CONCLUSION
Mailer, a Jew from Brooklyn, keeps on pursuing his dream of America, to come face to face with his idealized vision of the new world. But it is not wholly the pursuit of a dream and a flight from reality. As an aeronautical engineer and pilot he wields the skill of flight and the skill of landing; he knows, too, how to tread on the terrain and to keep the feet firmly on earth to take the realities of life and society for what they are. He is a unique combination of the visionary and the idealist as well as the down to earth realist and pragmatist.

The phenomenal growth of science and technology has given the modern American, a conceit that no corner of the universe is unknowable, that he can penetrate distant planets, open up unknown continents of space, that he can sit as an equal with the creator. But the tragic truth has become more and more insistent today that the creator may also turn a destroyer and that all is not well with the age of science and technology. Before venturing upon spaces beyond it would be better to fight the sickness and unease of our society, to restore moral values, individual dignity, abolish poverty and disease, eliminate social evils and make earth the paradise that the optimists dream of.
The certainties of the past no longer seemed dependable. Philosophies such as pragmatism and evidence of the intellectual ferment, disturb thinking minds. Added to these is the leaven of Eastern thought which has been a powerful stimulant to the American mind since Whitman and Emerson. This has not only led to creative self enquiry and a dissatisfaction with the vain exhibitionism of modern civilization but has also served to point out a way of escape from the barrenness of modern life. The remedy for the distresses of materialism as Mailer clearly recognizes is to be found in the acceptance of the spirit of eastern religion and Indian philosophy of life.

The new culture set up in its political, social, economic and moral dimensions inevitably led to the development of new modes and techniques of literary creation. The novelist of today has necessarily to be deeply aware of the realities in which he is positioned. He is both a participant in the continually evolving social reality and an active influence on it. As a literary artist, he not only presents reality but also contributes to its shaping and reshaping.

Mailer typifies the new literary trend of journalistic creative writing. New journalism deals with
works both artistic and commercial. It stands for the level of comprehension of the mass than restricting to a classical approach. It is designed to meet the values and aspirations of the common man than eschewing the hopes of large section of the mass. It detests the pretensions of any special stream of consciousness running into isolation. Hence his journalistic technique has raised his position to that of immense talent and imagination.

The journalistic mode of the novel has been defined as a radical break from the traditional art form of fiction. This genre, compared to other forms is more intimately personal and reveals a deeper involvement of the novelist in what he describes and portrays. In this part he may be compared to what sociologists call the participant observer. The journalistic novelists can satisfy the demands of realism and also fulfil the requirements of art. Because he is a participant in the events and situations which he describes, he can beat once factual and exact; but his description and portrayal are coloured by his own mental outlook and personal philosophy.

It may however be emphasised that the subjective personal and philosophical element is not the direct thrust of Mailer's fictional creation. The direct and the immediate
concern of the Journalist-novelist is to report events and situations accurately and faithfully—the subjective part enters into his narrative like a force that has lain behind the surface but cannot be pent up too long. The proportion between the factual and the personal may vary in different practitioners of this art form. But in Mailer they are equally matched. He reports like a journalist but his reports are burdened with his philosophic predirections. These run into civilization. Thus it may be possible to view Mailer as a journalist and a social critic deeply involved in the process of restoring values to an amorphous system, betrayed by spurious concepts of progress.

These two aspects can even be separated and taken up for special treatment. The main thrust of the argument presented here concerns Mailer's ability to use journalism as a craft and novel as a vehicle for creative art. It would be proper to view Mailer's work from these two apparently separate but connected perspectives.

Mailer's personal experience and the involvement in second world war—Pearl Harbour—and his first hand acquaintance with brutalities of the Vietnam misadventure have provided him material for journalistic fiction par
excellence. In **The Naked and the Dead** the realities are the
darker side of contemporary political and social life, torn
by the greed for acquisition, dominance, competition, mutual
strife and war between nation and nation. Mailer has given
an actual picture of the tragedy and brutality of war and has
linked them with the basic psychological drives of human
nature. This presents the clearest picture of the horror and
inhumanity of war.

**The Naked and the Dead** is Mailer's response to the
inhumanity perpetrated by man on man. He pillories Hitler
in the character of Cummings, who loves neither himself nor
anything. Sadist that Cummings is, who distrusts his wife,
distrusts his subordinates and engineers the murder of Hearn,
for his idealism. He leaves a bitter taste in the mouth with
his potentiality for mischief and wreaking havoc. The novel
is a record of Mailer's investigation into the mechanics of
purposeless war.

The American involvement in Vietnam, as Mailer has
shown, is the most striking example of power hunger and
imperialism. That is the stark reality, the concern for
universal human rights not withstanding. American involvement
in Vietnam has all the features of a misadventure. American
industrial and military might cause an overweening pride in their capabilities. America has no business to enter Vietnam on the pretext of helping the democratic rights of the people, and to prevent the spread of communism, thus killing the innocent Vietnamese in thousand, strafing their agricultural farms and bombing their land into deserts and craters. In the process, American pride was humiliated and many got killed or maimed in action thousands of miles away from home.

Mailer was a political activist himself unsuccessfully contested mayoral election — and was familiar with the facts of the case as much as he felt the pulse of the nation. His investigative powers, so necessary in journalism, have come to the fore in writing a document novel like WHY ARE WE IN VIETNAM? But Mailer's anguish is only one side of his sensitivity. He is aware, at the same time of the spiritual ideal of humanity which has outgrown the need and compulsion of strife where nationalism is not disfigured by chauvinism and nations live together in harmony and peace, dedicating themselves to the cause of humanity and the moral and spiritual equilibrium of the world.

