CONCLUSION
The present study has analyzed Paul Scott's novels and his narrative art in light of history. History allows the readers in connecting the past with the present. It is an unending dialogue between the two which helps in understanding the present because it is a series of events that are correlated with each other. When history is blended with narrative, it gives birth to historiography. It helps in handing down to its readers various means through which they can understand and recreate the past. In historiography, one does not study the events of the past directly, but focus upon the changing interpretations of those events in the works of the individual writers dealing with history. These writers go beyond historical enquiry; they widen the historical context in order to create historical sense. Thus, history does not remain a mere backdrop in their writings but permeates, shapes and informs all aspects of the text. History is witness to the significant impact of imperialism and colonialism upon the weaker nations of the world. Colonialism remains its integral part, and has provided ideas to many authors to shape their fiction making the readers understand the period and evoking a conscious response in them.

The colonial period of India has been a source of great interest to both English and Indian writers especially its last phase in the early twentieth century. This period of India's colonial history is marked by momentous historic events like the First World War (because of the colonizer's/Britain's
involvement in it), Quit India resolution, the Second World War (which hastened Britain’s exit from India), India’s independence, the Partition of India and creation of the State of Pakistan. It was in the year 1919 that the First World War came to an end with the victory of Axis powers. But this war also brought threat and risk for the colonizer (British Empire). Tables began to turn against the British Rule. Congress gained political momentum during this period and provided full support to the British with the hope that it would gain them self governing status in return.

The history of colonial India, post First World War was of great political unrest: India and Indians had started giving resistance to British policies and politics. The Indian National Movement became the expression of India’s protest against imperialism, social apartheid and repression. The politically awakened Indians gave vent to their resentment and outrage in frequent outbursts of agitation against the Empire. This posed a challenge to the Raj and created problems of governance. The Jallianwalah Bagh Massacre of 1919, executed by General Dyer on unarmed and harmless demonstrating Indians was to go down in history as an act of extreme barbarity and savage display of authority/inhumanity. The instance had a staggering impact on colonial history; it worsened the relationship between the colonizer and the colonized and weakened the structure of the Raj. It also altered Congress’s outlook about the British. The mood of the Indians became vengeful and contemptuous for the foreign ruler. Various momentous historical movements were launched like the
Non-cooperation Movement of Congress in 1921, Civil Disobedience Movement in 1929, its re-launch in 1932 leading to the imprisonment of nationalist leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. By this time the sectarian politics (Divide and Rule) played by the British had so polarized the Hindus and Muslims that their communal hatred and differences gave rise to the idea of Pakistan spearheaded by the Muslim League. The year 1939 saw the beginning of the Second World War which further escalated the differences between the two nationalist parties, i.e. the Congress and the Muslim League. British were in favour of the League because it was supporting them during the War. They in return helped the League to gain strength and stability.

Cripps' mission had come to India in 1942 with a promise of providing the Indians with independence sometimes in the near future. However, its failure gave impetus to the Nationalist Movement which launched the Quit India campaign of 1942 with Gandhi’s ultimatum to the Empire to leave India as soon as possible. These were troubled times for the Empire as the Second World War was at its peak and Britain was facing setbacks on the war front as well.

Though the Quit India Movement was a call for all Indians to join hands in its fight for independence but it brought into focus the result of the divide and rule policy of the Raj as Muslim League stayed away from this demonstration of national agitation. It became obvious that the Hindus
(Congress) and Muslims (Muslim League) had drawn lines on communal basis against each other. This opposition became fiercer when the British allowed Jinnah to form a new Executive Council with Muslim members. This infuriated the Congress. Elections were held to sort out the differences between the two. However, Congress’s victory in the election made Jinnah observe ‘Direct Action Day’ in 1946, leading to the outbreak of communal violence in India. Such a volatile situation was the consequence of British policy of polarizing the country on religious lines. The hostility amongst the Congress and the Muslim League made people realize that Partition of India into two was inevitable. Consequently, the division/disintegration of the sub-continent into two independent dominions took place along with British retreat.

