Progress requires that the basis of that progress acquires a lasting physical form in the physical plane.*
- *Mental opinions and vital attitudes are less physical and therefore more difficult to change. The more subtle an entity is, the more powerful it is.*

The enormous losses of the World Wars is a true reflection of the nature of war. Let us take the Mahabharatha War. Krishna who was an Avatar could not prevent it. He was an Avatar of the Overmind which can accomplish in knowledge disregarding the presence of evil. *But Overmind is not powerful enough to dissolve or abolish evil. Duryodhana's jealousy was evil in nature. It can be traced to his father's physical blindness. Further back it was a result and extension of Satyavathi's greed. Santanu's wrong urges and Bhishma's emotional support for it also had a role to play in the formation of Duryodhana's jealousy. Such wrong formations can only be destroyed, not reformed. Therefore Krishna could only preside over such a destruction and pave the way for the progress of civilisation.*

*During emergencies such as wars, the form gives way to the content. During such critical hours the symbol has the power to become the whole that it represents. Crisis has the capacity to release tremendous energies which have a tendency to spill over. Government is only a part of society and it functions on the basis of powers delegated to it by the society. But during war times the governments are known to enlarge themselves and dominate the whole society.* Governments in Europe took over many industries during war time. Lenin observed this

and followed it even more thoroughly in running the Soviet Union.

- *Government is only a part of the society, not the whole.*
- *The government expanding to become the whole society may be a right initiative during war time. But still it is a movement that is potentially dangerous.*
- *A government that tastes power may not easily hand it back to the people unless it is a strongly organised democracy.*
- *How a government behaves during a war and after the war can be a test of its political maturity.*
- *Half the US army in WWI was made up of conscripts. That clearly shows that the population did not support the War effort enthusiastically. The population seems to have clung to the original stand of neutrality.*
- *Germany is an immature society and nation. It is not mystic like its eastern neighbour Russia or intellectual like its western neighbour. Their speciality is their methodical functioning. In such an immature society power tasted by the government during wartime is not likely to go back to the people so easily.*

The American delegation to Versailles was briefed by a scholarly team commissioned to collect facts for such a meeting. Normally a cabinet minister who attends such meetings will gather facts through his own office staff. But since that work was done by a special group, the information gathered was very comprehensive. Therefore it is not surprising that the American delegation was the best-informed group in the meeting. In this incident itself we see the American efficiency and its method.



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## Chapter – VI

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# American Leadership of the World

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Let us see what the Americans value in a work.

- 1) *Information relating to that work and education that can give that information.*
- 2) *They use the form of an organisation to collect that information.*

— Walter Lippmann did not appreciate the treaty at Versailles.

- A British historian remarked that had the Americans been allowed to draft the treaty, it would have been very scientific.
- Wilson's 14 points for the treaty were written down in a hurry.
- Americans were anxious about facing Lenin's question regarding people's right to self-determination. Just then

Lenin had published all the secret treaties between governments.

- Important items on the agenda included international trade, restoration of lost territories and recovery of national boundaries.
- The British and French had reservations about the American proposals.
- A week after the armistice itself Germany sank an Irish civilian ferry drowning 450 people. This terribly disgusted Wilson.
- The Germans felt outraged by the terms of the Versailles treaty.
- America did not intend to seriously enforce the treaty. It was a treaty not backed by force.

In industrial production Germany ranked only next to the USA and Britain. America was busy with her own economic growth and was fully absorbed in enjoying the benefits of rising standard of living. Britain basked in the glory of her empire. The French were lost in their intellectual and cultural accomplishments. *Economic growth was also demanding their energies.* Russia was caught in a political turmoil.

Germany neither had an empire nor any intellectual or cultural fame. Her educational system had given birth to great educational institutions and the highest level of public literacy. *Her deprivations turned her into a potentially explosive dynamo.* She only needed an occasion or excuse to burst out.

The World Wars initiated by Germany have to be seen in the larger perspective. *They signalled the liberation of the world from rigid physicality and its progress to vitality and mentality.* The post WWI situation required a delicate handling. But such an approach was missing. Wilson's pacifism, UK's secret reservations and Germany's sense of outrage over the punitive measures imposed have all contributed to the tensions that led to WWII. WWII did not happen by accident. It seems to have



been deliberately engineered.

— **The enfranchisement of women**

- The real American will be a result of the fusion of the different races.
- Cola drinks became popular as an alternative to hard liquor.
- The movement for temperance and abolition of slavery helped women enter politics.
- The Supreme Court declared that the American Constitution did not confer automatic rights on anyone.
- American women got the vote from the period between 1870 and 1920 and were actually two years behind Britain.
- American women were more interested in controlling their husbands than in electing the US President.
- Johnson believes that they could have secured their voting rights even by 1850 had they been serious about it.

*Social evolution is a continuous process that involves rising to higher levels. First Society moves from subconscious to conscious existence. Once that is achieved it, then organises itself to steadily move to higher levels of functioning.*

- *Social existence is divided into routine and crisis and they come alternatively.*
- *A long period of routine existence culminates in a crisis. The crisis leads to a higher level of existence which allows another period of routine existence.*
- *Actually the world has outgrown war and there is no need for war in future. But the dying embers of a long-standing phenomenon will be there and they express as border*

*conflicts, civil disorders and terrorist movements.*

- *Society does not initiate just one movement at a time. It initiates many movements simultaneously and fosters their growth.*
- In American history the liberation of slaves, the enfranchisement of women and the emergence of cool drinks are important incidents.
- *Presently the world is moving in the direction of world union through the creation of a global market.*

This global market is emerging through the process of globalisation that is now spreading in the world. Such a movement needs the support of a world army. The formation of a world army has to be seen through the perspective of incidents like Jallian Walla Bagh, the Indian partition and the occurrence of WWII, etc. The successive steps involved in the emergence of a world army will be easier to understand if we analyse another movement like the suffrage movement and see the various steps there.

- The American is neither the white protestant nor the Black American. He will be the result of the fusion of races occurring there. *If this trend proves true then the future citizen of the world will be one who has overcome his racial identity and religious conviction.*
- Abolition of slavery passed through many clear stages. The Civil War abolished slavery. That only gave them nominal equality in the eyes of law. More substantial civil rights came only after the civil rights movement succeeded. Nevertheless true psychological equality is still a long way off.

The stages are as follows:-

*Civil War — emancipation — movement to north — well paid jobs during the war period — Ku Klux Klan — segregation —*

voting rights — civil rights movement — inferiority complex.

*These successive phases are not unique to slavery alone. Many other social phenomena have undergone successive phases. Agriculture, manufacturing and services are different phases of economic production. Physical, vital, mental and spiritual are various stages of human evolution. Domination, submission, co-existence, co-operation, destruction and protection are various stages in the development of power. Man starts as a selfish individual and in the next phase becomes a member of the social collective. He first loses and then gains his individuality in the collective as he moves from the vital to the mental plane. What starts as skill passes through the stages of capacity, talent and finally emerges as ability.*

- *Each plane matures and moves on to the next higher plane when at some point it reaches the spiritual acme of that plane. Duelling was engaged in by physical people for over a thousand years to defend their honour which is the spiritual acme. Then duels were abolished and replaced by debating societies in the form of Parliaments.*
- *The Roman public enjoying the spectacle of hungry lions attacking gladiators and taking joy in witnessing public executions are sure signs of cruelty and blood lust. These form the psychological basis for warfare that persisted for more than 2000 years.*
- *The cold-blooded murder of 389 people at Jallian Walla Bagh was only an extension of the killings that occurred in World War I. The Britisher was fair in his administration and did not even interfere with the religious and cultural lives of the Indians. But he was still a conqueror. The massacre at Amritsar was a strong reminder to Gandhiji that the Britisher was not likely to leave India without a show of force. Had the Hindus and*

*Muslims joined together in an armed struggle against the British, freedom could have been won without the partition. Gandhi tried to win the Muslims by pacifist approaches. It succeeded during the communal riots at Calcutta. But at the all-India level it failed to prevent the emergence of Pakistan.*

- *Japan's insularity and backwardness was one major reason for the outbreak of WWII. The Germans attained perfection in physical methods. But somehow that perfection made them become rigid. That rigidity needed the wholesale massacre of Jews to be broken.*
- *T.E. Lawrence was a champion of Arabs and was fighting for their freedom. He saved an Arab in the battlefield who was a victim of injustice. A little later the Arab committed another crime for which Lawrence himself had to shoot him down. Lawrence found to his surprise that he enjoyed pulling the trigger. *Though he was a friend of the Arabs his enjoyment of killing showed how much war was still alive in the psychology of such men.**
- *Pugnacity is inborn in man and that is why he enjoys destruction for destruction's sake. All-out war can wipe out civilisation as that would mean killing women and children. So armies were developed to engage in symbolic fights as representatives of the contending groups. *War has bred many virtues such as leadership, heroism, loyalty, discipline and patriotism. More than anything else, war is responsible for developing the virtue of honour. It was the army that first developed organisation and later passed it on to civil society. It may be hard to believe that most of the innovations that occurred in history had their origin in the military.**
- *Looting of occupied territory is a very common military practice that reveals its essentially brutal nature. An army that does not loot has gone beyond that brutal*

