

P R E F A C E

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In Tamil Nadu for over a century, the social reform movement was led by great reformists, leaders and scholars belonging to various sectors.

Pandit C.Ayothidoss, the first Indian Buddhist, Revivalist and a close associate of H.S. Olcott, devoted his life to upgrading and uplifting the backward and the downtrodden of the Tamil Nadu from their social and religious depression.

Their special attention was directed, in particular, towards the untouchable Hindus, who lived the life of the bygone and dead age, dragging on their miserable existence, living with insufficient accommodation and in insanitary surroundings, and suffering social segregation.

The non-Brahmin movement emerged as South Indian Liberal Party cum Justice Party in early 1916 through the activities of a small number of Hindu orthodox, non-Brahmin elite who demanded reservation in education and

in Government reforms. In 1944 the Justice Party was converted into Dravida Kazhagam under the leadership of the social revolutionary, Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy, who believed that service has to be rendered to the people in the social sphere on a priority basis.

Annadurai and scores of young men left Dravida Kazhagam protesting against E.V. Ramaswamy's late marriage, started concentrating on his new political party the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and came to power in 1967, and died in 1969. In 1969 Karunanidhi emerged as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

In this thesis, an attempt has been made to present a critical analysis of Karunanidhi's achievements in the socio-economic and political spheres, supplemented by an analysis of the D.M.K. public policy since 1967. The thesis also discusses the many socio-economic welfare projects launched during Karunanidhi's regime. Karunanidhi, no doubt, is a great scholar in Tamil literature, a statesman, a mass leader and a firm believer in democratic principles. Also it is worth mentioning that he is a great rationalist, reformist, radicalist, a powerful and lucid orator, a popular playwright and a well-known poet in Tamil. As a political

and social thinker, he is a great advocate and a mouth-
✓piece of the backward and the downtrodden.

His enthusiasm, his enormous capacity for work, his forth-rightness, his many striking qualities, have impressed millions of average Tamils, stimulated them to a higher use of socio-economic progress in their own life, in an effort to restore the ancient glory to Tamil Nadu. Some political analyst has viewed Karunanidhi as a historic personality whose period as Chief Minister was the golden age, not only to the DMK Party but to Tamils and Tamil Nadu.

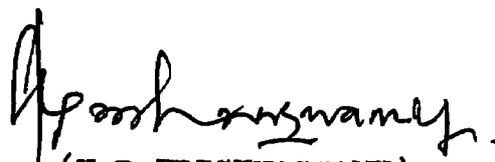
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I have also drawn my material from various sources and institutions such as the State Information Bureau, Madras; State Legislature Library, Madras; Connemara Public Library, Periyar Thidal, Madras; Murosolipathipagam, Madras; Periyar Illam, Erode; Proceedings of State Legislative Assembly; and Legislative Council; Tamil Nadu Legislative Quinquennial Review; Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly : Who is Who?; and a number of books, volumes, pamphlets, posters, election manifestos, newspapers, governmental orders etc.

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