Amidst the political unrest of the 1940s, a major development that took place was the formation of Indian National Army (INA/Azad Hind Fauj) under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose with the help of Japanese army. Bose believed that Congress’s method of non-violence and non-cooperation to gain sovereignty lacked momentum and force. Accordingly, he planned his own ways of fighting the British. The idea of a Free Indian Army was the result of his practical apprehension of the war time situation in Germany. Furthermore, the ill treatment meted to Indian soldiers during the Second World War had left the British Government only with the support of Muslim League and the princely states. The princely states gave their unflinching support to the British because of their signed treaties with them. Due to these treaties, they could
neither oppose/confront the ruler nor join hands with the nationalist parties. The concept of Privy Purse left these small states in a lurch. During the pre-Independence era, these states were trying hard to wrest their dignity and prestige; the rulers of these states were struggling to be noticed as they had been reduced to the status of being nominal sovereign entities of their kingdoms, yet they were obliged to the British Empire for letting them remain the rulers of their princely states.

Paul Scott’s writing about this particular period of history under a definite context of colonial history of India reveals his fiction to be suffused with history wherein history does not remain a backdrop but permeates the textual practice. The colonial history of India marked by political upheavals and historic events/happenings provided him with the material for his fiction as well as served as a force to structure his novels. The texts selected for this study are set against this particular historical background; the colonial history helps to provide a narrative design to frame his inquiry and give expression to the various aspects of imperial experience. His novels are contrived within the interplay of historical events. The unique treatment of history provides a wonderful particularity to his fiction. The force of the historical events that led to India’s independence and Partition of India and creation of Pakistan gave vision to his writing. Furthermore, his dealing with the Second World War provided his fiction not only with the British-Indo perspective, but also gave an international dimension to them. The course of his novels runs through the
colonial period and the turmoil that followed to provide an understanding of the people of two different races. He interpolates history with fictional details and makes history the medium to deal with the theme of encounter of one nation with another, handling with great care and subtlety the different cultural values and systems of beliefs; racial, political and ethnic barriers and divide. Colonialism, according to Scott was one of the biggest mistakes in history which he tried to convey through his novels.

Scott has traced how the colonial rule became an expression of intolerance, gave rise to inhumanity, inequality, imbalances and social apartheid not only between the people of two races but also amongst the people of the same race. His books convey how the culture of imperialism with its politics of exclusion and discrimination enforced subjugation on the natives. He, in course of his novels has tried to gauge how the British paved their way into India and transformed themselves from traders to become the rulers of the colony. His coalescing of history with fiction establishes him as a historical novelist like Sir Walter Scott, Leo Tolstoy, Lawrence Durrell on one hand and with E. M. Forster, Rudyard Kipling, M. M. Kaye, Raja Rao, Khushwant Singh on the other who wrote novels on colonial/imperial India. Furthermore, he proved himself to be a self-conscious novelist, who with the help of history provided his readers with those slices of life with which they could relate themselves.
Scott's characters and situations have been carved out of history. In his novels, he relates the impact of historical events and their influence upon the lives of his characters. Thus, allowing us to get a measure of the Indo-British politics and culture of imperialism on the psyche of the people – both Indians and British alike. Readers are made to understand how things alter with the turn of politics and history. Whether the book deals with a tale of human frailty (Tom Gower), sorrow (Sarah Layton), mishap (violent attack on Miss Edwina Crane and Mr Chaudhuri), thwarted love (Hari Kumar and Daphne Manners), they all are entwined with history. To separate history from his story would leave it flat and ineffective. Scott, also voices his opinion that the mistakes committed in the past influence the present (Quartet novels). Either his characters actively participate in the depicted events or they are influenced by the then prevalent times. Their ideologies, views, issues, beliefs and opinions are because of the events surrounding them. Through his books, Scott has illustrated how history as a narrative and as a process, involved people leading to their life defining situation (positive or negative).

The historical framework of Scott’s fiction draws a close parallel with the new historicists approach because history does not remain a mere backdrop but permeates his creative process of writing. The novels that he has produced help in understanding the cultural and intellectual history of the times. History imbues and informs his fiction to provide a historical sense of the dealt period. His art is an amalgamation of new historicists and postcolonialist perspective
because the events projected and characters shaped hinge on the postcolonial outlook. His fiction lends itself to a postcolonial reading wherein he closely examines the colonial relationship (between the ruler and the ruled). While traversing the path of writing historical fiction, his creative process calls attention to the underlying structure of the textual narrative. One can identify the strand of history as it interacts with the other elements of the narrative to create 'narrative cohesion'. Thus, the narrative/tale of his novels is the actual sequence of events as they take place whereas the outline/artifice consists of the historical events as they have been presented so as to construct a detailed framework that can be adapted/related to narrative perspectives/action/setting.