*stage and has become civilised.*

- American women could have acquired voting rights even by 1850 had they agitated for it and made a demand. But in 1800 that awareness was lacking and finally the voting right came to them only in 1920. *Society generates many facilities and they are there in potential. People need to develop an awareness about them which would help them acquire those facilities.* War could have been abolished after 1950 had people all over the world felt the necessity for abolishing it. But there is no sign that such an awareness was felt and expressed by people in the world.
- Marshall and Eisenhower were generals who never commanded an army in the field. This shows that even army operations can move to the mental plane.
- *Paul Kennedy talks about the danger of the empire crashing when the mother country is unable to sustain the outward expansion. This is true of army activities also. So long as volunteers fill in the ranks of the army it is good for the army. But if conscription is required to fill in the ranks, then it is a symptom of impending disintegration of the army.* England was considering conscription during World War I. But fortunately volunteers poured in on their own.
- *Trade helped Britain to found an empire. Abundant productive capacity helped the US to gain world leadership. Both were movements that fitted with the course of social evolution. The 18th and 19th centuries needed trade and the 20th century needed industrial production. The 21st century needs a rise in standard of living. The maintenance of national armies is an impediment to that. If they are abolished and their skill and discipline are passed on to the civil society, it will help improve the standard of living.*
- Even during the course of the Vietnam War American

parents complained about their children dying in a foreign land for an alien cause. We need to carry out a survey among parents regarding their willingness to send their children to the army. *The declining number of young men entering priesthood in the Catholic Church is a clear sign of waning interest in priestly profession.*

- King Ashoka gave up warfare on his own 2000 years ago. Sibi Chakravarthy demonstrated what perfect justice should be. In the kingdom of such rulers police would have been unnecessary. *Our efforts to abolish national armies have their subtle origin 2000 years ago.*
- Srinivasa Ramanujam was a genius. *But for want of an outer form of a degree he suffered a lot of humiliation. World army has content but not form.*
- The holocaust removes any shadow of doubt that may linger about the need to remove national armies. The holocaust was the result of bloodlust that needed victims in thousands to quench itself. *Such overdoing of the killing process is a clear sign that war is nearing its end.*
- After Hitler, Stalin continued the expansionist movement. But in the end the Soviet system was dismantled from within which is unheard of in history. Russians are now clamouring for a better standard of living.
- *War expresses physical rigidity.* It shows a smallness of mind that refuses to see a wider ideal. Indians showed a stubbornness in seeking job security and avoiding entrepreneurship. But recently trends are changing. IT surveys in America show that a lot of Indians are returning home to set up their own ventures. Indian rigidity is also loosening.
- *September 11th attack is also an overdoing of terrorism which is a signal that terrorism is nearing its end.*
- Nations should desist from selling arms to terrorist groups or other nations at war. So long as the USA,

UK and France are selling arms for a profit, war will continue.

- Abolition of slavery was carried out in several stages. In a similar manner any new development will also take place in stages only.
- Civil War — emancipation — segregation — mass migration — race riots — Blacks going on the offensive — hippie movement — civil rights movement — psychological arrears.
- If we trace the history of war it will be clear whether the movement is heading forward or backward.
- Race riots subsided after 1919. The First World War weakened that impulse considerably. In 1943 Blacks actually went on the offensive. Recently in Los Angeles Whites went on a rampage. *Such alternations signify the penultimate step.*
- *Army loots — Supplies maintain an army — Population sustains an army are some of the stages of army's development.*
- *Released energy has a tendency to keep on moving.* Genghis Khan did not stop his conquest on his own. But nations that have nuclear bombs are mentally controlling them.  
The resources spent in war can be redirected to eliminate poverty. But for that we need to stop wars first.
- *If poor people are shown the way to make money it will diffuse their irritation and eliminate antagonism.* Rajaji did it with the DMK in the 1960s.
- *The act of India winning independence dissolved War and its violence in the subtle plane.*
- *Aid has the unintended effect of prolonging the reasons for war.*
- Many people got tired of 40 years of peace and wanted the excitement of WWI.
- *Tension is the negative enjoyment of living fully in the*

*vital.* When Sri Aurobindo examined the pre-war situation he found a dark being rising. He realised that war was unavoidable and chose to back the Allied powers. After Hitler passed away, Sri Aurobindo was able to prevent the Korean and Vietnam Wars from causing nuclear catastrophes. He was able to avert the Cuban missile crisis. He did all this from the subtle plane.

- With respect to women's suffrage we can clearly see several distinct stages.
  - When suffragettes were protesting outside the White House, they were pardoned by the President. But they refused to accept the pardon.
  - Only 35 out of the required 38 states endorsed the bill. Of the 35, five later withdrew their consent.
  - A top female graduate of a law school was refused a job in all law firms and in the Supreme Court also. Later she became a Supreme Court Judge.
  - Though States were forbidden to deny Blacks the voting rights, they used the discretionary power given to them to deny the vote to Blacks.

Women in America were not clamouring for the vote en masse. Only some spirited women were putting up protests. This meant that the time had not yet come. Though the general climate was positive, individual incidents turned negative such as the withdrawal of endorsements by five States. That a leading female law graduate was unable to get a job in a law firm shows that *the distance between a general positive atmosphere and a favourable individual decision was still very great.*

When the atmosphere is very negative, mere legal sanction is not enough. In the regimes of Hitler and Stalin and Duryodhana these principles are well brought out. *When the atmosphere is negative, one small deficiency can undo the whole effort. Conversely when the atmosphere is supportive, one small*

*positive incident can show that the subtle plane is ready for the abolition of War.*

- *Mafia operates most successfully when they follow the rules of business.*
- Bootleggers operated freely.
- Dissipation is an unavoidable stage for society to pass through.
- *What Lenin said about electricity is true of all new discoveries. Now it applies to computer*
- *The growth of USA is a vindication of the claim that as prosperity improves, God retreats.*

Sri Aurobindo has asserted that the Omnipresent Reality has become the universe. If so, a few truths emerge out of that statement.

- *All is One.*
- *The Microcosm and Macrocosm have the same similar structure.*
- *As an atom is the basic unit of matter, an act is the basic unit of universal life.*
- *God did not create any evil.*
- *The rules of survival are the same for good and bad; for business as well as mafia.*
- *Experience of evil is necessary for man if he wants to become the whole.*
- *Dissipation and enjoyment are the same experience in opposite directions.*
- *The totalitarian state and the birthplace of freedom are both built upon the same resources.*
- *God is the power who can lift man to the next higher level.*

In a broad sense life in America was built up by the mafia. It

was a virgin land that man found for settlement and he started operating there without any government or legal framework. *It is the elementary rules of life led as a struggle that have been later refined into the rules that govern business today.* Law eliminated bootlegging much before people came forward to give it up. The law took control of the East and its civilising influence tried to spread to the western parts of America.

People who work hard all day long need something to relax in the evening hours and all over the world liquor has given them that relaxation. The men who went to America to earn a living were primarily physical and not mental. They had no organised mind to impose its discipline on them. They needed a refreshing rest that would help them recover their energies for next day's work. *Theoretically men go to Sachchidananda during sleep and get their energy replenished there.* Drink does not take man to the superconscious level. It will take him only to the unconscious level. It hardly matters to workers where they go as long as they get the rest they need. A life of elementary survival is inevitably accompanied by mafia-style business. *It later gets refined into regular business as we know today. As life gets more civilised, hard liquor also gets replaced by soft drinks.*

*Man exists biologically as well as economically. He progresses also educationally. There is religion to sustain him through all these phases. Man survives physically so long as his health is all right. His health stays all right so long as it is tuned to the environment. When the environment changes that tuning can get disturbed and people can perish as a result. Those who are hardy are able to survive. In the field of economics, changes in the mode of production can have dramatic effects. The wheel, fire and stone tools had major impacts at the dawn of civilisation.* Electricity, car, and telephone have had their impacts at the time of their discoveries. Computer is now having revolutionary results in all sectors of the economy.



- The German scientist Karl Ballod wrote a book stressing “all electricity state”.
- It is this book that impressed Lenin very much and made him issue his famous equation that Electricity + Soviets = Socialism.
- An engineering expert who visited California for health reasons became involved in the largest municipal power supply system in the world.
- The waters of the Colorado river were used to generate electricity for distribution to more than one state.
- The expert made cheap electricity available to all of California which enabled that state to become second only to New York in power consumption.
- When the national average was only 35% for electric connections, California had 83% electric connections.
- While the national cost of electricity was \$2.17 per kilowatt, the cost for California was only \$1.42 per kilowatt.
- California alone generated 10% of US electric power.
- At a time when 90% of American farms had no electricity, all farms in California were running on electricity. Pumps were irrigating the fields and even cows were milked by electric pumps.
- Los Angeles had a transport system that operated on electricity.
- Harriman, a railroad owner, had a great interest in providing California with a cheap railway system. He succeeded in that and gave California a railway system that ran for 1164 miles. It was one major reason for Southern California becoming a prime growth area.

