In Graham Greene we find another kind of pessimistic mood and a different way of living. It is notable that murder, suicide, betrayal, adultery, intrigue and such other crimes figure prominently in his novels. These themes are taken mostly from contemporary society.

**Murder**

Greene's first novel *The Man Within* (1929) deals mainly with smuggling, murder, betrayal, suicide, fornication and search for peace. These are key themes that occur in his subsequent novels.

In his two novels, published after the first one, *The Name of Action* and *Rumour at Nightfall*, there were cases of betrayal, fornication and other undesirable events like these. These novels had references to the good side of the Catholic religion. All this we know from the critics. Here I would like to note that in reply to my query the Secretary to Graham Greene wrote to me: "Mr. Greene has suppressed *The Name of Action* and *Rumour at Nightfall*, the two books which followed *The Man Within*. I think ... — they were published in 1930 and 1931 respectively."

In this connexion I should like to add that before his first novel was published in 1929 Greene had written two novels and an incomplete one. But those books were not worth publishing.
Andrew, the hero of the novel, belongs to a gang of smugglers. The smugglers shoot at a revenue officer, Edward Rawall, and kill him on the dock. Andrews, a coward, leaves his friends and takes shelter in the house of a young girl called Elizabeth. The smugglers are in search of him. Towards the close of the novel we see that Elizabeth is killed by the group of the smugglers. At this Andrews, who loves her dearly, is deeply grieved and his true love and holiness dawn upon him; and that is why he cannot live.

John Atkins, a notable critic of Graham Greene, writes: "Before the appearance of his first published novel, The Man Within, Greene wrote two novels and began a third which he did not complete. He has left strict orders in his will that they should never be published in extract or any other form.

John Atkins: Graham Greene, p. 15

Greene himself writes in his note to The Man Within: "The Man Within was the first novel of mine to find a publisher. I had already written two novels, both of which I am thankful to Heinemann's for rejecting."
alone on earth without the object of his love. So, he commits suicide.

Josef Griinlich in Stamboul Train (1932) kills a man named Herr Kolbor at Vienna. He seems to feel pride at this killing. He says to himself: "I, Josef Griinlich, have killed a man". (P 90) After the murder he escapes. Though he is a murderer he, like a true communist, feels for the poor common people. His thoughts have been described by the novelist himself in the following words:

"The world was Chaotic; when the poor were starved and the rich were not happier for it; when the thief might be punished or rewarded with titles; when wheat was burned in Canada and Coffee in Brasil, and the poor in his own country had no money for bread and froze to death in unheated rooms; the world was out of joint and he had done his best to set it right, but that was over." - P 169.

The above words give us a dark picture of the world. It is true that the majority of the people in society are in acute poverty. They greatly suffer for want of food, clothings and shelter. They have no opportunity for proper education and medical treatment. They cannot enjoy their lives, while a small number of rich people enjoy theirs to the fullest extent and have all sorts of opportunities in life and society. All the wealth
is at their hands. They form a class by themselves. They are known as the 'have's exploiting the 'have-nots'; the poor class. The communist says that the structure of the present day society based on economy should be changed and indeed it is quite desirable; and for this he advocates an armed revolution. Here Graham Greene appears to be a humanist and tries to get sympathy for the people in distress.

In the next novel It's a Battlefield (1934) Jim Drover, a comrade of the Communist Party of England, is in prison for killing a policeman who had given offence to his wife, Milly. Through the efforts of Conrad Jim's brother, the death-sentence is commuted to eighteen years' imprisonment. Now, circumstances lead Mr. Conrad to seduce Milly.

Milly truly loves her husband. But it should be remembered that love between wife and husband is almost always mixed up with sex. Freudian psychology says that there can be passion without love but there can be no love without sexual passion. Hence we find psychological reactions in Milly. These reactions are clearly due to the despair of sexual passion and pleasure. This is no doubt natural. Here we also see the moral conflict between innocence and corruption, good and evil, which is a popular theme in Greene's novels. Conrad is innocent and Milly is a true wife; but circumstances change their nature. In Shakespeare's drama also circumstances contribute to the
bringing about of tragedy. Othello, Macbeth, Hamlet etc. are examples in point.