Throughout this study, an attempt has been made to assess Paul Scott's fiction in light of history so as to bring out the fact that history was for him an inspiration, a motive to write novels, a narrative principle to accomplish his art of writing fiction. A critical analysis of his historical novels dealing with history reveals that the details of the historical events are invoked by the novelist in order to lend authenticity to his imaginative reworking. The novels have been examined where the plot, story, characters, actions, ideologies, situations – all hinge upon history. The novels selected for this study have a colonial backdrop wherein India serves the purpose of being his "Muse". His personal experiences of India, his knowledge of the British Indian history, and his perception of colonial psyche, lend authenticity to his fiction. The British withdrawal from India, the end of the Empire, the demise of the Raj are
subjects of great interest to Paul Scott. As a consequence of which he has focussed his authorial attention on some powerful historical events of the twilight years of the Raj, so as to reflect upon the colonial experience and map an insightful picture of colonial India in its prime. He as a novelist thus presents historical discourse in context of his fictional writings.

Paul Scott’s first novel *Johnnie Sahib* was published in 1952. In spite of so many early rejections it met with literary success. The book focusses on American and British troops, their issues and achievements during the last phase of the Second World War (March 1944 to March 1945). Second World War as the background of the novel, provides the readers with the Indo-British perspective, mainly dealing with the Wingate Operation of Burma. This was a critical phase for the British Empire because the prevalent situation was a marker of its end in India. Relying on his own personal military experience, Scott has been able to depict realistically and authentically, details about the British troops and air supply company etc. Through Johnnie, the central character of the novel and his orderlies, Scott has explored the ruler-ruled relationship. Johnnie’s girlfriend Nina (an Anglo-Indian) helps in depicting the plight of the Eurasians. Various characteristics like loyalty, jealousy, fear have been minutely treated in the novel when India was struggling hard to break free from the colonial hold.

*Johnnie Sahib* is an interesting novel, set against the background of the Second World War. The setting is detailed with military movements and
operations, and typical scenes of camps, hospitals, barren fields, roads and convoys. Paul Scott’s love of history and interest in India – the sub-continent is amply evidenced in course of the plot. Skillfully, he has structured into it, historical facts and details of World War Second as well as the plight of the Eurasian community. The facts of history inform and intervene in the lives of the characters to become a living reality. The book displays his concern for the native Indians, the Eurasian community as well as for the whole world which was caught in the vortex of the Second World War.

*The Alien Sky* came out in the year 1958 and deals with the last six days of colonial India and the multiple aspects of British Indian history – India’s gaining of sovereignty, Partition of India into two independent nations, cessation of the princely states. The novel gives expression to racial discrimination and prejudices. The fictional city of Marapore has been shown going through a politically tumultuous period in June of the year 1947, just two months before Britain’s departure from India. Paul Scott has depicted with great (historical) accuracy and clarity the violence and bloodshed which marred India’s independence due to the Partition of the country – it was a matter of loss and gain for the Indians. Broadly the book deals with the racial, emotional and psychological complexities between the English and the Indians. Historical reality has been successfully recreated by the author. Apart from the historical backdrop, the novel also deals with the theme of miscegenation; Scott has presented the biased treatment meted to the Eurasian community.
The novel focusses on the affect and effect of the British government’s decision of granting independence to India upon the princely states who had been their (British) trustworthy allies and had extended full support to them in time of crisis. Jimmy Smith, the ruler of the princely state of Kalipur could easily foresee his bleak future after the exit of the British. The central character of Gower offers a critique of the then political contentions and attitudes.

