

IMPACT FACTOR: 7.86

ISSN 0976 - 8165



# THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

— 12<sup>th</sup> Year of Open Access —

Bi-Monthly Refereed and Peer-Reviewed  
Open Access e-Journal

Vol. XII, Issue-1 (February 2021)

Editor-In-Chief : Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Managing Editor : Dr. Madhuri Bite



www.the-criterion.com



AboutUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

ContactUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

EditorialBoard: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

[www.galaxyimrj.com](http://www.galaxyimrj.com)

## **An Analysis of Arthur Miller's Social Conscience**

**Dr. S.K. Agrawal**

Supervisor,  
Vardhaman (P.G.) College, Bijnor.

**&**

**Munna Lal**

Research Scholar,  
M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly

**Article History:** Submitted-24/12/2020, Revised-20/02/2021, Accepted-24/02/2021, Published-28/02/2021.

### **Abstract:**

Arthur Miller has won name and fame in the world as he always wrote purposeful tragedies and asserted that every individual must understand his social and political responsibility. He observed the working of contemporary American democracy and boldly attacked the signs of developing minor Fascist tendencies in the country. It is true that he imitated Henrik Ibsen to some extent and yet produced original tragedy on the theme of democracy. Here the conflict is between authority of majority and voice of Dr. Stockmann who stands for public welfare. The conflict between hostile forces has been introduced in the beginning and there is debate on the issues of freedom of press, causes of danger to public health, working of capitalism, harms caused by industrialization etc. Like G.B. Shaw and Eugene O'Neill, he asserts his faith in public good and uses the tool of satire to expose social, economic and political evils.

**Keywords: Democracy, Fascist, Conflict, Capitalism, Hypocrisy.**

### **Introduction:**

Like G.B. Shaw, Henrik Ibsen and Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller was out and out of a democrat and yet didn't hide the demerits of democracy from his audience. He accepted that democracy is far superior to monarchy, aristocracy and dictatorship and yet the fruits of decent democracy are swallowed by a few capitalists. In the tragedy *St. Joan* Shaw advocated the theory of 'Impersonal evolution and personal tragedy' i.e. society makes progress at the cost of heroic people like Socrates, Joan of Arc, Galileo, Abraham Lincoln etc. who sacrificed themselves for their noble thoughts and lofty ideals. In the tragedy *The Apple Cart* Shaw described the conflict between elected Prime Minister and King Magnus and advocated that a strong leader is required at the top of country to protect the interests of masses. When

Proteus, the British Prime Minister accused King Magnus for corruption in administration King declared that he would contest the coming election for becoming the leader of the masses. This disturbed Proteus and he surrendered before King Magnus as the latter had become very popular among people due to his welfare schemes. A few questions have been raised by Arthur Miller in the tragedy *An Enemy of The People* such as — Who are real enemies of the people? How does capitalism prove to be dangerous for the common people? What is real meaning of liberty of press? Are people really free to express their new thoughts in public? How does majority suppress the voice of grand public hero? Who becomes an obstacle in the path of social reconstruction? How does economic regeneration suffer in reality? Is democracy not a way of life? How have the issues of public welfare been ignored by the majority of leaders? What is the importance of new ideas that are seldom accepted by political leaders? How is press controlled by the capitalists for selfish purposes? How have the noble leaders suffered in personal life? Is democracy an illusion? Is every political leader insincere to public? What is deceptive — the democracy or the minority voice? Can't a new leader change the picture of the whole nation? How long will the masses tolerate bitter moral truths? What is unreal that attracts the masses? Are issues of public interest really being discussed in meetings of Parliament? Who is prepared to take the risks of his reputation to defend new theories? Why do the leaders exert their pressure so as to continue the old traditional structure? How do the new ideas still appear before the masses? Can truth be suppressed and controlled forever? Is there any stage of issue-less-ness in a democratic set up as new problems take birth in a democratic country in every period? How can past rituals and rules be imposed upon creative people?

