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EDITORIAL NOTE

Social sciences and research is indeed as old as the Greek Civilization; and yet it is as young as the era of enlightenment in Western Europe. Let me explain this bit here. The culture of critical thinking, wherein human society insisted upon asking for why do many things around occur and exist as they are was indeed what got Pythagoras and his students ventured into explaining things around them. They insisted on experiments and observations as the means to find out what they sought for.



The coming of the Roman civilisation and the subsequent subordination of the temporal to the church rendered the inquisitive minds into a threat to the empire and their persecution or their migration to the Eastern kingdoms from where they pursued their quest for knowledge. The setting of the dark age in the Roman Empire, or should I say the Holy Roman Empire and the shift subsequently to feudalism was thus a Western European feature in history. And this persisted until the early stages of the enlightenment era and the arrival of Rene Descartes (1596-1650) and culminated with Charles Darwin (1809-1882).

The changes in the domain of thoughts in Western Europe were most pronounced with a credible counter that Darwin's theory of evolution provided to that of the theory of creation. It is not as if the old order was destroyed altogether. The theory of creation and the creator persists, to this day, in the form of Intelligent Design while Darwin paved the way to social Darwinism and the business of the survival of the fittest serving as a means to legitimate the inequality around us. But then, the world was turned upside down, borrowing from Christopher Hill's substantive account bearing the same title, due to the transition in Western Europe.

Social Science Researcher is an attempt to centre-stage the Cartesian principle – I Think Therefore I Am – and desist from clinching all the arguments one way or another and put an end to arguments for ever. No. We are committed to the culture that was central to the Greeks and subsequently to the Enlightenment era – critical thinking – and approach the



concerns in our own times; the idea is not to traverse the present from one straight-jacket. It is, instead, to let a hundred flowers bloom and identify the weeds as and when they begin to eat the idea of critical thinking.

We will not restrict our issues to any one theme of disciplinary silo, a culture that academics is now fallen into. This we will maintain. This issue, for instance, has contributions ranging from the an anthropological study of the Deori tribes in Assam to the implications of the Krishna-Rukmini cult among the Idu-Mishmi tribes in Assam. We also have a detailed study on Krishna Mohan Banerjea, a product of the Derozian movement in colonial Bengal and who ended up a missionary in his life. The collection is eclectic and we intend keeping it that way. Social Science Researcher will also carry Book Reviews in all its issues and thus stay current as much as it is steeped in the past.

(Dr. V.Krishna Ananth)

Editor – in – Chief

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