In AN AMERICAN DREAM, Mailer turns once more to the realities of his surroundings. He is confronted principally by the burtal realities of society and polity. What distresses
him most is the all powerful modern state, its total denial of
the principle of individuality and liberty as well as
equality. The original American dream is expressed by the
Founding Fathers in their famous declaration, that all men
were created equal and free; that they were endowed by the
creation with inalienable rights, the right to liberty,
equality and brotherhood and pursuit of happiness. The statue
of liberty is a standing moment for the original American
dream. But today the realities of the American scene seem to
make a mockery of the statue and the American dream.

AMERICAN DREAM is a travesty of any human dream
a debauched version, wherein pretty Deborah can be identified
with the beatific vision of the American continent. Her father,
Kelly not only violates her modesty but panders her beauty
for more and more Power and Pelf. The innocent husband
Rojack discovers the repulsive reality and decides to release
Deborah from the vicious circle. He kills her, storms the
dungeon of the originator of evil, Kelly and destroys him. He
escapes unhindered to Gautamala. Mailer seems to subscribe to
the theory that individuals in a society have a smouldering
responsibility, to act and to establish morality - than
exhorting other to act, than hoping the law and order
machinery to detect and punish crime. Kelly's crime is
insidious, ravenous and cancerous in any society - he represents the insensitive robber - barons, under world dons and political manipulators. Only determined journalists, risking their everything could go close to the dens peep into the activities, collect information and dress it into a story. Mailer's American Dream is such a record of realistic America, with an undercut of the novelist's anxiety to restore the country to its pristine glory.

OF A FIRE ON THE MOON, is a devastating portrait of man's futile audacity to penetrate into the mysteries of the universe and his misdirected energy towards the conquest of Nature. Mailer has shown that if a part of his energy were directed towards the conquest of his own nature, the world would have been a different and a better place to live in. In this novel many other features of modern American society have been taken up for castigation. Mailer was one of the journalists commissioned to observe, investigate and report on the NASA experiment of moon - launch. He faithfully collates evidence to say that America has squandered a fortune on an experiment which has no returns. The quest for space control is a miserable endeavour as its fulfils only the American vanity.
Advertisements for Myself, Tough Guys Don't Dance

and The Executioner's Songs are primarily sociological. They deal with familiar contemporary social themes such as family, marriage, economic inequality, racial discrimination, suppression of opinion, juvenile delinquency, crime, sex and violence.

Mailer's Pieces and Pointifications have been studies for their value as mirrors of his personal responses, literary outlook and social attitude.

The journalist in Mailer is a contemporary narrator and commentator. Mailer the novelist speculates and contemplates over the reality to which the contemporary events point. In the latter capacity comes into prominence his Jewish background, psychological deprivation - the absence of father's loving care, his naturalistic and romantic leanings and his basic faith in providence and the validity of an ethical order.

Mailer's background owes to his early life in New Jersey, Provincetown where he is attracted by a natural beauty and majesty of the sea which was to him a contrast to the Five Star Hotel run by his uncle. The deprivation of parental love in the impressionable years of his life
impacted a certain austerity of outlook on the institution of
the family and an emphasis on the basic spiritual realities
of the family. With this background it is no wonder that
Mailer is a severe critic of the institution of family which
has been disintegrating and dissolving before his very eyes.

Mailer has himself borne with a stoic equanimity, the
burden of the family disintegration. His wives had detested
him, leaving him children whom he accepted, loved and nurtured
unlike his own father. The saving feature in his life
however, was his mother's love which has sustained him
through many years. So was it with his basic religious
strength.

Mailer is neither ritualistic nor religiously
theoristic but his faith in Providence is deep-rooted as a
native trait and has served to sustain his spirit in the
numerous trials of personal life and the challenges of the
human situation. Combined with this faith in Providence
and a genuine religious disposition, Mailer has a streak of
the moral indignation characteristic of the Jew. Puritanic
temper has never deserted his vision of human endeavour and
predicament.
Mailer has distinguished himself as the journalistic novelist who used novel as a vehicle for conveying his understanding of the contemporary America, and by extension to the contemporary world. In this criticism of modern life, he has used language and style which his own ethical and religious standards may not approve but his burning indignation has broken through the restraints of cultured expression. The rawness and filth which he had to describe finds an appropriate and corresponding expression, words truly matching the subject. But the puritanical reader should not be deterred from recognizing Mailer's message which stands out clearly through all his variations of style and power exploitations. He is no defeatist by any means. His philosophy is robust, down to earth and also idealistic and optimistic.

Mailer believes in progress in the City of God but warns that the path is not easy. It is beset with numerous traits and obstructions. He believes that every human being has his share of woes and tribulations as a part of his destiny or Karma. But it is also his destiny to reach the Promised Land along the rough road. Ultimately Mailer would question the author of man's destiny. It is man himself who has made it and Providence puts its seal on it. A better and
sure path for man is to follow the law of right action which will erase the burden of his accumulated sins and walk as a free man towards his appointed divine destiny.

Mailer's concept of art as a means to achieve the ends - the ends of social justice, moral stability, ethical standards, political awareness, humanism. He has extensively travelled and developed insight into human predicament through various personal experiences, transmuted into artistic artefacts. The medium Mailer has chosen is a kind of investigative journalism - where facts are collected, collated and presented after subjecting them to intense analysis. The product is a mode of novelistic expression popularized by Mailer as a new mode the journalistic mode.