In *The Alien Sky* the imperial attitudes, aggressive tactics, colonial machinations and subterfuges all come for an exposé in the structuring of the novel. Rumours, gossip and facts are intermixed in order to create an image of historical reality. The novel exposes the British ideological disguises and suppressions to uncover the historical and political conflicts and designs. It highlights the historical experience of subordination (natives), power, politics, assumptions of superiority and imperial decline. Paul Scott, in course of the narrative has significantly posited the effect and affect of India’s freedom, Indian independence and Partition on different people with varying aims and ambitions. Their plans, actions and reactions were the result of the political turbulent situation of the country. All of them had certain objectives related to the last days of the British in India. Every aspect of political, social and cultural history has been thoroughly researched, explored and kneaded into the plot/structure of the novel. The historical factors inform, control and dominate the life of all the characters in context of the happening, issues and problems that signified the period.
The Birds of Paradise (1962) provides a picture of both, colonial and post-colonial situation. The book’s main theme is that of the plight of the princely states in pre-Independence era but also focusses on the momentous historic issues of India’s independence, Partition of India, Privy Purse, Second World War, INA – the politically volatile situation of the time which brought in developments and changes that altered the lives of people forever.

The narrative is centered on Gopalakand, where the protagonist, William Conway’s, life began. The narrative structure based on princely state is to highlight the historical significance of the other small states at the time of India’s independence and after it. The rulers of these states were facing extreme adverse situations under the British rule but ironically remained loyal to them. They had no powers to wield; and relied on memories of their past glory. Amidst the changing political landscape (India’s independence), these states were asked to make arrangements for themselves. Scott’s dealing with this theme gives expression to his interest in India’s colonial history and how these events changed the tide forever. He has also provided a detailed description of post-Independent India and the major changes that came with India’s freedom. He has given expression to the transformation of colonial India into a post-colonial India.

Thus, Paul Scott’s The Birds of Paradise belonging to his middle phase of writing is a fine blend of fictional details with the history of British India. Set against the principal background of princely (states of) India, the novel
oscillates between the other settings of the island of Manoba, Pig Eye, palaces of Tradura and Gopalakand. The time period covered is from 1919 to 1961 as the narrator tries to recreate his past from the images of memory as they come to him since the moment of his birth in India in 1919 to the time he revisits it on a sabbatical leave in 1961 and settles down at the island of Manoba – a lonely man. In retrospect, William Conway reminisces about the course of his own life where the major portion of it is related to that of the history of colonial India. A broad spectrum of historical details inform the narrative, thereby highlighting the history attendant to the colonial rule, especially that of the princely states, the policies of the Raj and the ultimate fragmentation of India into the dominion of India and Pakistan. The inherent symbolism of the title *The Birds of Paradise* lends an artistic beauty to a well documented historical narrative.

*The Raj Quartet* consists of four novels—*The Jewel in the Crown* (1966), *The Day of the Scorpion* (1968), *The Towers of Silence* (1972), *A Division of the Spoils* (1975), which deal with Scott’s engagement with the colonial/imperial history in detail so as to recreate the Raj scenario as it was during that time. This tetralogy gives voice to different points of view that examine and discuss the events that led to the exit of the British from India. Scott has presented a detailed picture of colonial India from the year 1939 to the time of India’s independence and Partition. This monumental work explores the most crucial phase of India’s freedom struggle. The plot has been
constructed to present a picture of the decline of the British rule and the rise of India's nationalism. Scott has portrayed the Indians – the Hindus and the Muslims contributing to the communal violence in the wake of the Partition of the country but has blamed the British for being responsible for creating the schism that gave rise to such a horrific spectacle of hatred, dislike, distrust and intolerance. A wide spectrum of subjects and issues have been dealt in the tetralogy along with a canvas full of interesting characters. A wide range of characters - Hari Kumar, Daphne Manners, Sister Ludmila, Brigadier Reid, Ronald Merrick, Sarah Layton, Colonel Layton, Lady Chaterjee – all have been brilliantly delineated and developed during the course of the series. The Quartet captures the transitional period of British India's transformation into a new India.