*Though growth can be absolute, it is comparative growth that interests man very much. When he knows that he is performing a little better than his neighbour it boosts his self-esteem.* When the general monthly pay is in the range of 8,000/-

rupees, I.T. offers an average pay of 16,000/- per month. This difference is prompting many people to try for I.T. jobs. What inspired Europeans to migrate to America was the offer of ten times higher wages than what they were getting in Europe. The American success story started with rebellion against the class system that led to mass emigration to the USA. It expressed itself there as higher production that was characterised by scarcity of labour, higher wages, labour saving machinery and practical organisation. *It finally ended with a general scientific curiosity.*

American politicians have a habit of mentioning God in the beginning and end of their statements. During the Civil War Lincoln noted that the southerners were also mentioning God. Obviously by God they were only referring to their self-righteous will or their highest aspiration. *But whatever is meant by the term God, it is good for man to invoke his highest self.*

- *People who live in different phases of social growth — survival, social survival, development, ascetic withdrawal, yogic concentration and intellectual inspiration — have as their God that social instrument which best serves that purpose.*
- *In pre-independence days for Indians mere physical survival was God.*
- *To those living in rural India, getting an education and an urban job was God.*
- *Nowadays the aspiration is to go and settle in the US.*
- *For Americans living around the 1900s, attaining a good living standard was his God.*

A few years ago there used to be a craze to make it to the grade of millionaire in the US. But now that is no longer the main objective since a good part of the population is moving in that direction without any conscious initiative on their part.

The family life has disintegrated and young men coming out



of their parental home are not even inclined to have a regular marriage. With no wife and no family, they have nothing to aspire for. What is their God now is the question.

- *That which is unattainable is God for man.*
- *That happiness that eludes the grasp of everybody becomes his goal and God.*
- *God actually is not happiness as happiness is a sensation of the lower vital.*
- *Whatever be the typical American's conception of God, that is not how religions describe him. His aspiration is his social goal.*
- *At different times God meant different things to different people.*
- Whether it be a totalitarian state or a free country, the value of electricity is one and the same. It is the same for other things such as organisation, values and laws of life. Our endeavour is to develop a Theory based on all these truisms.

- America is an immense land of enormous potentials. *People who had the knack of getting into the larger rhythm were able to achieve in unlimited measure.*
- Even by 1915 the Hollywood payroll was in the range of 20 million dollars annually.
- During that year Hollywood was producing one movie a day.
- All the movie tycoons had essentially similar origins. They all came from very large poverty-stricken families.
- Laemmle worked in various capacities as clerk, book keeper and store manager before venturing into movies and founding the first studio.
- Marcus Loew worked at odd jobs like printing and fur trading and went bankrupt twice before the age of 30.

Undaunted, he launched a theatre chain and finally was able to found Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

When movie production started in Hollywood, the locals wrote a petition urging the government to remove the studios. The studios came there attracted by the cheap electricity, sunshine and litigation-free atmosphere of Southern California. In barely two years the studios started spending 20 million on their payroll. No wonder that the complaints died down. New York that was without any amusement parks in 1890, sprouted one thousand of them in barely a decade.

How can an industry rise to the level of 20 million dollars of payroll in barely two years? How can one thousand amusement parks come up in ten years only? What enables penniless men to found world famous studios? Obviously it is not money, as they did not have it in any considerable measure. How was electricity made available in such vast quantities at such cheap rates? How can a thousand amusement arcades hope to draw enough customers?

- If people were enjoying high wages, where did it come from?
- If high energy is the source of high wages, it needs to be explained.
- The American nation was built by men who worked for long hours as otherwise they would not have survived.
- External compulsion was one reason. We have to find out what was the inner reason that made them rise to the occasion.
- Inwardly these men came to America with a determination to survive.
- *The outward demands and the inner determination went together and resulted in productive work and rewarding wages.*
- *The outer immensity of that land invited a response*

*from the inner infinity which came in the form of a determination.*

- *This determination to achieve was there in agriculture, industry and trade and just about any other field that the Americans entered into.*
- *Those men who gave such an inner response rose to the top levels of society and took with them all those who worked with them also to the top.*
- *It was a land of adventure that gave a call to the infinite urge in Man to respond.*
- *Talents are utterly unconnected from values.*
- *Electric microphones arrived in 1925.*
- *The attempts to eliminate Blacks from the music industry failed totally.*
- *Coolidge who became the President in 1923 adopted a strategy of inactivity. He also believed in higher aspirations that came from above.*

*Capacity brings success irrespective of values is true. But this is qualified by the social atmosphere. Before a formed society develops, talents devoid of moral values may bring benefits. But as society advances it is bound to acquire some values. There are societies where values are honoured where it matters most such as at home. There are societies where they are upheld even in areas where it matters little. The individual, society and the moment all interact to decide how much values will be respected.*

By 1915 America was a prosperous nation but without any fixed values. A lady named Lillian Russell was a great beauty with loose morals. She campaigned for New York Mayor on a platform of morality and she was listened to. This alone shows how unformed American society was at that point. Here in India we find corrupt politicians paying lip service to clean administration. These phenomena need to be seen from the Theory point of view.

- *At their origin talents and values are different entities.*
- *They can come in different types of combinations regardless of what we expect.*
- *In the measure society acquires culture and authority, talents will be subordinated to values.*
- *Even mature societies have periods of transition when values suffer a setback. At such times talents may assert themselves brushing aside values.*

Beauty had a high value in 1915 and it was on that strength that Lillian could take a moral stand in spite of her own moral deficiencies. Inferring from the behaviour of Lillian the moral complexion of the society requires a theoretical basis. It is our endeavour to find a theoretical basis for morality, efficiency, values, etc.

*Let us take the introduction of the microphone. Before its appearance, apart from the speaker's voice, his personality and appearance also mattered. Now the microphone carries the speaker's voice to a wider audience and greatly increases the power of his voice. When the reach is widened new factors enter and add to the complexity. When complications set in, individuals are likely to narrow down their choices. Every new technological advance had such a complicating tendency. When individuals enhance their faculties then also complications arise from the inside. From 1915 till now both inner and outer complications have risen tremendously. Can we look at Lillian now from this distance and pronounce on her behaviour?*

Blacks in America have distinguished themselves in sports and music. Lack of mental development has enabled them to preserve the agility and nimbleness of their physical movements. *Music has its origin in the vital and their vital has also been allowed a free play due to the absence of a controlling mind.*

- *The attempt to exclude Blacks from the music industry failed because the US was moving in the direction of*

*integration and not exclusion.*

The swearing in of Coolidge, his attitude towards life and that of his wife can reveal a lot about American life if we correctly understand the life mechanisms that have brought about these events. In 1923 America was still an agricultural country. But by 1943 it had almost assumed world leadership as the defeat of Nazi Germany and Japan was near at hand.

- Though by 1923 America was still an agricultural nation, even by that time it was ahead of other countries in industrial production. It was advancing on the educational front also. More importantly the scientific temper was growing in the country in a horizontal as well as a vertical manner.
- *Even agriculture, which is a somewhat backward field, can help a nation lead the world if it is receptive to the latest technological advances.* Today in America the percentage of the population engaged in agriculture is only 3%. Still that seems to be enough to make America lead the world in farm production. This shows that *it is not the quantity of operation but quality of operation that matters.*

When President Harding died, the Vice-President Coolidge was away at his farm. The Attorney-General wanted him to take oath of office at once. Coolidge's father happened to be a notary. He made his son swear on the family Bible and take the oath of office.

- When we note the rustic circumstances of the swearing-in of a President and the fact that in the next twenty years America led the world, we are reminded of the distance that the country had to travel to achieve that feat. The same kind of rapid progress is available to everybody

in the world including Indians.

- *Coolidge and his wife believed in passive inactivity which is one form of the power of Silence.*

Men who have accomplished a lot know about the power of silence and the power of not taking initiative. The Vedic Rishis knew about the power of silence and modelled their daily life on that basis. Generals, Presidents and CEOs of big companies have acknowledged the power of silence in helping them achieve their eminence. The power of silence has its higher versions also. *One expression of that is to desist from proving the rightness of our conviction whether it be the validity of a principle we have discovered or a mathematical theorem. When we desist it will be proved by somebody else. Sri Aurobindo has commented that great saints have performed miracles, greater saints have refused to perform them and the greatest have both performed and derided miracles.*

- *Andre Siegfried said that the US is developing a new social structure.*
- Coolidge advocated non-interference in business when Hitler, Mussolini and Kemal Ataturk, Chiang-Kai-Shekh and Stalin were trying to gain greater power for the state in running the economy.
- There was greater distribution of prosperity in the USA than anywhere else in communities of equivalent size.
- Whenever there was surplus money it was spent on education.
- In 1920 almost all facets of culture experienced an impressive growth.