It is well-known that G.B. Shaw had to face harsh criticism of his ideas and that too in public meetings. And yet he expressed his lofty thoughts before the audience in public interest. Similarly, Arthur Miller wrote freely to share his ideas with his audience and readers and succeeded as a thinker. He studied Henrik Ibsen's play *An Enemy of The People* and admired the impartial outlook of this great Irish artist. He borrowed the title of that tragedy and described the conflict between selfish Mayor Peter Stockmann and liberal scientist Dr. Stockmann. A lot of pressure tactics are adopted by authorities to silence his voice and yet the bold leader does not bow down before selfish press reporters and two Corporation leaders. Let the shares of his family be wasted by cunning members of his family and yet he stands for virtue, righteousness, public health and truth. No power can check his voice as he knows that polluted water will make the town citizens sick and unhealthy. After all he has his

own responsibilities towards masses and how could he remain silent on issues of public health.

Abraham Lincoln regarded democracy as the government 'of the people' and 'by the people'. In the democratic set up all the major decisions are taken by the representatives of the people in public interest. Elections are contested by all sections of people for the legislative and executive posts of the country. According to James Mill and John Stuart Mill, that government is the best that provides greatest happiness to the greatest number of people. All liberties should be given to them for their growth and development. Every democrat grants fundamental rights to the people and they have the rights of equality and liberty. They have the liberty to join any political party and canvass for support of their candidate at the time of general elections. There is a written constitution that defines the powers of the President, the Prime Ministers, the Governors, the Chief Ministers, Judges, Mayors of Corporations etc. Every political party promises to take care of public interests at every critical stage. The people get rights to follow a religion of their liking and no political system is imposed upon them by force as 'general will is the basis of state'. All corporations are governed by the laws of Local-Self-Government and the government authorities take care of public health and education projects. Banking system is introduced for the economic growth and progress of people and industries. Many dictators like Napoleon Bonaparte, Bismarck, Hitler, Mussolini, Ayyub Khan etc. didn't care for the interests of general people and imposed many new taxes upon them to meet the expenses of wars. As a result, they had to meet their Waterloo.

As a supporter of humanitarianism Arthur Miller exposed the evils of war in *All My Sons*. He satirized Joe Keller for supplying defective cylinders to the air force that caused the death of many air force officers. In *Death of The Salesman* he exposed the defective economic planning of U.S.A. that failed to solve the problem of unemployment. In *A Memory of Two Mondays* he exposed the unhealthy working conditions of factories where labourers had to work in miserable situations. In *The Creation of The World and Other Business* he presented the conflict between good and evil. In *A View from The Bridge*, he clearly mentioned the evil effects of world wars that resulted in economic depression in many nations. In a few tragedies he exposed Fascism and Nazim as Mussolini and Hitler never granted human rights to their citizens. In *The Crucible* he condemned the traditional church authorities that failed to understand the meaning of pure religion, divinity, spirituality and

ethics. Here John Proctor fails to get justice from the court. In *The Price* he described the conflict between two brothers who followed a different code of conduct.

### **Conflict:**

In the Introduction to *An Enemy of The People* Arthur Miller makes it clear that like Henrik Ibsen, he has no desire to justify the working of Fascism and Nazism though he is going to highlight the demerits of democracy. Then he justifies the fact that Ibsen's *An Enemy of The People* is valid even in 20th century because the great Irish dramatist had exposed the selfish politicians of his day. People have to pay attention to what Ibsen had asserted in this tragedy. Ibsen forced the audience to think of of the foul working of democracy with the words: 'Now listen here!' Imitating Ibsen's approach Arthur Miller also asked his audience to become thoughtful now. Miller's tragedy is purposeful as, like G.B. Shaw, he is not prepared to follow the theory of art for the sake of art. He asks himself — Why should he devote his time to protect 'triviality', 'frivolities' and 'senseless sensibility'? Why should he not pay attention to cause and effect relationship in this tragedy too? Why should he deal with imaginary people and not concentrate upon real people? Actually, he regarded the stage a platform for discussion and that too in public interest. As promised in the Introduction he remained sincere to the Americans and the theme of this tragedy deals with the conflict between reason and fake emotion, selfishness and self-sacrifice. Boldly he condemns the prevailing lie as Town's Corporation was not supplying clear drinking water to the citizens. As there is a general atmosphere today to protect public health and environment, this tragedy appeals the readers like anything. How could Miller tolerate the 'devilish lie' about the working of Town's Corporation? After all the democratic government of America had promised people to provide them healthy environment and pure drinking water. As water is supplied by the Town's Corporation, it is necessary that proper steps should be taken by the concerned authorities to make regular supply of pure water for the citizens. After all the fate of common people is related with pure water and they will definitely get sick if they continue to drink impure water.