The first book of the Quartet – The Jewel in the Crown is set against the historical backdrop of Quit India campaign and World War II. The title significantly alludes to the painting of Disraeli showing Queen Victoria sitting on the throne, surrounded by the Maharajas of the princely states and courtiers. The jewel in the crown, metaphorically represents India. It was a time when the Indian National Movement had become an indomitable force working towards India's freedom. The Empire's sun was beginning to set as it found it difficult to govern a volatile India and was implementing all possible repressive measures to protect its interests in the colony. Scott has coalesced the launch of Quit India Movement with the fictional details so as to signify the impact of
colonial rule in India. The troubled situation at Mayapore focusses attention on the actual happenings and situation in India. Numerous historical references have been provided to the readers (since India started resisting the alien rule) and carefully worked out by the novelist.

The story of the novel is centered on the rape on an English girl, Daphne Manners by a group of Indians, and Hari Kumar, her lover is accused to be one of them. The Bibighar episode of this book (The Jewel in the Crown) becomes the reason for the British to punish and terrorize the natives as Ronald Merrick, an ardent advocate of imperialism, succeeded in persuading the other British officials to treat the incident as an attack on the whole British community. It was a period of extreme political turmoil marked by strong outbursts of rage and resentment against the British. Mutual distrust was so deeply embedded between the ruler and the ruled that the relationship of Daphne Manners and Hari Kumar (accused of raping Daphne) was viewed with hostility and suspicion from all sides. Through this episode, Scott has shown how imperialism had colonized even the minds of the people. The outbreak of riots in Mayapore is depicted to be the consequence of not only the Quit India Movement launched by the Congress on 8th August 1942 but also due to the victimization/incarceration of the six innocent Indians, which had also ignited the anger of the natives. Daphne was held responsible for the suffering of the innocent Indians as Miss Edwina Crane was blamed for the death of Mr
Chaudhuri. This unsuccessful love story of an English girl and an Indian boy is viewed as the history of failed love between the British and Indians.

_The Jewel in the Crown_ analyzes and inspects history by exploring a range of characters related directly or indirectly with the ongoing political happening/crisis of the times. It describes the love-hate relationship between India and Britain, between white and black. The novel focusses on the cursed relationship of an inter-racial love affair between Daphne and Hari Kumar, and the consequences of her (Daphne) rape by six Indian men. The rape of Daphne Manners, symbolically represents the rape of India under British Empire. It also focusses on the plight of Indians in their homeland which is confirmed through the characters of Hari Kumar and Lili Chaterjee. The primary events are told through different narrators and the story moves forward against the backdrop of Quit India Movement of 1942 which started due to the failure of Cripps Mission. The consequent disturbances, riots and rampages in the district because of the ongoing struggle for independence are all detailed in context of history. The novel represents the decline, debacle and demise of imperial power and its dominance over its jewel (India) in the crown.

_The Day of the Scorpion_, the second book of the tetralogy once again deals with the period of political turmoil preceding India’s independence. Along with the stories of the Laytons and the Bingham, the novel portrays the seriousness and worsening of the Second World War. Scott, also takes into cognizance the formation of INA which was a matter of great concern for the
British amidst the political uncertainty of the times. The book brings into focus the mechanism of ‘Divide and Rule’ used by the British to weaken the unity of the Indians and the ongoing national movement on religious lines. This is depicted through the character of Mohammed Ali Kasim (MAK) who was being persuaded and tempted by the Governor to leave the Congress and join hands with the Empire for his personal gains. A staunch nationalist, Kasim turns down the offer; he in the true spirit of patriotism wanted to serve in the cause of his country’s interest. The upheaval that had engulfed India was due to many reasons – the barbaric measures used by the British to put down the ongoing struggle for freedom, their postponement of transference of power into Indian hands, and their political machinations with repressive strategies against the Indians.

The novel, *The Day of the Scorpion* documents the growing political pressures and strife during the last days of British India. Amidst these tensions, the Bibighar incident has been commented upon from different perspectives of the various characters. This incident signifies the growing mistrust, hostility and intolerance between the ruler(s) and the natives. Other than this, the Indian National Movement is depicted as having become an indomitable force working towards India’s independence. The British viewed the aggressive demands of the politically awakened Indians as political insurgency and resorted to the use of force and violence to instil fear and enforce subjugation on them. The plans, actions and reactions of the characters in the novel are the
manifestation of this political and turbulent situation of the country. The historical factors are used to inform and influence the life of all the characters who live their lives in context of the political happenings during the last years of the Raj. The discriminatory politics, social and political posturing as well as the insidious dealings of the colonizers are examined as historical truths in the narrative leading to the weakened power structure of British India and hastening the dissolution of the Empire. In the novel, Scott has with great accuracy and remarkable perceptiveness recreated the spirit of the time.