Next we find that murder occurs in *A Gun For Sale* (1936). At the very outset of the novel the incident of a murder is vividly shown. It is a pure crime-thriller. Raven, the main character, is the murderer. The opening line runs thus: "Murder didn't mean much to Raven. It was just a new job". He is sent to a continental state to kill an idealistic Minister of War by an English corrupt capitalist called Sir Marcus. Raven would be paid for the same. Thereupon he goes to the continent and sees the Minister concerned. At the latter's residence finding an opportune moment Raven "snatched the automatic out of the case and shot the Minister twice in the back". (P 7) The novelist describes this incident of murder as follows:

"The Minister fell across the oil stove; the Sausage-pan upset and the two eggs broke on the floor. Raven shot the Minister once more in the head, leaning across the desk to make quite certain, driving the bullet hard into the base of the skull, smashing it open like a china doll's."

Greene has a good hand at narrating scenes of murder. Here is a case in point. And his crime-thrillers testify to this statement. This particular element of pessimism connected with murder as stated above may be
attributed to man's inordinate greed for money. The Minister is not an enemy of Raven. He commits the crime only for money. The industrialist (whose name is mentioned above) has no enmity with the Minister. He has got him killed by Raven in order to sell his own stock of arms so that he can make more money. His idea is that the murder of an innocent Minister of War may give rise to war-scare and the arms that his factory produces shall be sold in large quantity. The same motive is also traced to Greene's The Man Within (smuggling) and England Made Me (international business). Thus we see that money-making is a man's (whether he is a poor or rich) prime motive. Karl Marx states that man's fundamental impulse is economic. We may also conclude that man becomes an easy prey to the evils of money. So our scriptures strongly advise us not to be attached to wealth. One of the oldest Upanishads called Isha says:

_Upanishad_  
_lana samvijn yuktiyupma  
ma bhuksam kasya sikhram  
Tena tyaktena bhunjitha  
ma gridah kasya avidhanam  

"Leaving the transient, find joy in the Eternal; don't covet another's wealth." Christ also taught men the virtue of detachment to wealth. In modern times Sri Ramakrishnan's teaching of man's detachment to wealth and sex forms the core of his message. True it is that money is essential in life but
inordinate attachment to it brings evil to our life.

Raven comes back home fulfilling his mission. He is paid for the murder in stolen and marked notes by Mr. Davis, the agent of Sir Marcus. So he is double-crossed, and therefore he is now being pursued by the police and he moves from place to place in disguise to avoid arrest. He enters a doctor's chamber to wipe off his hare-lip. The doctor informs the police over the telephone. Raven then leaves the place at once. A girl named Anne comes forward to help Raven and pretends to be his friend and well-wisher. But as a matter of fact, she is an agent of the police officer called Mr. Mather. But afterwards she also betrays Raven. Thus Raven is betrayed on all sides.

The matter does not end here. Raven is now very angry with Sir Marcus and his agent Mr. Davis and is resolved to take revenge on them. He goes to them and shoots them dead one after the other. Before he shoots them he has conversations with both of his betrayers. To quote from the book: "He (Raven) raised his pistol and shot Sir Marcus in the chest. It was the only way to silence them. Sir Marcus fell forward across the bed-table, upsetting the glass of warm milk over the papers on his desk. Blood came out of his mouth." (P. 167)

Next Raven shoots Mr. Davis. "Raven shot him with despair and deliberation he shot his last chance of escape, plugged two bullets in where one would do, as if..."
he were shooting the whole world in the person of stout
moaning bleeding Mr. Davis. And so he was. (P 168) 

We may say that taking revenge is something
unchristian. Christianity denounces it. It may be unethical.
Society wants to punish the wrong-doer and disapproves of
the taking of law in one's own hands. It provides a sort of
outlet to man's inhaled cruelty of nature. Revenge has
been a popular motive on the English stage. Revenge-drama
established itself on the English stage with the appearance
of Kyd's The Spanish Tragedy, Hamlet and Duchess of Malfi
down to Ford's The Broken Heart and other plays are also
Revenge-plays.