As an awakened citizen and matured thinker, he knew the need of discipline and order in society. He had no desire to see chaos and disorder in public. In *An Enemy of The People* Miller condemns 'the devilish lie' that all is well with the water supply of the Town's Corporation. Here he asserts that the minority may be justified in its approach to social welfare and 2/3 majority may take wrong and unhealthy decisions. Like Henrik Ibsen, he

condemns the concepts of 'aristocracy of character' and divine rights of the rulers. At the same time here, he expresses his hatred for racial discrimination. Of course, he makes all possible efforts to defend the gap between Haves and Have-Nots. As a matter of fact, no leader can claim that he is always right. How can the corporation or the Parliament declare that all its resolutions are justified, logical, rational and secure? The author asserts that the scientists should be given the opportunity to discover new truth about Nature, Time, Elements, new technical skills etc. After all it is the function of a scientist to find out the truth that has not been discovered so far and the society must accept new scientific facts. For example, a very few scholars were ready to accept that the earth revolves round the sun.

Arthur Miller does not paint Dr. Stockmann as a God or perfect creature. Yet he has the courage to propagate and assert that the defective water system has got to be replaced and reformed. As a physician this fear is justified — If the dirty water is supplied regularly, there might be epidemic in the town. Why not to improve the system of water supply in time? But nobody is prepared to bell the cat except Dr. Stockmann. As a bold physician he sends the supplied water for analysis and examination to testing labs and does not manipulate the facts. There is no limit to his joy when his doubts are confirmed by the national lab. Now begins the conflict between Dr. Stockmann and his brother Peter Stockmann Morris. He prepares a report against the water supply as the waste and dirty water of tanneries falls in the river that supplies water to the citizens. Here the author boldly raises his voice against pollution of river and environment. But the problem was — How to close the tanneries run by the capitalists? How to manage money for new water treatment system in the corporation? Miller studied the history of industrial growth of Great Britain and U.S.A. and noticed that many industries exploited the poor consumers in various ways. Private industries were mostly run with the investments of public money and it is not easy to cut the roots and resources of industries. If a lot of industries are closed due to the fear of pollution, then there will be economic depression once again. No leader is/was prepared to take this risk.

In the beginning of the play all the friends, journalists and leaders appreciate the research on water pollution of Springs system and promise all support to Dr. Stockmann. He feels overjoyed and elevated when his doubts come to be true. Now he asks the journalists like Hovstad, Billing, Captain Horster, Kiil etc. to publish the news of this danger to public health in the popular newspapers. Billing feels satisfied with the report of Dr. Stockmann and promises him to highlight this issue with next day's People Daily Messenger. Dr. Stockmann feels very enthusiastic as he is going to expose the defective water supply system. However,

his wife Mrs. Stockmann does not relish this idea of her husband and requests him to ignore this report. She recollects the past miserable days of poverty when he had to struggle hard for his existence. But she fails to control his zeal for public welfare. At this time Dr. Stockmann earned good money from his clinic and patients of the town had high opinion of him. His wife boldly and clearly warns him not to invite danger for the family. When the journalists promise to print his news, there is no limit to his delight.

