

**POLITICS IN THE NOVELS OF
CHAMAN NAHAL**

THESIS

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

IN
ENGLISH

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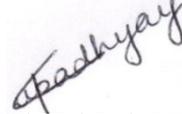
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2017

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the Ph.D. thesis entitled **POLITICS IN THE NOVELS OF CHAMAN NAHAL** being submitted by me embodies my original work and to the best of my knowledge, it has not been submitted in part or full, to any other university/Institution. To the best of my knowledge and belief, It contains no material, in full or in parts previously published or written by any other person, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text. All the sources used in the thesis, have been duly cited and acknowledged by me. If I am found guilty of plagiarism, the responsibility of the same shall be solely mine.

Signature of Candidate



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Date: 6-05-2017

Place: Almora

CERTIFICATE

Certified that Ms.Chandrakala Upadhyay has worked under my supervision for her Ph.D thesis entitled “POLITICS IN THE NOVELS OF CHAMAN NAHAL”. Her research work is original and she has completed it within stipulated time. She has fulfilled the requirement of attendance as per University rules.

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PREFACE

Chaman Nahal is a renowned novelist, essayist, story writer, and a versatile genius of post-modern Indian English Literature. His novels are primarily concerned with political, social and mythical issues as well as Indian culture. His novels are about politics and the freedom struggle. He has also presented the conflicts and violence between communities across India during the time of partition and that of its aftermath. He has portrayed Gandhi and his life lively. He is a highly appreciated story writer. His portrayal of the traumas of partition won him the Sahitya Academy Award in 1977.

The present research work is divided into five chapters including the “Introduction” and “Conclusion.” Chapter one, presents a note on the author’s life and his literary career along with the literature review. It also illustrates the writer’s style, narration and other qualities which immortalize him in the galaxy of literature.

The second chapter, ‘Treatment of Politics in Indian English Fiction’, provides an overview of those Indian English Fiction Writers, who have political elements in their novels. This chapter deals with the different political colours on Indians and their consequences. Khushwant singh’s *Train To Pakistan* deals with partition, Bhabani Bhattacharya’s *Shadow from Ladakh* shows the impact of the China war of 1965, Arun Joshi’s *The City and The River* and Nayantara Sagal’s *Rich Like Us*, reflects Emergency.

The third chapter 'Freedom Struggle' as the title suggests, deals with the freedom struggle; here I have discussed the freedom movement from 1919 upto independence. Nahal's *The Gandhi Quartet* in its four volumes picturise the whole scenario of our memorable freedom movement. These novels analyse how Nahal presents political elements in a fictional way. The political elements dealt here are Non-Cooperation Movement, Satya and Ahimsa, the Salt March and the Quit India Movement.

The fourth chapter, 'Partition' deals with Nahal's most famous novel '*Azadi*' in which the autobiographical element is obvious. Through this novel he has tried to say that not everyone gets pleasure from freedom. The dark and hidden sides of freedom have been presented here. The plight of the Hindus and the Sikhs refugees from Pakistan is the basic theme of the novel.

The sixth and the last chapter, "Conclusion" is a brief summary of the preceding chapters which has been analysed from various perspectives in the light of the present research work. It compromises on the findings of the thesis and focuses on the contribution of the research work to the existing knowledge.

It is customary as well as obligatory to express my gratitude towards all those who extended their help and inspired and encouraged me in the process of achieving the timely completion of this thesis. I most humbly express my sincere and profound sense of gratitude to my esteemed guide and my Guru Dr. Nirmala Pant for her moral support and encouragement. Her careful and constant guidance sustained my spirit and inspired

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I also thank each and every one who has helped me directly or indirectly in my research work. Last but not the least;

I thank the Almighty for bestowing me with His blessings to enable me complete this work in time.

CHANDRAKALA UPADHYAY

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ABBREVIATIONS

CL - The Crown and The Loincloth

SL - The Salt of Life

TT- The Triumph of the Tricolour

RLU - Rich Like Us

SFL - Shadows From Ladakh

CR - The City and The River