Social evolution can proceed in many ways. We will consider two ways here. *One is that it can be guided by the government and the second method is that of self-guidance. The need for government guidance arises when there is a need for authority*

*to initiate or guide development. But dynamic societies will find government involvement very much of a hindrance.*

- *Guidance should be of such a nature as to be of help and not be a hindrance.*

Nehru who took to a socialist pattern of development soon found out that there must be something to distribute in the first place. He was frank enough to admit the paucity of wealth which prevented the distribution. *All those leaders from Stalin to the Shah of Iran made the mistake of believing that the government could make the society prosper.*

- *A society develops by its own aspiration. Government is too small and cumbersome an agency for promoting development. The role of the government comes in normally after development of the society and not before that. A government can at best give knowledge, guidance and demonstration to the people and be a catalyst for development.* Even a parent cannot take full responsibility for the development of his own child except at the risk of impeding his growth. Then, where is the question of the government taking over the responsibility of developing the whole society? *The government does not have the complete knowledge of the laws of social growth. Even the society itself does not have it. When society grows it grows subconsciously. Even assuming that the government acquires such a knowledge, does it have the machinery to implement this knowledge? The main role of the government is to maintain law and order. It can monitor social growth by enacting various necessary laws and regulations. Even there it must act cautiously so that it does not end up choking the springs of energy.*

*A society can develop on its own only. Backward societies can receive help from their government. But even that help should not be in the form of money. It will be safe for the government to spread technology through society. Subsidies are far from helpful in promoting development. They actually impede development as they make society greedy and demand for more subsidies irrespective of whether it is right or not.* America is an entrepreneurial society and not a capitalist one. It came to be labelled as capitalist by mistaken identification. The crash of 1929 was the symptom of the American entrepreneurial system having come under the capitalist mould. *It is at such points that we need government regulations to curb the ill effects of people's greed.*

The aim of socialism and communism is to distribute prosperity equally throughout the population. It is a commendable aim. Marx assumed that the State was eminently equipped to do that work. But the Soviet experience has shown that State-run communism would be a disaster. The US has achieved the same result in a natural manner all by itself. There are some basic truisms in operation here which we need to know:-

- *Government is only a part of society. As such it can serve and guide society and regulate its movements. But it is not equipped to dominate over it.*
- By 1917 governments all over the world were only trained to take care of the borders and maintain law and order. No government at that time was fit to take over the entire administration. In Soviet Union the government took over even production and distribution. *It is this overburdening of the State that turned it into a police one.*

Let us now study the American experience as it has raised a few basic questions:-

- To what extent can the freedom of the individual be curtailed?
- Are new social organisations developing to take over the task of guiding society?
- Has the phase of prosperity come to an end and has a new phase of knowledge or inner well-being commenced?

These are fundamental questions that have been occupying human thought for a long time. When these questions are connected to prosperity and income, it looks like they are new issues. The issues involved in analysing the American experience are:-

- Individual freedom can be exercised in the arts and other creative fields.
- When prosperity has reached a sufficient intensity and coverage, people will be drawn to those areas where society has developed an awareness.
- Internet functions in such a way that effective ownership of knowledge has become no longer possible.
- *Money promotes the acquisitive nature in man. But knowledge tends to give itself out.*
- Psychological well being is already emerging as a worthwhile goal.
- *If it becomes a dominant aim, then Giving will become more important than Taking.*
- Internet has made it possible to spread even subtle knowledge to a wider circle.

*Once a good standard of living has been reached, people are likely to pay less interest to economic matters and redirect their attention to other things in their minds. Economics may assume a secondary importance as has happened with agriculture and food supply in the West.* Whatever be the position it will assume in future, the Development Theory must pronounce its

viewpoint on the role of economics in development and social evolution.

The Theory must pronounce its stand on the Depression.

- The point of view must be wider than that of conventional economics. But at the same time it must be grounded in solid facts that are correct to the minute details.
- *The wider point of view is that though money is only a part, it can become important enough to control the whole.*
- *The part becoming strong enough to dominate the whole can be very detrimental to the whole. The part can be anything--production, religion, family and money etc.*
- *If our view is right, it must be applicable to all facets and events that happened at the time of Depression irrespective of whether they are big or small. These include the American President, the social thrust, the economy and even such minor events as American suffragettes' unwillingness to accept pardon.*
- To pronounce on even small events we need accurate information. If we are to explain why the suffragettes refused to accept the pardon, we need details about those individual women. These may be difficult to collect. However whatever, we are able to prove should be correct and precise.

From the point of view of Karl Marx the Depression can be taken as a signal of the death of capitalism which he predicted would come at some time. He felt capital was plundered from the labourers. Plundering as Marx described it cannot be applied to all situations. Can we describe the fabulous earnings of a movie star as an amount plundered from the audience? His earnings are the reward for his efforts.



- *Nature should not be judged by our ethical standards.*
- *Judging the part by the present is not very rational. Judgement interferes with understanding.*
- *What Marx pronounced was a profound but partial truth. Pronouncements have to overcome this partiality and need to represent the whole if they are to be valid.*
- Marx considered factories and fields to be the means of production. But this is a narrow point of view. Man is the originator of production and factories and fields are only the outer expressions which are means.
- *Our thesis is that the Depression was caused by money taking over the process of production.* This hypothesis however needs to be factually verified and vindicated.
- If our thesis is valid, we must be able to see Money affecting all crucial steps in the decision-making process that ultimately led to the crash. On the other hand, we must also be able to show Man overcoming money in the process of recovery.
- *Proving the general validity of this Theory requires us to show that other entities can also play such dominating and detrimental roles.* The army is a good example of this.
- We understand that the Depression of 1929 caused widespread unemployment and poverty. This is the definition of Depression from the economic point of view which is a partial point of view. What was essentially an American phenomenon later became a global one. As our Theory deals with social evolution as a whole, such a global context will help.

*A crash occurs when there is imbalance and one-sided concentration.* It is said that during the 1920s prosperity was more widely distributed in America than anywhere else. It involved the economic improvement of millions of people who had never known economic security. During the 1920s a

housing boom occurred in America that endowed 11 million people with homes of their own.

- The automobile enabled the lowest level of Americans to become mobile. *Mobility makes people become productive as mobility means conquest of space and time.* What used to be the exclusive advantage of the rich now became available for the poor also.
- Life insurance and industrial insurance exceeded the million mark.
- Savings rose four times during the decade.
- Factory workers, housekeepers, clerks, drivers and mechanics all owned more than 50 or more shares in public utilities.
- Government as well as individual families spent the surplus in the field of education as a first priority.

Nature shaped America in freedom to achieve the communist ideal of Karl Marx. The Soviet experiment served to prove only the truth that

- *No government can compel the society to acquire prosperity.*

Communism is a desirable goal. But it is not something that can be achieved according to our understanding. *Governments cannot bring about this transformation.* European society was too rigid to permit such a transformation.

*Therefore Nature shaped a new society in a new place that could develop in total freedom and achieve the ideal of universal prosperity as envisioned by communism.* When we see that the 1920s was a decade of widespread prosperity, the question arises as to how the Depression occurred towards the end of the decade. The main causes of poverty and unemployment are:-



- Failure of the monsoon.
- Surplus grain production that is allowed to rot in the godowns.
- Excess labour force that is unable to find jobs.
- Exhaustion of raw materials.
- Absence of mobility that prevents excess from one area going to areas that are in deficit.
- Lack of purchasing power.
- *Unwillingness of the population to take to a new lifestyle that could absorb the excess production.*
- *Absence of education that breeds superstitions that impede economic growth.*
- *Religious fanaticism and fundamentalism that is a bar to economic progress.*

But none of these conditions were present in the USA at the time of the crash. The conditions prevailing then were actually the opposite of these. So we have to look at the government, army, religion, finance, trade and other things to find out what exactly caused the crash of 1929.