### **Nucleus:**

Often the journalists and editors of newspapers and magazines are very bold and publish the hard facts on social, political and economic issues. But they forget that the industrialists own the newspapers as journalism is an industry. A lot of money is spent regularly to run the newspapers and no harm is tolerated by the owners. The advertisements earn huge profits for them and hence the editors can't afford to lose the capitalists who get their goods advertised in the newspapers. Quite often the editors and journalists need the support of ruling party, Capitalists etc. for personal gains. The result is that the editors fail to become bold, brave and impartial in daily life. When Dr. Stockmann reaches the office of Town Messenger Newspaper, the editors beat about the bush and delete many lines from the statement of Dr. Stockmann. The noble physician has already suffered unpopularity in the past as advertisements were added to his statement. It does not become clear to the physician in the office of the Messenger — What will be the fate of his statements on water of Springs? The corporation authorities have already made the conspiracy to protect the interest of the press.

In this tragedy Arthur Miller describes the importance of pure drinking water for the people of Norwegian Town. Dr. Stockmann thinks of public health and the ways to remove the causes of sickness of people. His basic concept is that water is source of life. If good water flows through the rivers, the agricultural products will be hygienic and productive. Let the people get pure and unadulterated fruits and vegetables with the help of pure river water. For this he collects sample of the water of Spring River and gives it to the lab for testing and analysis. He is shocked to see the reports of the lab as the water that is being supplied daily to the people is impure and unhygienic. He loses his temper as the Corporation authorities have no right to play with the health of masses. Kiil, Hovstad and other editors of Town Messenger Newspaper join him and he shares his grief with them. He asks them to print his article against this negligence of Corporation authorities and they promise to create awakening

among the masses on this issue. Here the conflict starts between Dr. Stockmann and his brother Peter Stockmann, the Mayor of the Town. So far Hovstad has expressed his hatred against authorities and wealthy people who exploit the poor and ignorant masses.

Now it is expected that there will be an uproar and a revolution in the town on this issue. But Arthur Miller exposes the cunning and manipulative tendencies of Corporation authorities and the media people as they want to be on the safe side every time. As a matter of fact, the authorities can't tolerate any voice against the prevailing political system. Arthur Miller had studied the history of republicanism and noticed how Hampden and Cromwell revolted against British King Charles I to get the authority of Parliament established and accepted. Charles II to British throne only when he accepted the authority of courtiers and the Parliament. Similarly, Rousseau asserted that 'General Will, not force, is the basis of state'. Utilitarians and the Anarchists wanted to control the powers of the state so that individuals may enjoy a lot of political rights. Then Abraham Lincoln declared that all the people have got to be treated equally in the country. He had to fight civil war for four years (1861-1865) for the protection of equality of citizens. American thinkers John Brown and H.D. Thoreau asserted the concept of civil rights for human beings of all classes. Following their precepts Dr. Stockmann wants to raise his voice against the industries that throw their dirty water and wastage in different rivers of the country without bothering its effect upon public health.

Peter Stockmann sarcastically calls Dr. Stockmann a 'prolific contributor' and 'People Daily Liberator' and fails to cooperate with him. He strongly condemns his brother's approach to water system. Dr. Stockmann is warned by him well in time that times will be rough for him if the worthy physician sticks to his stand. Like Socrates, Dr. Stockmann is virtuous by nature and a real philanthropist by temperament. But fake propaganda is made by Peter Stockmann and his friends against the water approach of Dr. Stockmann and soon he finds himself in tight corners. Peter Stockmann advises him not to play with public tolerance otherwise the results will be disastrous for him. The water issue of Springs is soon connected with new taxes that will burden the common people too and nobody wants to pay more taxes than before. After all the problem of water can't solve the problem of unemployment. In a sarcastic tone Peter Stockmann tells Hovstad and Mrs. Stockmann: My good brother is never at a loss for ideas. All sorts of ideas. But when it comes to putting them into action, you need another kind of man ... (Miller 2)

Yet Dr. Stockmann does not lose his mental courage as it is a question of public welfare. After all he is a lover of virtue, fortitude, mercy, right philosophy and truth and thinks for the bright future of mankind. He does not hope to be ridiculed and bullied for his new ideas by his friends, family members and patients. He is prepared to take every risk for the protection of health of people and ironically his patients are manipulated by Peter Stockmann and other officers of the Corporation against him. They are convinced to ignore the new ideas of Dr. Stockmann and call him 'an enemy of the people'. A few questions arise here such as — Is Dr. Stockmann an 'amateur' and a misanthropist? Is he irrational in his approach to dirty water of the Springs? Can false propaganda solve the problems of sickness caused by dirty water? How to convince the industrialists not to throw their dirty materials into the rivers? How to protect angelic and innocent human beings from hazards to their health? How to protect environment? How to solve the problem of pollution?

