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Revisiting The Waste Land: Arundhati Roy's God of Small Things

Abstract:

The Waste Land by T. S. Eliot is the representative epic of modern European society. The degeneration of the Europeans after the First World War is the central concern of T. S. Eliot. The recent declaration of the list of the happiest nations in the world confirms it that the Europeans recovered from the loss, as the top twenty positions were occupied by most of the European countries. But if we come to the social concerns of India the perpetuated traditions resulted into degeneration of our society. As a responsible Third World Writer, Arundhati Roy in her novel 'The God of Small Things' shows the devastating effect of male dominance and casteism on the society. She has shed light on many social problems such as exploitation of women, casteism and corrupt politics. Going through the novel is like a journey through the male dominated, caste-ridden waste land. Her vision of a life is based on social equality, freedom, trust and generosity. By winning Booker Prize, the novel has stood firm to the proverbial expectation- Pen is Mightier Than the Sword.

Keywords: Degeneration, Male Dominance, Casteism, Third World

The Waste Land is modern epic poem which describes the European degenerated society after the First World War. The old social order shattered to pieces. The individual talent in T. S. Eliot goes back to the myths, legends and past great literary works to relate the present with the past as the echoes of present degeneration of modern life are found in the past. Looking from art for life's sake point of view, the project Arundhati Roy has taken in the novel *The God of Small Things* is to delineate live performance of degenerated tradition in the present