From the novel we come to know that Raven also
kills a man called Rite. At last Raven is shot by a policeman
man named Saunders. Greene describes his death in his uni-
que way: "Death came to him in the form of unbearable pain.
It was as if he had to deliver this pain as a woman delivers
a child, and he sobbed and moaned in the effort. At last it
came out of him and he followed his only child into a vast
desolation. (P 170)

Indeed Raven is a figure of suffering and misery. The root
of this suffering and misery arising out of a series of
murders committed by him, lies in human character. A man
murders a man because of his psychological moods viz. anger,
hatred, greed, and the like. These moods may again develop in a man owing to the environment he is born in and brought up. In this context Raven's childhood may be recalled here. Raven, a hardened murderer, is likewise shaped by his home environment and the race-course gangs. His father was hanged for a crime he committed and his mother later committed suicide by a kitchen knife. So Raven was not brought up in a healthy environment and his mental development was arrested.

Besides environment, heredity is also an important factor in moulding the character of a person. Raven's heredity may have some share in shaping his future life as a murderer. According to modern psychology, a man's personality is formed by two factors viz. heredity and environment. Both the factors have influences upon Raven, the murderer.

At the end of the novel *A Gun for Sale* Anne is found repentant as she has betrayed Raven and lost him for no tangible reason. She is in despair. "She stared out at the dingy Midland Station with dismay. It seemed to her that everything which made her life worth the effort of living was lost; she hadn't even got a job..." (p 181) This is also a good piece of pessimistic element.

Raven in *A Gun For Sale* resembles Pinkie in *Brighton Rock* (1938). The latter book is also a crime-thriller like the former. In *Brighton Rock* we come across the murders of Hale and Spicer. They are killed by their companions. There is a gang headed by Pinkie. The murderers...
declare that their deaths are natural. Later, Pickle had a
sense now that the murders of Hale and Spicer were trivial
acts, a boy's game, and he had put away childish things.
Murder had only led up to this - this corruption. Here "corruption" means confession. He does not like to con-

fess the crime he commits.

Life is div. So murder is a grave crime, a great
sin. No one has the right to take one's life. So, it is a
social and moral crime and a great sin against the divine
Law. Therefore, it is undesirable and the most horrible
thing in society.

In The Power and the Glory (1940) we see a corrupt
priest who is, in the end, shot dead. In one of the Southern
States of Mexico there was a police-drive against the priests.
For the Church was banned by the communists in power. During
this anti-clerical purge a Catholic priest in order to escape
the notice of the police was on the run from one place to
another especially in the villages. He was being hunted by the

* The source of the story, The Power and the Glory is his
travel book The Lawless Roads. In 1938 Graham Greene was sent
to Mexico to study the position of religion and the Churches
under the new political power there. In his travel book men-
tioned above Greene writes in one place: "Private houses were
searched for religious emblems, and prison was the penalty for
possessing them. A youngman I met in Mexico City - a family
police for "treason". During his travel he had to suffer much. Sometimes his travel was tedious and sometimes he could not procure even food and clothes among the poor villagers. He became a bad priest; he had committed "the unforgivable sin" and "had given way to despair". (P 60)

He became drunkard and indulged in the crime of fornication. He had also an illegitimate child. Once he prayed: "O God, forgive me - as a proud, lustful, greedy man, I have loved authority too much. These people are martyrs - protecting me with their own lives. They deserve a martyr to care for them - not a man like me, who loves all the wrong things." (P 95)

As we see, in his prayer the priest confessed his evil nature and he was conscious of it. Indeed, his world was "a world of treachery, violence, and lust in which his shame was altogether insignificant." (P 97)

friend of Garrido's - was imprisoned three days for wearing a cross under his shirt; the dictator was incorruptible. A journalist on his way to photograph Tabasco was shot dead in Mexico City airport before he took his seat. Every priest was hunted down or shot except one who existed for ten years in the forests and the swamps, venturing out only at night;...." (P 106)
He is now arrested, put into prison and tried. He confesses that he has "committed fornication". He says: "I have lain with a woman". (P 207) Now the priest feels remorse and therefore says - "Oh God, help her. Damn me, I deserve it, but let her live for ever". Again he begins to say: "I have been drunk - I don't know how many times; there isn't - any I haven't neglected; I have been guilty of pride, lack of charity...." (P 208)

Towards the end the priest has become a figure of miseries and sufferings. These have been well expressed in the following lines:

"He felt sick with fear, his stomach ached, and his mouth was dry with the drink. He began to talk aloud to himself because he couldn't stand the silence any more. He complained miserably, 'It's all very well... for saints', ... Then he began to cry, beating his head gently against the wall." (P 209)

On the morning of the day of his death the priest tries to remember an act of contrition. "O God, I am sorry and beg pardon for all my sins... crucified...worthy of thy dreadful punishments". His miseries are all the more expressed through the lines quoted here.