Here Arthur Miller is to be admired for warning the people against pollution as created by industries. Nobody should ignore the problem of pollution anymore as it is a question of survival of human race upon earth. Dr. Stockmann believes that God took several pains for the creation of earth in seven days and then blessed human beings with several physical and mental gifts. How can His scheme of creation be allowed to suffer due to several industries? Long time ago five elements such as air, water, fire, sky and earth were regarded the basics of creation. He wants — Let democratic authorities protect the organized society and concentrate upon issues of human welfare. There is no doubt in the desire of Dr. Stockmann:

It's a necessity for me to see young, lively, happy people, free people burning with a desire to do something ... (Miller 24)

This above statement of Dr. Stockmann confirms the fact that he is a supporter of optimism and ethical values and does not boast of pseudo-democracy. He accepts that an individual plays a sub-ordinate role in a democratic set up and yet has a right to raise his voice if things go against humanity in general. With the help of Peter Stockmann Arthur Miller confirms Shakespeare's saying that 'a man may smile and smile and be a villain'. (H) Cunning people like Peter Stockmann, Hovstad, Billing, Kiil etc. hide their selfish aims under the pretext of human welfare.

On the page 28 of this tragedy the artist asserts his grief that most of the citizens do not show enthusiasm for the general elections. On the contrary selfish politicians like Peter Stockmann make emotional speeches in public and win elections as power means money.

They create the interest of voters in public deeds and make false promises to win support. Teachers like Petra work hard in the schools and colleges and yet are fired for joining the deeds of public welfare. As she is the daughter of Dr. Stockmann, she is fired from her job and yet Dr. Stockmann does not lose his zeal for reform. But Mrs. Stockmann's fears are genuine as she is a domestic lady and easily feels upset. Through Petra Miller justifies Ibsen's approach to human sufferings of the new age of democracy and scientific development. Through Hovstad, though a cunning journalist, Miller asserts that everybody should do purposeful things for society. After all work is worship and not 'a punishment for our sins'. (EP 31) From dull and dormant people Miller indirectly asks:

Then what will you ever amount to in this world? (Miller 31)

It does not matter whether a person is a heathen or a non-heathen and yet he is supposed to create something noble for society. What is wrong with Dr. Stockmann's desire that the town should become a 'healthy spot' on earth? How can society march ahead if people are sick and unhealthy? The artist shows the difference between the politician Peter Stockmann and Dr. Stockmann as the former adopts foul means to lead a successful life and the latter condemns Machiavelli's theory 'Ends justify the means'. The source of delight for Peter Stockmann is popularity in public as he easily provokes his voters against Dr. Stockmann. But Dr. Stockmann's delight lies in protecting public health at every cost. He is sinned rather than sinning.

Here Arthur Miller highlights the demerits of large-scale industrialization. Politicians like Peter Stockmann create a lobby in a democratic country for the support of capitalists and promise a lot to the voters that — There will be a lot of job opportunities if more and more industries are established in the country. There will be rapid and convenient transport facilities for people. A lot of hospitals, schools, colleges, banks etc. will be built with the excise duty earned from production of goods. The merchants will have a higher standard of living in future as trade will be on international level. But they cunningly hide the evils of pollution and dangers to public health. The artist wants to maintain harmony between good means and noble ends. Basically Dr. Stockmann is not an 'enemy' of the people as there is no treachery in his statements and scheme. He has no axe to grind in suggesting improvements in Town's water system. He merely points out that infections are bound to spread in society due to impure water. He is not leading the citizens towards hell as there is no satanic scheme in his mind. Billing sarcastically calls him 'a great man'. (Miller 35) He may not be a great man like Judge Pilate and Peter Stockmann but he is a good man like Abraham Lincoln. His