*The Towers of Silence* is the third and the shortest novel of the *Quartet*. It serves as a connecting book of the series which brings forward the story from Quit India Movement to the eve of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; hints at the withdrawal of Japan from the Second World War and adds an international-political perspective to the novel as well. It explores the growth of INA and the worsening of the political situation during the 1940s. Subhas Chandra Bose, founder of Indian National Army (INA) comes out as a hero, fighting for the cause of his country’s independence and is depicted as a great threat to the British Empire with his extremist views. The novel serves as a medium to give uniformity to the plot of the *Quartet* by working out details omitted in the earlier novels and collating them with the present narrative. It reads as a critique of author’s criticism of the colonial attitudes and policies implemented by the British against the Indians. By focussing on the role of the memsahibs of Pankot, and their decadent life style, the book comes out as a
social document of the times. *The Towers of Silence* presents the crumbling edifice of the Empire, as its illusions slowly disintegrate in wake of the political upheavals in the twilight years of the Raj.

*A Division of the Spoils*, the last book of the *Quartet* brings the monumental fictional enterprise to a logical conclusion. It along with the historical details of the Partition and the violence and bloodshed that took place in the year 1947, also conjoins the events discussed in the earlier three books. With this novel, the tale of imperial embrace is brought to a ceremonious end. For at least two hundred years, India had formed a part of England’s idea about herself and the thought of getting rid of India was a harsh one, leading to innumerable complexities – both for the ruler and the ruled. This quagmire has been presented in the novel. The fictional details once again have been excellently amalgamated with that of history. Historically/chronologically the book covers the period from the time of Germany’s defeat in May 1945 to the independence of India and British retreat in August 1947.

The narrative engages itself with the details of the social, military and political factors which interact and influence one another. The characters caught up in the vortex of time are seen coping with historical complications - the Second World War, liberation of India, Partition of India – which leave them confused and emotionally bleeding; forcing them to change their identities and conventional lives. It deals with the era which decided the fate of two nations and led to the end of the British Empire. The pages of the book are
scarred by the details of the communal massacre that took place during the
dissolution of India into two. 15th August 1947 turned out to be a black day for
the princely states who were forced to sign the ‘Instrument of Accession’ – the
legal document which forced them to merge themselves with either India or
Pakistan. Like thousands of commoners (Indians), the rulers of these small
states too found themselves, uprooted, displaced and disposed as a consequence
of India’s independence and Partition of the country.

The Bibighar case also is brought to a justified conclusion with
Merrick’s death; along with him the pride of the Raj and imperial ideals are
laid to rest at the end of the book.

The novel helps the readers to penetrate through the deeper layers of
meaning of the Raj phenomenon and hence gauge the death of the Raj. The
story that started with The Jewel in the Crown focussing on the rape of Daphne
Manners and the violent attack on Miss Edwina Crane ends with A Division of
the Spoils, detailing the dissolution of the Empire, the significance of Britain’s
withdrawal from India, division of India and Pakistan followed by the transfer
of power and the retreat of the British from India. The novel along with the
earlier books thus gives an insight into the culture of imperialism and Indo-
British politics that comprised the Raj (history) through the lives and situations
of its many characters.

Paul Scott in course of writing his fiction has very adroitly made use of
symbols to highlight significant historical factors. The titles of most of his
novels are highly creative and expressive. *The Alien Sky, The Birds of Paradise, The Jewel in the Crown, The Day of the Scorpion, The Towers of Silence, A Division of the Spoils* all serve his purpose of imparting historical information and also help the readers to comprehend the overall theme of his books. His narrative art with the help of metaphors and symbols has given voice to the intangible aspects of the Raj/colonial history.

Fiction has the potential to reach out to realities which mere history cannot give expression to. Thus, Paul Scott’s prose facilitates a subtle negotiation with history and gives expression to the ‘historical impulse’, so much so as to draw an implicit parallel between historical reality and fiction.