He felt only an immense disappointment because he had to go to God empty - handed, with nothing...
The last scene in which the priest is about to be shot on the scaffold, is pathetic indeed. The author describes the scene in the following words:

"A small man came out of a side door; he was held up by two policemen, but you could tell that he was doing his best - it was only that his legs were not fully under his control. They paddled him across to the opposite wall; an officer tied a handkerchief round his eyes." (P 216)

"He is trying to say something: ... but perhaps his mouth was too dry, because nothing came out except a word that sounded like 'Exeunt'" (P 216) This is a deeply pathetic scene indeed, and touches the heart of the reader. We also find reactions to his death: The jeep moans and feels pain within. Mr. Tench is lost in though and feels uneasy. An appalling sense of loneliness comes over Mr. Tench. He feels deserted. (P 217)

The novel under discussion reels under violence and there is much bloodshed. A child of three is shot twice and is in a pool of blood. He becomes unconscious but not yet dead. His mother of course is very anxious for her child. She has none to help her. The priest accidentally has come to their help. The child, however, soon dies. The helpless..."
mother's condition is really pathetic. The body of the child is buried by the priest himself. Thus his sense of humanity is shown here. Another incident of violence occurs in the novel. During his conversation with the priest the lieutenant says: "I've shot three hostages because of you. Poor men. It made me hate you." (P 198)

In The Ministry of Fear (1943) we come across another kind of murder which may be called 'merciful murder'. Arthur Rowe 'mercifully' murders his ailing wife. He poisons her because she has been greatly suffering. Thereafter Rowe develops a mental disease; he is now mentally abnormal because of his guilty conscience. This abnormality is called Maniac Depression in modern Abnormal Psychology. He suspects that the people are planning to kill him and gets very often frightened. In modern psychiatry this is known as Persecutory Paranoia. Both the symptoms fall under the disease named Narcissistic Psychosis to use the Freudian term. Rowe now talks irrelevantly and in his imagination connects every ordinary incident with the imaginary plan to murder him. He then goes to Mr. Remnit, a detective, to complain against his "enemies" and requests him to keep watch on him. He discloses the 'attempt' on his life to Mr. Remnit. He tells: "Somebody tried to kill me. It doesn't sound important when so many of us are being killed every night - but it made me angry at the time." (P 34).
In course of his conversation with Mr. Hermit, Rowe discloses the murder of his wife. "Perhaps", Rowe said, "I ought to tell you that I am a murderer myself" (P 35). Again he says: "It was my wife I murdered" (P 37). He is in great suffering and anxiety. He even contemplates of committing suicide. The police is looking for Rowe for the murder. He says to a lady: "Mother, I murdered her... I've killed my wife, and the police want me" (P 63-64).

Rowe is crippled in mind and becomes "the quarry of malign and shadowy forces". He also suffers from loss of memory. Arthur is however tried for murder and is sent to an asylum for treatment. Later he appears before the police for queries and he is acquitted.

Arthur's mercy-killing is similar to Lawrence's son killing his mother. It should be noted that "one doesn't necessarily kill because one hates: one may kill because one loves". (P 132) This is the case with Arthur Rowe and the son in Lawrence's novel Sons and Lovers.

Violence

Violence (bloodshed, killing etc.) is a prominent pessimistic element in Greene's novels. Here is also the same thing we come across. Indeed violence is something unnatural to civilized society. But it happens. In this connexion Maugham's The Harrow Corner and Lawrence's Kangaroo and The Plumed Serpent may be recalled. Violence has existed
since the dawn of man's advent on the globe. Generally, we do not like violence. But Karl Marx says that violent revolution including bloodshed, killing etc. is inevitable in order to bring a classless society where there will be equality between a man and a man, where there will be no exploitation and every one will enjoy equal rights with others. According to Marx, through the struggle for a classless society a bright future of human society will be ushered in. But Gandhiji, an apostle of non-violence, would not admit it. His view is that violence cannot bring a non-violent society. The good end must come through the good means. So in Gandhiji's philosophy means and ends are identical.

_Suicide_

Like murder, suicide is also a prominent feature in Greene's pessimism. We have already mentioned that at the end of the novel _The Man Within_ Andrews commits suicide as Elizabetha's murder by his fellow-smugglers is unbearable to him. In _Brighton Rock_ there is also a case of suicide. It is Molly Cartew who kills herself in despair (P 144). This is indeed an element of pessimism in the novel.