aim of life is 'service above self' as he is not all mad for physical pleasures and material gains. He feels shocked when Peter Stockmann and other dirty politicians make false propaganda against him and persuade his patients to boycott him as a physician. His wife and daughter plan to leave the town due to their sense of fear. Now Dr. Stockmann gathers mental courage and decides to face the situation boldly. He knows that only the physicians can suggest medicines to the patients and cure them and not the politicians. Patiently he waits for the right opportunity and hopes to succeed in this fight. Kiil wrongly doubts the intentions of Dr. Stockmann. Dr. Stockmann's thoughts are not the product of 'rat's finely tuned brain'. (Miller 39)

As a realist Mrs. Stockmann tells Kiil that bacterias can be seen with the help of a microscope and nobody should neglect the harm caused by them. Unfortunately, the vindictive politicians like Peter Stockmann and editors like Hovstad ignore this scientific fact as they don't want to take action against the Town Corporation. As both of them are parts of the democratic set up, they don't want to take any risk. Dr. Stockmann creates the right opportunity at the proper time but alas! All his plan is turned down by the Mayor of the Corporation and the meeting of the Board of Corporation does not allow sufficient time to Dr. Stockmann to express his arguments. The Town water is polluted every time and yet no action is taken by the Corporation. Hovstad cunningly blames the bureaucracy for this problem. As a satirist Miller exposes the bureaucrats of United States for their improper influence and interference in reformation system. The artist, like G.B. Shaw, satirizes the capitalists for controlling the politicians for selfish purpose as Dr. Stockmann remarks: They're all rich, all with old reputable names, and they've got everything in the palm of their hands. (Miller 43)

In spite of his ability and knowledge of the subject Dr. Stockmann finds himself helpless and realizes — He is nobody against the corrupt officers. In the article Conscience and Community in *An Enemy of The People* and *The Crucible* Thomas P. Adler confirms this opinion and remarks:

The bureaucrats in power in this Norwegian town, led by Peter Stockmann, define an authoritarian, homogenous ideal, in which the individual remains subordinate to the state, tolerance extends only to non-dissenters of like mind, and basic rights, such as free speech, can be abrogated at will, or whim for expediency's sake, all in the name of maintaining indispensable moral authority. (Miller 88)

Actually, the truths about G.D.P., banking system, the complex relation between legislative and executive authorities, the role of press in democracy etc are beyond the understanding of common voters as they are busy in earning and spending money. As a result, Dr. Stockmann's manuscript of the plan is thrown in the dustbin. He loses his self-respect due to his clever brother Peter Stockmann and editors of Town Messenger Newspaper. They show lip sympathy to Dr. Stockman and cut his roots at the same time. The majority of people lament the situation and call Dr. Stockmann 'an enemy of the people' several times. Aslaksen pretends to arrange a demonstration to support Dr. Stockmann. As supporters of democracy, they all boast of the importance of public opinion which goes against Dr. Stockmann. All existing authorities manipulated to condemn Dr. Stockmann and every effort is made to tarnish his image. Now Dr. Stockmann finds that he has negligible number of supporters and a large crowd of hostile critics. People are 'poisoned internally and externally' (EP 50) and all the vigour of Dr. Stockmann goes waste.

Prudent Peter Stockmann gives warning to Dr. Stockmann whenever he meets him. He reminds the worthy physician that the latter has already suffered a lot of miseries in the past due to his thoughts and philosophy. As reforms in the water supply system will cost a lot of money, it is not possible to change it. Since the new supply system will take two years to establish, it will not be in public interest to introduce the changes as aspired by Dr. Stockmann. But Peter is not justified calling Dr. Stockmann 'completely hog wild'. (Miller 54) He is not a 'sleepwalker' or an insane physician. Then he blames Dr. Stockmann for establishing the present water system where it is working now. How can he lose his sense of 'discretion' so soon? When he loses his temper, he blames Peter Stockmann for this treachery and falsehood. But ultimately tables are turned in the meeting of the Board of Town Corporation and Dr. Stockmann cuts a sorry figure. Unfortunately, Peter Stockmann asks Dr. Stockmann not to find fault in Town Corporation's policies as latter's opinions have no value. Yet Dr. Stockmann remains conscious of the fact that he has 'the right to express his opinion on anything in the world'. (Miller 55)