The Great Depression is seen primarily as an economic incident and can be explained from that point of view. But that would be a partial explanation. *A theoretical explanation would go to the root causes and fundamental principles. As such it will attempt to cover a much wider range than economics alone and could possibly cover the whole society itself. Credit is an innovative extension of Money and as such it is a gift of Mind to life.* A good deal of the progress achieved in modern times is due to the availability of credit. *When such a fine institution is misused, what emerges is not the second best. But according to Sri Aurobindo, by a curious alchemy, what emerges is the worst. Though credit is a mental institution, in the hands of man it is used by the ego. There was a time when ego was a help. But those days are over and now when evolution is moving to the spiritual plane ego is functioning as an obstacle.*

*As human personality has a negative side, human institutions have a negative side too. When human ego misuses credit the negative side of credit also comes to the surface. Together they have wrecked havoc on the society as well as the individual.*

- *As credit can wreck an individual's life, money can destroy a whole society when we activate its negative side.*
- *Spiritual Truths such as Love, Knowledge, Beauty and Silence are wholly pure without any negative side.*
- *Credit and Money are only social symbols and they are not basic truths.*
- *A symbol has two sides which are content and appearance. Knowledge which is content has an appearance in the form of degree. As an outer symbol degree has its true side as well as a false side.*
- *The false side of a symbol can be activated in which case it destroys itself as well as its field of operation.*
- *The Theory explains the Depression as an artificial incident brought about by exercising the wrong side of money. Such an exercise destroyed society as well as the currency value of money itself.*
- Since 1929 we see that society has adopted various regulations that tend to control the negative side of money.
- As US production constituted 34% of world production, the impact of the negative disturbance was bound to spread world wide.
- What I have stated here is only a theoretical proposition. It needs to be validated by research into banks, trade and industry, etc. that will show how the real value of money was extended artificially.

— Coolidge had the habit of hiding under the table.

- He believed that he lost his son and father by assuming the Presidency.
- Grace Coolidge believed that the time had come to spend the money. But she felt that she was not qualified to do that.
- In 1914 the US had 1.3 million cars, one for every five people.
- Expenses on laying roads rose from 11 million dollars in 1820 to 412 million dollars in 1929.

Money in America multiplied more quickly than in other places. Whenever excess energy is released for some reason, it has a tendency to be used at the lowest level. The American economy was in a boom and was generating a lot of money. That money could not be used for higher purposes of cultural activity before the lower side of convenience and comfort got saturated.

*Any developing society needs a strong government and an able leader. An able leader must exhibit a strong character as well as pleasant manners.* In the 19th century the government in the US was not formed fully since police, army and currency were weakly organised. The nation was lucky to have Lincoln as a President who was strong enough to unify the nation. But she was unfortunate to have Jackson as a President who could not even appreciate the progressive role that paper currency could play. He was foolish enough to close down the bank that was functioning as the Federal Bank. During the time of Coolidge's presidency the economy was expanding and he had the ability to promote that expansion. His wife had the subtle knowledge that an expanding economy needs an attitude of spending on the part of the public. That is relevant to the Theory.

- *Expansiveness depends upon the capacity for expenditure.*
- *His habit of hiding under the table shows that talents*

- *can be more easily developed than manners.*
- *Prosperity was there so much in the atmosphere that it came to the people even before they developed the habit of spending.*
- Statistics on per capita income, car ownership, expenditure on radio and index on growth all show that the country was clearly in a booming phase during the 1920s.
- The crash came in spite of the boom. The crash was definitely economic in nature but not in its origin. It came as a result of the deliberate misuse of money in destroying what had been laboriously built up over a century.
- *A high burst of energy characteristically precedes the formation of manners or self-discipline.*
  - Many workers left unions as soon as they purchased a second hand car.
  - *Nothing to fear but fear itself.*
  - According to Paul Johnson the actual reasons behind the crash that lasted from October 1929 to the start of World War II remain a mystery after nearly half a century of historical and economic research.
  - The Federal Banks of the USA and Britain tried to maintain the prosperity level of their countries by deliberately inflating their money supply. This was done without consulting the people or even informing the legislature.
  - In order to maintain the money in circulation the credit supply was increased from \$45 million to \$73 million between 1921 -1929.

Marx proposed a take-over of the means of production as a way to usher in socialism. But America has achieved the level of prosperity that socialists dreamed of without government

take-over of production. The same goal was reached through a different route. The instrument chosen was the car. Techniques of mass production made the car become available at a cheap price. Simultaneously the wages of workers also became much higher than before. As soon as they bought a car the workers felt that they had entered the middle class. Even the purchase of a second hand car made the workers quit the union. *The goal of widespread prosperity was achieved in a non-violent manner by a revolution in the market place in the form of higher wages and cheaper products.*

It was President Roosevelt who made the announcement that the American public had nothing to fear except fear itself. *It was an observation that shows that the man who made it was touched by infinity. This call to dispense with fear shows that the American people were capable of acquiring the very attitude that they would get after a successful revolution. Therefore a violent revolution became unnecessary.*

Johnson talks about the mystery of the crash. There is a story of a group of fools who after crossing a stream counted themselves to verify if all had made the crossing. The group consisted of ten people. Each one who made the counting ended up with only a figure of nine as they all made the mistake of not counting themselves. Finally a wayfarer counted them all and solved the problem. Such ignorance affects even academic research. If fifty years of research has failed to pinpoint the cause of the crash, it is because the research is done with the same narrow perspective that originally caused the problem. *So long as research is focussed on products, money and market it is not likely to yield the answer. One must widen the perspective and focus on society which is the whole and then the answer will come.*

— Strong and Norman, Governors of the Federal Bank and Bank of England managed international finances.

- The US government insisted on the return of its war-time loans.
- It also discriminated in the issue of disbursement of loans.
- It helped foreign governments to mobilise cheap money in New York markets.
- It was done with the intention of supporting certain regimes and keeping the international economy functioning.
- Domestic industry and the export business and investment bankers all benefitted. Only the American public was hurt as it was not allowed competitive prices.
- Keynes is reputed to be the man who rescued the world in the intervening years between the wars from laissez-faire economics. But Johnson calls it a myth.
- The German expert protested. He felt that printing excess currency notes was the single greatest mistake of the American government.
- In the period between 1921-1929 the productivity of the American worker rose by 43%
- Money was artificially manipulated to increase income from rent, interest and dividend. The income from these was twice as high as from wages.

*Society generates many organisations. Government is the most comprehensive organisation it has created so far. The army used to be the largest organisation created by the government. But today money is a much more powerful organisation than the military.* Misuse of military power in occupied areas used to be rampant in the past. But the capacity of money to control society is much larger today. While military leaders were responsible for violations in occupied countries, manipulations of money is done by the government. Such manipulations may not benefit individuals. But it helps to affirm the power of the

government in directing the economy.

*Instruments designed for the benefit of society can sometimes damage society itself when they are misused or get out of control. Military seizing power and displacing governments is a common occurrence. Transport that was developed to promote agriculture in the US became exploitative at some point. So it is not surprising that money became detrimental to society when it got out of control.* Johnson claims that the cause of the Depression still remains a mystery. But we can confidently assert that a booming economy was ruined by money manipulations at national and international levels. A research can be undertaken to validate this claim and support it with facts.

- Though bankers, businessmen and Wall Street experts had all been manipulating money, they actually did not understand how the system works.
- Keynes failed to predict the crash and also could not tell how long it would last.
- The dangers of self-regulating economy included the dangers of ill-informed meddling also.
- When people are happy they tend to believe in just about anything. They bought and sold indiscriminately. The value of shares changing hands in 1927 was 567 million dollars. Later it rose to 920 million.

When the Fed was established, regulations were formulated. A worth of six million dollars expanding to a billion and half million expanding to 680 million is a demonstration of money power. In the beginning banks multiplied the money in their hands by three times and later on by nine times. Such an expansion, however, kept the power of money within the realm of social power. But nowadays Money power is expanding at the rate of 160 times and even 1300 times *which has enabled money power to exceed social power*. The North conducted the

war against the South with only a quarter of real money and the rest was financed by paper currency. As at present money power is in a position to expand even by a hundred times.

We have to substantiate this claim with valid calculations. From 1945 till now money supply has risen from 30 billion dollars to 3 trillion dollars which is an expansion of a hundred times. Out of their expansion we have to deduct that part of the expansion that resulted from improvements in productivity. One calculation estimates the rise in productivity at fifty times. This can help us assess the rise in production. After this we should be in a position to calculate the expansion of money power on the strength of speed, creation of new institutions, creativity, etc. That will help us arrive at the point beyond which money supply should not cross. For all his academic knowledge, Keynes was not able to predict the extent or duration of the crash. The extent of the crash will be decided by the extent of overstepping and the duration will be decided by the time we take to return to the limits.

- The market was not merely discounting the future. It discounted for all time to come.
- The new investment trusts amassed money in no time.
- The United Founders Corporation rose from \$500 to \$686 million worth.
- Another rose from 6 million dollars to a billion dollar worth.

*Experience is followed by efficiency which in turn is followed by education. Experience that comes before education will be unconscious. Such unconscious efficiency is liable to go wrong at any time when activities extend beyond the supporting foundation. Confidence based on ignorance can lead to manipulation that leads to wrong results. But knowledge based confidence results in efficiency only and avoids manipulation.* According to Johnson all the experts were very confidently

doing their job. But it is equally true that they were ignorant of the nature of the system that they were working on. Keynes was the author of much of that manipulation. His perverse moral life had a contribution in the economic dislocation also.