Life is most precious. Therefore, it is our prime duty to protect and develop it. We must love life in all circumstances. Suicide is just the reverse. Hence it is anti-life. Life becomes pessimistic when love of and faith in life are lost. The case of Molly is quite evidently a pessimistic one.
In *The Confidential Agent*, Else, a fourteen-year old girl of a hotel commits suicide by jumping out of a top-floor window. Mr. D is held responsible by a detective for the suicide. The former of course denies the charge. He says to the detective: "She was murdered — by the manageress and a man called K." (P 104) There is the mention of yet two suicides in *The Ministry of Fear*. One is of Conway; he loses his memory; life is too much for him; he cannot meet the difficult situation and loses equilibrium of mind. These are the effects of the War-shells. And at the end of the novel Rowe informs Anna, "Your brother's dead. He shot himself". (P 221) She then simply asks with terrible anxiety: "What did he say to you?" Rowe replies that he had been dead before he reached him. We do not know the cause of this suicide. One commits suicide when one loses all interest in and love for life. There must be some serious cause behind and this shakes the person to the depths of his being. Suicide is committed in an abnormal mood due to the unbalance of the mind; it is a kind of temporary madness at least. Self-preservation is the fundamental impulse of man. Yet man destroys his most valuable and dearest thing called life. In some of Haigham's novels, too, suicide occurs.

Jim Drover (*It's a Battlefield*) is in prison for murder. (P 3) He is afraid that his wife will cease to love him over the long eighteen years of his imprisonment. So he tries to kill himself. "Drover wasn't afraid of death, but he's very
fond of his wife. She'll be a middle-aged woman when he becomes out of prison; do you think any woman can be faithful for eighteen years to a man she sees once a month?" When he is taken "to one of the top cells in Block A, he tried to kill himself. He flung himself over. Of course he was only bruised. The wire net caught him."

Jim's attempt to commit suicide is due to the circumstances he has been put to as described above. Next we see that Scobie, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, in *The Heart of the Matter*, has a love-affair with a girl, his mistress. He comes into physical contact with her and thus betrays his wife. He is excessively conscientious and is tortured within. He is a catholic convert and believe in the Divine grace and in order to absolve himself of the sin he commits suicide.

We note here that John Atkins, a notable critic, in his book *Graham Greene* informs us that "Graham actually contemplated suicide and went some way to meet it" (P 11). Thus we conclude that personal experience of deep anguish about life haunts him when he writes his novels in which suicides occur. Hence bitter and sad actions and events like suicide etc. are abundantly found in them.

**Betrayal and Adultery**

It is to be noted that betrayal and adultery repeatedly occur in Greene's novels. These are undoubtedly
In the first novel of Graham Greene, Andrews informs the police of his fellow smugglers and gives evidence in court against his accomplices. Thus Andrews betrays his friends, particularly the leader Corlyon. Elizabeth comes to love Andrews but the latter proves faithless to his beloved by lying once with a woman of loose morals called Lucy. He himself confesses his guilt to Elizabeth.

Let us quote from the novel where Andrews says to Elizabeth: "I have only had one friend and I betrayed him. I don't want to betray you."... (P 182) "How have you betrayed me?" she asked. "Andrews without looking up answered, 'once with a woman'" (P 183). "I told you that I was with a woman last night. I'm dirty, I tell you, smiled'. \[P 190\]

In the novel called *A Gun For Sale* Raven is betrayed by Mr. Davis, the agent of Sir Marcus the industrialist. Raven is paid in stolen and marked notes. So he is in trouble with them and police is in search of him. Again, a girl named Anne comes forward to help him and pretends to be his friend and well-wisher. But as a matter of fact, she is an agent of the police officer set against Raven; her aim is to put him into a difficult situation so that the police may catch hold of him. Raven is also betrayed by the girl. Conrad Drover in *It's a Battlefield* is an innocent man and an idealist. By the chance relationship
of life he is betrayed. In the novel there is clear suggestion of his sexual relationship with Milly during the long absence of Milly's husband, Jim Drover. Conrad is of course conscious of his adultery and has guilty conscience. Indeed he despair at the extent of his own corruption. We get the news of Conrad's death in a hospital. He has to pay for the corruption with his death. All this is indeed a dark side of life. In the novel we feel a strong sense of meaninglessness which comes from the misunderstanding of personal relationships. At the end of the novel the Chaplain says: "I can't stand human justice any longer. It is arbitrariness. Its incomprehensibility." In the book we see that human justice is attacked. The novelist's sense of insecurity, with the possible addition of sexual maladjustment, comes to a head in this novel for the first time.