### **Conclusion:**

Arthur Miller's observation is that many ambitious and powerful politicians want to control others due to their superiority complex. Mostly they are guided by pride, greed, power and anger and hence don't tolerate any opposition of their opinions. As a result, they break the limitations and rules that the democratic system imposes upon them. Healthy

opposition and prudent criticism are necessary for the success of a democratic system. But alas! Such powerful people create the atmosphere of enmity and hatred in place of harmony and affection. Consequently Dr. Stockmann does not get justice in life and finds himself a shattered and nervous fellow. His efforts to expose the Corporation go waste due to manipulation tactics. He has real sense of duty as a citizen but in vain! There is organized conspiracy against him and his wife and daughter plan to leave the town. They don't want to invite the poverty and misery of the past that they have already suffered. Dr. Stockmann is finally told that his shares of the Corporation will go waste.

So far Dr. Stockmann realizes that he has lost the ground. Incompetent people survive with delight in a democracy due to their clever network. Billing declares the nucleus of this tragedy:

It's revolution. You know that? With hope and fear: I mean it, we're on the edge of a real revolution! (Miller 63)

Many political critics believe that even the French Revolution (1789) failed in its mission as the two French political parties started killing the members of other party. The result was Reign of Terror in France (1792) and the French Queen and King Louis XVI were killed by revolutionaries. Similarly, the revolutionary step of Dr. Stockmann goes waste and he finds himself helpless, shocked, mentally crushed and bewildered. All his hopes for a change are dashed to the ground. He fails to change the system inspite of strong sense of determination. Here Aslaken aptly tells Billing and Hovstad:

'People change'. (Miller 66)

But this change brings further disaster and the interest of property owners and shareholders are protected at the cost of public health. Billing bluntly says:

... truth can go to hell. (Miller 66)

As Dr. Stockmann has no financial resources to survive, he feels forced to keep silent. As author of the manuscript, he is ready to share his responsibility but in vain! Peter Stockmann declares with a feeling of victory:

... This is the dream of a man who is trying to blow up our way of life. (Miller 73-74)

Terrible causes, causing pollution in river are regarded minor changes to be considered later on. Ultimately, Dr. Stockmann loses his job at the Springs water system and his patients are advised to boycott him as a physician. His friends become his enemies and he find himself lost. In the article *The Tradition of Social Drama: Miller and His Forebears* Brenda Murphy aptly remarks:

For Miller, Ibsen's significant statements were in his social plays — The Pillars of Society, Ghosts, An Enemy of The People — Where he articulated the conflict between individual desire and social responsibility that has been at the centre of Miller's own work throughout his career. (Miller 18)

This critic adds:

Simply it is the question of whether the demagogue guarantees protecting political minorities ought to be set aside in time of crisis. (Miller 18)

Thus, Arthur Miller *An Enemy of The People* is a treatise on democracy and the author is justified in advocating the theory that 'majority often consists of fools'. He aptly proves that minority may be justified in its approach to matters of public welfare. Then he satirizes the politicians like Peter Stockmann for their ego, selfishness and greed. Nobody should doubt the zeal of thinkers like Dr. Stockmann who can take every risk for protecting the citizens from epidemics and other social and economic evils.

#### **Works Cited:**

Adler, Thomas P. and Murphy, Brenda in Christopher Bigsby. *The Cambridge Companion To Arthur Miller*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Miller, Arthur. *An Enemy of The People*. Ontario Canada: Penguin Books. 1977.

Shaw, George Bernard. *The Apple Cart*. Delhi: Surjeet Publications. 1969.

Shaw, George Bernard. *St. Joan*. Delhi: Surjeet Publications. 1970.

Mahajan, V.D. *Recent Political Thought*. New Delhi: S. Chand & Co. Ltd. 1982.