J P Morgan believed that *the market was the best regulator of the economy*. His belief was true in his time. Moreover he was a man of integrity and that helped him to save the market. In choosing to help the trusts and corporations he was not blind and indiscriminate. He chose those worthy of recovery after looking into their accounts. But during the 1920's boom no such discrimination was there. People indulged in speculation in a blind manner with nobody exercising control. 950 million exchanges took place in a population of 110 million.

- The expansion of the economy ceased by 1929. Though the quantitative expansion came to an end, the qualitative one would continue.
- Business ups and downs are the mechanisms that enable the economy to self-adjust.
- The business community needs to be patient till this self-adjustment takes place.
- In 1920 it took about a year. In 1929 too the economy could have self-adjusted.
- Had there been patience the economy would have readjusted by 1930. But that did not happen and we have to find out why.
- President Hoover refused to use government authority to restore the economy. It was left to FDR in 1933 to intervene and restore the economy.
- Hoover attempted some of the aspects of New Deal. But for some reason it did not work. Such anomalies made Johnson comment that history has no justice or logic in it. It seems to be mere chronology.
- According to Theodore Roosevelt, *when an ordinary man loses money he behaves like a wounded snake and*

*attacks right and left.*

- FDR won by a huge margin. But Walter Lippmann viewed him as a man with no grasp on national affairs.
- FDR and Hoover were quite mean to each other.
- The crash weakened American individuality and made many people become totally dependent on the state.

Johnson gives a good summary of the depression in facts, figures and opinions. He is however partial to Hoover and tries to show that Hoover started the New Deal.

- The economy left to itself would have come back to normal.
- Government intervention was perceived as meddling by Johnson.
- World War II saved the world and pulled it out of the Depression.

*The theoretical position when society is growing is that it can be allowed a certain freedom. After growth has been established, the freedom must be replaced by government regulations. The individual must voluntarily submit to the authority of the collective.* FDR, who had an aristocratic background was the right man to restore the economy back to health. The facts and the theoretical positions are given below:-

- The initial protests scientific and otherwise came mainly from priests.
- *(According to the Theory, the past is the basis of the future).*
- The Indian freedom movement was led by five people — Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, Jinnah and Liaquat — who were all lawyers trained in the Inner Temple.
- It is the free political atmosphere of Britain that helped congressmen to build up the freedom movement. The



British did not resort to the suppression that Stalin and Hitler were capable of.

- It is the education given by the church that nurtured Luther and scientists like Galileo.
- *The total freedom an individual enjoys is only a temporary phase and not a permanent one. The individual's final duty is to foster the growth of the collective. As man is not conscious, a crisis develops to make him aware of this truth.*
- *A generation of conservatism breeds radicalism in the next generation. This happens even in the families of leaders. When we organise something, it tends to breed the opposite in the next generation is one of the tenets of the Development Theory.*
- When an economy expands the quantitative growth in any field comes to a stop when it reaches saturation level. Then the growth shifts to the qualitative level, as we see with computers. When land transport reaches a saturation point, transport moves to air which is qualitatively superior. *The field of transport remaining the same, the nature of expansion changes. As such it is not wise to expect quantitative expansion to continue forever.*

Johnson's claim that the slump would have adjusted itself could have been right had there been a steadying influence in the economy. That, however, was not true. The war came as a boost to lift up the economy. When it ended in 1945, the Depression should have come back. But it did not. Did the economy self-adjust? No. The government consciously started the Marshall Plan to sustain the demand that the war economy had created. Though the hot war ended, the Cold War began and it helped to sustain the war-time demand.

The economy recovering its health cannot be compared to the body recovering its health after a brief period of illness.

The economy took a downward turn after speculation was consciously introduced. Once introduced speculation gets a life of its own and would like to persist. It has no incentive to put an end to itself. A claim that the market would restore itself is based on two assumptions.

1) The market has a steadying influence. 2) Speculation will die a natural death. The first assumption is partly true. But even that partial truth gets cancelled when something undesirable such as financial manipulation enters the scene.

It shows a callous tendency on the part of Hoover to have ignored the veterans' protest. The callousness becomes all the more acute when we learn that he sat down for a sumptuous meal with his wife when veterans were being beaten outside. He used to slight even FDR by keeping him waiting on crutches. FDR returned the slight by refusing to provide him with security when Hoover's life was in danger. That such behaviour was exhibited by presidents of the country shows very clearly that *wealth was acquired much faster than manners.*

Cheerfulness helps to solve problems is a well-known yogic principle. FDR had that cheerfulness. It was one major reason for his amazing ability to handle World War II and problems generated by the Depression.

*Self-adjustment is a principle operative not only in economy but also in health, politics, weather and religious affairs. Still, it is a partial principle and its role differs from time to time. No safe generalisation can be made on this theme. All we can say is that an organisation can restore itself if the disturbance coming from outside is weaker than its central personality.*

- The Americans make very good diplomats.
- The Washington Naval Conference changed Japan from being an active ally into a potential enemy.
- Japan woke up to the possibility of attacking European possessions in South East Asia after it realised the limitations of the American Naval base.



- American attempts to safeguard world peace were usually counter productive.
- In the intervening years between the two World Wars the American army was smaller than the armies of many countries such as Czechoslovakia, Poland, Turkey and Spain. General MacArthur had the only limousine in the army.
- Hoover did not voice any serious objection to Japanese occupation of Manchuria.
- Britain responded to German rearmament with only gestures of appeasement.
- There was a widespread fear of a Second World War.
- The Depression struck after 75 years of economic development. But once it struck it reduced half the population to poverty.
- There were complaints that the international arms trade was fostering World Wars.
- Another serious charge was that the links between the Wilson administration, the banks and the arms dealers brought the US into World War I.
- American foreign policy witnessed sharp changes as the years passed. It used to distinguish between aggressors and victims. But then it changed to a position of neutrality wherein both parties were treated on equal terms. This is the attitude that they displayed during the UN hearing of Kashmir disputes.

The Tatas introduced professional management practices in their coffee and tea estates and made more than 50% profits. The Americans valued perfection in work more than anything else and this made them excellent ambassadors all over the world. The Japanese dedication to their Throne plus their insularity and the military tradition of the Samurai clan all combined to activate their passion for war. The Washington Naval conference alerted the Japanese to the possibility of attacking European

possessions in Southeast Asia. Military conferences are very sensitive occasions and require a very alert frame of mind. The Americans did not have that alertness and so ended up creating a new problem for themselves.

This is the creativity of Non-Being. We are fully involved with Being. But at times of confrontation we sometimes activate that part of the Non-Being that is close to Being. Potentials hidden in non-Being then come into action. Undue worry about military attacks often makes such attacks become a reality. *Attention whether positive or negative often energises the thing that it is focussed on.*

It is interesting that in the years intervening between the World Wars the US army was ranked 16th in terms of size and it was smaller than that of Turkey's. The total number of soldiers and officers counted upto only 1,36,000. But it is amazing that when an emergency arose they quickly built up their army into a very big one. *This is a confirmation of the Theory that when one is determined to achieve, this progress can be infinite.*

Wilson assuming the Presidency marked the end of a long period of Republican domination of US politics. Though he was idealistic he was unaware of the fact that the world was offering its leadership to the USA. That America chose isolationism is a proof of its profound ignorance of what was being offered. German failure to keep up its promise of not sinking American ships brought the US into war on the side of the Allied powers. At the end of the First World War world leadership was again offered to them. The following sequence of events show how the League of Nations became ineffective.

- It is the money power of the American economy that attracted world leadership and not American political maturity.
- The Republicans did not get the opportunity to lead the world.
- World leadership came to the USA in the form of Wilson

after successful conclusion of WWI.

- Wilson and his American team brought their wives to the Paris Conference which lowered the gravity of the atmosphere.
- Wilson wrote his 14 points in a hurry and did not even give it due consideration.
- Wilson offered the chair to George Clemenceau, the French Premier, who used it to tear apart Germany.
- This effectively marked the end of the US participation in the League.

Wilson's insistence on isolationism, his bringing his wife to the conference at Paris, his hasty writing down of the 14 points and Clemenceau's outburst at Germany are all symptoms of the arrival of WWII. Had the US accepted leadership of the world, the Post War depression would not have occurred. The fact that there is as yet no general consensus on the causes of the Great Crash shows that the world has not become mature enough to dispense with war. That lack of maturity is helping terrorism to persist in the world. If scholars can pinpoint the cause of the Depression, the World Conscience will at once awaken to the possibility of ending war or at least admit that war is no longer necessary.

The US did not take Japan's attack on Manchuria seriously. It responded only when Pearl Harbour was attacked. Had America responded positively when world leadership was offered to it, it would have helped avert WWII. Britain took the weak attitude of appeasement towards Germany. The arms industries kept themselves busy by exporting arms to other countries. The US became small-minded and was more interested in seeking some economic gains than in accepting world leadership. It was during this time that the US adopted a morally neutral stand and started treating disputing parties as equals. It erased the distinction between the aggressor and the victim and treated India and Pakistan alike when the Kashmir dispute arose in the

UN. Such neutrality is not the mark of the leader. It is the mark of a judge.