Undesirable sexual relationship forms a very prominent feature in Graham Greene's books. In The Man Within as already mentioned above Andrews comes in sexual contact with a woman called Lucy. In Stamboul Train there is reference to the Kammetz trial in which General Kammetz is charged with rape. Dr. Sinner is the chief evidence for prosecution. General Kammetz is, however, acquitted. In the same novel we see that Hyatt, a young Jew, and Coral, a dancing girl, indulge in amorous activities with each other. "He kissed her again and again and tried to slip her frock over her shoulder. Her body trembled and moved under her dress..."
like a cat tried in a bag; suddenly, she put her lips up to him and kissed his chin. "I do love you," she said, 'I do'. And Hyatt has seduced Coral Masker. (P 122)

In the novel *It's a Battle-field* Mr. Surrogate, a comrade of the British Communist Party, brings Kay Rimmer to his residence and takes her round the rooms. Mrs. Surrogate Margaret is dead. Mr. Surrogate spends the night with Kay Rimmer (Sister of Milly) on the same bed. Her body was ready for enjoyment; the deep peace of sensuality covered all the fears and perplexities of the day; she never felt more at home than in a bed or a man's arms". (P 62). Again, circumstances lead Mr. Conrad to seduce Milly, his sister-in-law.

In *The Power and the Glory* the corrupt priest has fornication with several women and he has an illegitimate-child by one of them. He confesses his evil in his prayer. In Greene's later novels *The Heart of the Matter* (1948) and *The End of the Affair* (1951) similar themes of adultery are also met with. In the former novel Scobie commits adultery with a girl named [redacted]. In the latter one Bendrix has sexual union with Sarah, wife of Henry.

All this is pornography and the novelist brings in in his novels a moral conflict as found in the early
novels of Aldous Huxley which are called 'moral tragedies'.

Sex impulse is common to man and woman. It is the most virulent instinct. Man can hardly control it. Freud says that sex is the most fundamental impulse of man. His activities, thoughts and imagination are guided by this instinct. In this context it may be noted that according to Graham Greene, a Roman Catholic, "original sin" is the prime cause of all sorts of adultery, fornication and other crimes - the sin our first parents, Adam and Eve, committed in the Garden of Eden in Paradise in disobedience to the Lord. This is a Christian belief. Here it may not be out of place to mention that William Golding, too, deals with the problem of evil and original sin. His is also a Christian pessimism.

In Maugham's and Lawrence's novels also we find illegal sexual unions between men and women. It should be noted that Maugham attributes man's adultery to his inherent nature and unlike Greene, he does not describe the sexual acts in his novels. But Lawrence vividly describes the sexual acts & experiences therefrom in his masterly language. His The Rainbow, Woman in Love and Lady Chatterley's Lover are examples in point. The characters that are
involved in sexual activity in the novels of Maugham and Lawrence do not repent for their illegal actions while Greene's characters repent as the priest and Soobie do.

**Conflict Between Good and Evil**

In the novel *Brighton Rock* we trace the interaction of corruption and innocence, salvation and damnation in the persons of Rose and Pinkie. In *The Power and the Glory*, *The Heart of the Matter* and *The End of the Affair*, Greene presents the conflict between good and evil in the theological sense. There is conflict within the priest. Moreover, the conflict between him and the lieutenant symbolizes the conflict between the spirit and the body. Again, interaction between pride and despair, hatred and love is also found in the novels named above. William Golding and Elizabeth Bowen are also interested in good and evil. In C. P. Snow's novels we find class struggle and individual power struggle. In literature we come across the conflict between two opposite forces. This conflict may be internal and external. In Shakespeare's major tragedies the both kinds of conflict are quite evident. In R. L. Stevenson's notable work *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886) the two quite opposite natures in a man have been skilfully shown. Arthur High Clough's (*Doubled-souled*) deals with the story of a soul struggling between good and evil. It is a good specimen of the conflict between good and evil. Marx has shown that there has always been the class conflict in society.
and this is the cause of social progress. There is no use of multiplying examples. It is true that we cannot avoid conflict. Many men, many minds. So opinions differ, ideas vary and interests clash. This is a social fact. This is external conflict. There is yet an internal one. Man is a composite being. One part of him is rational, conscientious, higher nature which the other animal, unconscious and lower nature. Thus we have more or less internal conflict between our two opposite natures. Greene's *The Quiet American* (1955) deals with the two opposing forces viz. communism and colonialism. East and West. Materialism and Catholicism are in conflict there. We also find the conflict between the bright and the dark sides of life in Greene.