For seventy long years the US remained the richest country in the world. But when the Depression struck it reduced half the population to poverty. We can understand the Depression lowering the general standard of living. But how can the Depression be so powerful as to reduce half the population to indigence? The Depression may be mainly an economic phenomenon. But we have to understand that the force working behind the incident is the evolutionary force. When it acts positively, the results are great. When it acts negatively, the results can be catastrophic. A salaried employee can hope for a promotion or increment. But when he enters politics the least he can hope for is the post of an MLA. *When the evolutionary force acts positively, it gives a great uplift. When it acts negatively, it can cause catastrophic effects.* Therefore we must understand that the Depression is the result of the evolutionary force acting negatively.

The First World War was known as the war to end all wars. But the fear of war did not end with the termination of WWI. It persisted beyond that and was pervasive throughout Europe. It was not peculiar to one individual or even one nation. Its universal nature suggests that it was of evolutionary origin.

- Johnson felt that FDR was no better than Chamberlain, Baldwin or Daladier in his readiness to oppose Hitler.
- It was not out of idealism that the US entered the war but out of sheer necessity.
- Those who have earned money through hard work know how valuable it is.
- Japanese military resources were only one tenth of the American resources. The Japanese generals were aware of it and took it into consideration.
- War was certainly avoidable from the point of view of Japan's ability to fight.

- The Lend-Lease act enabled Britain and the USSR to get 50.6 billion dollars worth of arms and ammunition.

The history of a nation can be presented from an economic, political, cultural and geographical perspective. There is also the developmental perspective which is presented here. A key component of development is the overcoming of obstacles and availing of opportunities. The Americans are adept at solving problems. *Any problem has its solutions inside it* and the Americans are good at discovering that. They even mastered problems such as raising a whole city five feet above the ground. Apart from problem solving, they are also good at availing of opportunities. These are two different activities. But they have extended their talents from one to the other. What they did not learn as yet was the art of creating opportunities.

The US could not avoid the war after 1941. The Second World War destroyed the class rigidities of Europe forever and uplifted the population from physicality to mentality. The vacillating attitudes displayed by the British leadership did not stem from mere hesitation. They were working for raising their standard of living when their very physical existence was at stake. Such foolishness invites certain destruction. Roosevelt was not any more alert than the British leaders about the dangers to his country. He woke up only after Pearl Harbour was attacked. Hitler's army was highly organised, motivated and ruthless. When they were so charged with the fighting spirit, the rest of Europe was in a surprisingly indifferent mood. It is amazing that the Allied Powers could still manage to win the war. The US army which was only 136,000 strong quickly expanded to 4 million which involved an expansion of thirty times. The Japanese generals and admirals were well aware of the fact that they could not hold out for long. The ratio of resources between the USA and Japan in terms of military strength was:-

| <u>Material</u> | <u>USA</u> | <u>Japan</u> |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| Steel           | 20         | 1            |
| Oil             | 100        | 1            |
| Coal            | 10         | 1            |
| Aircraft        | 5          | 1            |
| Shipping        | 2          | 1            |
| Labour          | 5          | 1            |
| -----           |            |              |
| Overall         | 10         | 1            |
| -----           |            |              |

Generosity, idealism and pragmatism are issues in this context. In the course of history many countries have been in the leading position in the world. Presently Nature has endowed America with that leadership. It comes to those countries that are imbued with the energy of idealism. *Idealism is an expression of the generosity of mind. It becomes real when on the physical plane it becomes pragmatic or practical.* We see all over the world people upholding the ideal of the Good Samaritan. Apart from goodwill, material help is also called for. Accomplishment of work in the material plane calls for such a help. Stated comprehensively, it can mean that one's personal earnings should go fully to public service. In America, private savings do go to public expenditure but by force of circumstances only and not by intention.

If American prosperity is thirty times higher than the rest of the world, it also means that they work thirty times harder than others. People who earn money the hard way are not likely to part with it easily. If something is happening by itself that gives a hint of the direction that money flow should take. It is not easy to earn money in the right way. It is more difficult to find good projects to spend the money on also. America sold arms and ammunition to other countries. Later on during WWII she lent arms to the Allies. Deserving the world leadership that she now enjoys would mean that America generously serves the

cause of the world. Theory wise, it will conflict with the other principle that *helping others invites trouble*. Such a conflict calls for reconciliation. Only idealism equips a person or nation to be the leader. Pragmatic idealism is a totally new concept. Since man is individually incapable of it, Nature expects the business class to devise ways and means for the rich to share their prosperity with the poor. *The appearance of better products at cheaper prices is the commercial organisation for sharing that prosperity*. World unity demands that nations develop such a self-giving. Giving away the fruits of hard labour is the evolutionary attitude that is called for. *Man accepting the attitudes that circumstances impose on him is to be in alignment with the evolutionary urge*.

### **Aggressive Socialism**

There are several aspects and sides to social evolution and they grow by stages.

- *One major movement is from the collective to the individual. That is succeeded by an equally important movement of going back to the collective from the individual.*
- *Growth occurs at the levels of physical, vital, mental, spiritual and Supramental planes. At each stage it is divisible into consciousness and substances. There is a further subdivision into positive and negative. Such subdivisions can be endlessly expanded till matter ends with the atom and life gets reduced to small individual acts.* However, we are considering here only the broad major categories of the first few levels.
- *When Time or space is conquered, the conquest of one is inclusive of another.*
- *Progress across the planes can be revealed as physical and vital sensations, emotional feeling, mental*

*perceptions, spiritual vision and intuition. Such a progression reveals in the individual and collective as subconscious and conscious growth.*

As America was energised by an attack from Japan, England was energised by Churchill who was outside the government. Given the unconsciousness of Europe and America, what really saved the world from Nazi domination was a Divine force invisible to our ordinary senses.

- *Man is his own enemy.* God had to fulfill himself by prodding America through Japan and save England through Churchill who was an arch enemy of India.
- When the established leadership of the world was not helpful, the Spirit of mankind rose and acted through whatever instrument was available to safeguard itself. India stood for Spirit and her freedom was the first post-war result.
- The assassination of the Archduke was a very flimsy excuse for Germany to launch a World War. The symptoms surrounding Nazi aggression show Hitler and his Nazi party to be fully immersed in the most virulent falsehood. A study conducted to gather such symptoms of war, terrorism and pollution will be a very valuable storehouse of knowledge.

*The army remains a fighting unit due to the devotion of the soldiers to the officers. The family remains an intact unit due to the emotional unity between the members. Schools function effectively on the basis of the devotion of the students to the teachers.*

- *The collective has several stages such as the family, caste, community, class and ethnic identity, the nation soul, etc.*

**In the nineteenth century aggressive European nationalism honoured national expansion.**

- Nations conquering other nations or other parts of the world have several stages.
- Mental development of Greece spread all over Europe.
- Vital development of Rome helped in the formation of the Roman Empire.
- The mental development of Greece was in the areas of language, poetry, philosophy and scientific enquiry.
- The mental development of Europe after the Middle Ages was displayed in the Renaissance, Reformation and the flowering of scientific enquiry.
- Vital development is in the creation of public law, founding an empire, conducting trade and commerce, developing technology through science, etc. The essence lies in the formation of organisation at each level.
- *Intellectual maturity expresses as precision of philosophic thought, finer development of language and awareness of the knowledge of life.* Paris became the cultural centre of Europe through its intellectual eminence that was expressed through the French language.
- *When mind descends into the physical it expresses as pragmatic useful skills.* Actually the invasion of Australia or the attack on the USA and intrusion into India were never seriously considered by Japan.

Europe was ruled by one big royal family and that ensured peace for forty years before the outbreak of WWI. The Russian Tsar, the German Kaiser and the Kings of Spain and England were all united by blood through intermarriage. It was a very good arrangement in the 19th century and it worked for several effective decades. This type of arrangement can be a good solution for physical conflicts. Nixon's visit to China in the 1970s did a lot to ease nuclear tensions caused by China

becoming a nuclear power. Nixon's visit opened up the Chinese market to American business and thereby promoted peace between the two countries. North Korea was once a very insignificant country in terms of political power. But now it is holding the whole world to ransom by threatening to launch nuclear weapons. Whatever be the reasons for Nixon's visit to China, it turned out to be lucky for the world.

- *Luck is the unconscious opportunity in the next higher plane.*
- What we are interested in is to find out if we can consciously generate such opportunities.
- If we look at history from the point of view of Life knowledge we can gather a lot of information on opportunities availed of and missed. That will give us a very good understanding that will prevent the recurrence of such incidents as the refusal of the Cripps plan.
- Such a study will enable the perceptive people to know all the subtle symptoms of how events are likely to move ahead.
- Jallian Walla Bagh was a symptom that bloodshed was inevitable in the Indian freedom struggle.
- The inclusion of ladies in the American team to the Paris Conference was a clear sign that the League of Nations would become ineffective.
- Hitler escaping an assassination attempt by arriving one hour earlier at the destined spot was an indication that the WWII would not end without massive material destruction.
- The American revolution occurring two years after the battle of Plassey was a sign of the birth of the British Empire in India.
- The European Army is the forerunner of the World Army.
- The distintegration of Yugoslavia and the enormous

destruction there shows that the stubbornness of Tito helped only to put off the date of destruction to later on.

The Japanese were originally not keen on invading Australia as it was still an immature country. Neither was India on their agenda. When Germany was arming herself to the fullest extent. Britain indulged in wishful thinking that Germany meant no harm to her. The US only saw a possibility of reviving her economy through selling arms to the Allies. Under such circumstances the question arises as to how the Allies got the energy to win the war.

When a body falls ill it receives treatment. Many times the treatment cures the body of the illness inflicted on it by the dominating mind and the superstitious vital. On occasions the treatment fails and the doctors also give up. The mind and the vital withdraw also and the body is left entirely to its own resources to ensure its survival. At such times we see that the body is able to cure itself. This is a universal phenomenon and it has its social parallel. Hitler may have been aggressive and Chamberlain might have been too trusting. But Nature had prepared America to be the evolutionary spearhead and that country would not keep quiet. Though America was exhibiting isolationist tendencies, Nature woke up that nation from its slumber by organising an attack on her by her enemy. Invasion of India was never an item on the Japanese agenda as they had a subtle awareness that India was being guarded by a spiritual force. When England and the USA were oblivious to the growth of Hitler, what saved the world was a universal Divine force that was invisible to mortal eyes. While America was dragged into the war by Japan, England was alerted and energised by Churchill who was not even part of the government.

- Man is his own enemy. *God had to accomplish and fulfill his purposes by serving man through his enemies*, such

as Japan, Churchill and the USSR.

- *When the organised leadership failed to rise to the occasion, the Spirit of humanity rose to the occasion and began to use whatever instruments were available.* India represented the Spirit and therefore one of the Post-War benefits was the granting of Indian freedom.

The assassination of the Austrian Arch-duke was only a flimsy excuse for Germany and her allies to launch WWI. Even as a symptom it showed that German aggression was virulently false. It will be helpful if a study is conducted to gather such symptoms about war, terrorism and pollution etc.

The army exists as a fighting force due to the devotion of the soldiers to the officers. The family functions as a stable unit due to the emotional bonds between the members. Teaching is done on the basis of the obedience of the students to the teacher. The breakdown of family ties and classroom discipline in the US is a clear warning that armies cannot count upon the loyalty of the soldiers. The national army may not be a viable unit in the future as we see in the case of the family. As the duties of a family are being taken over by the companies, we can hope that the role of the national army may be taken over by the World Army.

— New Deal directly brought the war economy.

- The details of extraordinary efficiency that we saw in the US cannot be considered as military efficiency. If so it should have occurred in all the belligerent countries. The fact that it occurred only in the US means that it was unique to the US.

An army of 7 million, 4 million sailors, 300,000 planes, 100,000 tanks and 88,000 ships are a great military accomplishment. It would be interesting to know if there is



a way to compare this production with figures from another nation.

- 3 months repair job in 48 hours.
- 7 years construction in 14 months.
- A trestle costing 1.4 million dollars that can manufacture 36 million tons of cement in 6 months.
- We see even small industries achieving world records.
- FDR described the integrated steel mill as the arsenal of democracy.
- General Electric raised its capacity for turbine production from one million dollars to 300 million.

While France and other European nations surrendered meekly, Britain alone fought bravely. Germany built up its army, geared its economy to war production and roused the passion of its people for war and extermination of Jews. If each nation is examined from the perspective of war and compared with the USA, it will yield useful information. Figures are available for the US. But they are not easily available for other countries. What is obvious is that no country was ready for war production. It is doubtful if any country other than the US would have been capable of this much expansion in production. We can say that it was easy for the USA to expand her production as she was working in isolation. It would have been difficult for Britain to do the same thing while she was engaged in fighting.

- America had all these advantages and therefore performed at a phenomenal rate.
- It will be very useful if we gather information from other countries about any other period and compare it with the USA for the same period.
- The expansion that we have seen in the USA is an expression of the power of Infinity in terms of manpower, factory production and above all in Man's capacity to

rise to the occasion.

- Americans rose to the occasion when they saw the war production as an economic opportunity to pull them out of the Depression.
- The New Deal was a revolutionary initiative and therefore it had the power to make Life respond by bringing to America the limitless market of war economy. The Development Theory says that *when the atmosphere is ideal a little effort can bring about results all out of proportion. Moreover, according to the Theory, the presence of a potential has the power to attract the appropriate circumstances that can bring it out.*
- According to the Development Theory *the vast scale of destruction caused by the war implies an equally vast scale of creative construction.* That proved true in the form of immense war production and as accumulating capital for the USA. The Mother has observed that Money is the direct link between Man and Supermind.

Wartime production helped America accumulate a huge capital. Such accumulation becomes noteworthy when we consider that between 1929-32 half the American population lived in poverty. Rising from such penury to such surplus will amount to a great transformation.

- WWII had the unusual effect of making the US government give funds for research to the American universities. This was done with a view to making the atom bomb.
- Quarrels between politicians and military generals was absent during WWII.
- Marshall and Eisenhower were military planners only and personally never commanded an army.
- FDR believed Stalin for what he appeared to be.
- Davis even saw Stalin as a liberal democrat who wanted

to liberalize the Constitution.

- Stalin murdered 30 million of his own people. But an ambassador saw him as one on whose lap a child would like to sit.

In the US customarily all work is done privately. But war has a tendency to generate some unexpected good results. By giving funds for atomic research the US government collaborated with universities and that made the varsities shed their private character. It was a healthy move in the right direction.

- When human cooperation emerges powerfully, quarrels disappear. The absence of quarrels indicates that a higher than human power was in operation during WWII. A spiritual power was overseeing the operations.
- Marshall and Eisenhower were mental characters. WWII marked the last phase of human physicality and that is why mental characters were able to play leading roles.
- The human mind is not as quarrelsome as the human vital. MacArthur was very vital and therefore very quarrelsome.
- That WWII served as the transition point from physicality to mentality is proved by these facts.

### **Description of Stalin**

Roosevelt bypassed Churchill and directly dealt with Stalin. He actually liked Stalin. Churchill was a man of action who acted as his nerves dictated. He was the main fighting Spirit behind the war. Roosevelt was very much secondary in this respect. An Ambassador who found Stalin playing with a child was not wrong in assuming that Stalin was a charming personality. Apart from his authoritarian side he also had this friendly side to his personality. It is difficult to see both sides at the same time. War can show one side but not both.

Roosevelt believed Stalin and suffered a quick disillusionment. Stalin was like Hitler and there was no difference between the two. Chamberlain believed Hitler and Roosevelt believed Stalin. It is the nature of Overmind to extend differentiation to the last detail. Therefore it becomes possible for an individual trait in a Man's personality to be totally at variance with the general trend of his personality. Only the Supramental integral knowledge can have a vision of the whole and see the difference between the detail and the whole. Even Gorbachev was not aware of what was going on in the USSR during Stalin's reign.

- Property, Money and International relations are the three fundamental building blocks of a nation. Property is a physical asset and money is a mental representation of productivity.
  - International relations start with military operations, extend to political and economic relations and finally get completed with cultural relations.

All those who immigrated to the USA acquired some property within two years as the high wages there enabled them to save considerable money. Americans were a self-satisfied people with little interest in interacting with other nations till the two World Wars compelled them to relate to other countries. After the war ended in 1945, world leadership came to the US in military, political and economic fields.

The US witnessed a rebellion among the youth in 1960s who started a search for higher meaning in life and looked to the East for spiritual guidance. At the same time a movement developed among the youth of the Eastern countries for seeking prosperity in the West through employment there.

- During the Post-War period the power of money got more and more organised till it arrived at the stage of

self-multiplication. This trend was markedly present in the USA.

- The global increase in population raised the demand for land and made it costlier. This was more so in urban areas as there was a heavy inflow from rural areas.
- Urbanisation signifies Man's mental awakening. Property and currency have played a leading role in promoting urbanisation. The urbanising trend has been a great leveller of distinctions in terms of class, caste, creed, race, etc. This levelling trend generated a reaction in the countryside towards intensification of these very differences.
- Education organises the powers of the Mind. Wherever Mind has been used to exploit the powers of property and currency, there we see the depressed classes rising up. Wherever education has led to the formation of a salaried class, we see the powers of property and currency remaining inactive. Even within educated families, the uneducated are making good use of the powers of money and property. Urban life in general has created an enormous variety of opportunities to raise the standard of life. The US witnessed the flowering of urban life even as early as the period between 1860-1920.

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