Philosophically interpreted, it may be said that contradiction is at the root of life and progress and movement. This rules the world. Everything has a tendency to change and contradict itself and at the next step the contradiction is transcended to a higher synthesis. Hegel's Dialectical process involves thesis, antithesis and synthesis. This process evolves the principle of evolution. With Hegel contradictions are parts of a whole. The whole is the unity and that is the truth.

It should be remembered that Greene is a Roman Catholic convert, and his religious views are reflected in the novels named above. In them there is a religious
leap as found in Somerset Maugham and Huxley, who turn to Indian Spiritualism. These novels of Greene are known as 'religious thrillers'. Indeed, there is a transition from Greene's crime-thriller to his religious-thriller. In the latter a sensation is created regarding religion. This traces Greene's development into a major novelist.

Some heroes in Greene's religious thrillers are led to adultery and commit suicide, and they are now fallen characters. The battle between good and evil dominates in them. It should be noted that the heroes are struggling between the love of woman and the love of God, which Greene shows so remarkably. His devilish heroes are consciously approaching God. The novelist believes that failure in life gets one nearer to God than success and he has sympathy and pity for those who have failed, "for the one struck down". He also believes that purity comes out of impurity, saintliness from demonism, belief from unbelief, virtue from vice. The Priest, Soobie & Sarah are examples in point. We see inner conflict, soul-searching tension and recognition of self, and, in fact, in the novels The Power and the Glory, The Heart of the Matter and The End of the Affair we see a catholic search through sin for redemption and the author is grappling with the fundamental issues, human and spiritual. Greene is of the opinion that the fallen may also be saved.
For him, "evil has spiritual glamour, and spiritual goodness is often connected with moral weakness".

(Eraser: The Modern Writer and His World, p. 134)

In this context I would like to mention what Greene once told to Time reporter. Greene said to him: "I wrote a book about a man who goes to hell - Brighton Rock - another about a man who goes to heaven - The Power and the Glory. Now I have simply written one about a man who goes to purgatory. I don't know what all the fuss is about".

(John Atkins: Graham Greene, p. 199)

This faith, that there is man's relation to the Divine powers, is shared by Evelyn Waugh, Greene's contemporary. It should be noted that religion has always been one of the forces of literature in all countries. Hilton in the Puritan Age and T. S. Eliot in modern times are two outstanding literary figures in English literature on religious themes. Hilton was anxious to explain "the ways of God to man", while Greene is eager to demonstrate the ways of the Divine. Greene writes in an essay called Francesco Maurici as follows:

"For with the death of James the religious sense was lost to the English novel, and with the religious sense went the sense of the importance of the human act. It was as if the world of fiction had lost a dimension".

(Collected Essays, p. 91)
In his religious thrillers Greene attempts to revive this lost dimension.

Besides the conflict between the good and the evil, we come across some other kind of conflict via revolution and war in Greene's novels. Revolution and war are the conflicts between groups of men and of nations respectively.

A communist revolution breaks out in Belgrade under the leadership of Dr. Caïnner (Strasbourg Train). In the newspaper one finds the news as follows:

"An attempt was made last night by a band of armed communist agitators to seize the Station and the prison at Belgrade. The police were taken by surprise and for nearly three hours the revolutionaries were in undisputed possession of the General Post Office and the goods-yard. All telegraphic communication with Belgrade was interrupted until early this morning..." [P 69] But the revolution fails. And at this news Dr. Caïnner "was heart-broken". (P 95)

Again the news runs thus:

"The Communist outbreak at Belgrade, which was put down with some loss of life on Wednesday night, as reported in our later editions yesterday, was planned by the notorious agitator, Dr. Richard Caïnner, who disappeared during the Kametz trial...." (P 94)
It should be noted that Communism, propagated by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, becomes very popular with many countries. And after the successful revolution of 1917 in Russia by Lenin's leadership, ideas of Communism rapidly spread throughout the world and the Revolution lends a romantic appeal to the mind of the people. Communism, as we understand it, wants equal rights and opportunities for each one of us; it abolishes private property; the state will control the means of production and property - the production and distribution of wealth. The Communists speak of class struggle and a classless society will emerge out of it and there will be no exploitation whatsoever in our society. These ideas are very attractive and men with social conscience cannot but accept the ideas. Dr. Ganner is a man of this category. Men like him do not want any sort of exploitation in society. He urges that there was no crime in poverty. The wealth of the world belonged to every one. If it was divided, there would be no rich men, but every man would have enough to eat, and would have no reason to feel ashamed beside his neighbour. 

Some countries of the world have become socialistic since the Russian Revolution. At the present time the growing tendency of socialism has gained ground everywhere. Here we like to note that in some of his novels Graham Greene refers to the communists and their party and its
activities. For instance, the meeting of the Communist Party and the strike sponsored by it are referred to in his novel *It's a Battlefield*. This has reference to his own life. In his youth, while in Paris, he attended a meeting of the Communist Party and along with his friend he became a probationary member of the Party at Oxford. All this information we got from his autobiography called *A Sort of Life*. He seems to favour socialistic ideas and therefore he preaches them here through Mr. Grimen. He was a journalist in his early career. So journalists and newspaper reports bulk large in his novels. Here is a case in point.

Josef Grimen is a man who is rich and has a social position. He prides himself on this killing. He feels for the common poor people, like a true communist. His thoughts have been described by the author himself in the following words:

"The world was chaotic: when the poor were starved and the rich were not happier for it; when the thief might be punished or rewarded with titles; when wheat was burned in Canada and coffee in Brazil, and the poor in his own country had no money for bread and froze to death in unheated rooms; the world was out of joint and he had done his best to set it right, but that was over."  

The above words give us a dark picture of the...
society. It is true that a majority of the people in the society are in acute poverty; they greatly suffer for want of food, clothings and shelter; they have no opportunity for proper education and medical treatment. They cannot enjoy their lives, while a small number of rich people enjoy their lives to the fullest extent and have all sorts of opportunities in life. All the wealth of the society is at their hands and they form a class by themselves. They are known as 'the have-nots' exploiting 'the have-nots' the poor class. The communist says that the structure of the present day society based on economic consideration should have to be changed, and it is quite desirable; for this he advocates an armed revolution. Here Graham Greene appears to be a humanist and he tries to get sympathy for the people in distress.

In connexion with this discussion about revolution I would like to refer to the civil war occurred in a country on the continent, a reference to which has been made at the very outset of The Confidential Agent. D, the main character of the novel, comes to England as a representative of a firm to buy coal required for the civil war that is going on in his country. He faces great troubles in Great Britain. During the civil war he "had been six months in a military prison - his wife had been shot - that was a mistake, not an atrocity - ...." \[\text{2443}\]
It is well-known that people commit atrocities during a civil war. Here also we see the same thing happen. The civil war is a conflict between two rival groups of people of the same country. There have been many civil wars in the history of Europe and other countries. A civil war breeds many evils in the lives of the people. Such things are quite undesirable in a society. They reveal the sordid side of human life.

The same novel has also reference to war-threats. A news about the war appears thus: "Another advance reported... 5,000 refugees... four air raids..." [P 127] These are the bad effects of war, and these are almost inevitable. The effects of the First and the Second World Wars are examples in point. War is always a colossal evil. War means conflict, a clash between two or more nations. It is just the reverse of the harmony amongst the nations of mankind. Harmony is a sign of civilization and disharmony or conflict is anti-civilization and anti-human. Hence war is a great, unhappy and undesirable event in society.

Next in a chapel women pray as follows:

"We pray thee for our torn and tortured world... We would remember before thee the victims of war, the homeless and destitute..." [P 179] In this prayer also there is a reference to the effects of war and in it a tone of sadness is clearly heard. Indeed, the prayer

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reveals the nasty side of the society.

In *The Ministry of Fear*, we see another dark side of the society. It is the tension due to threats and outbreak of the World War II. This war broke out because of Hitler, the German Fuhrer. He came to power in 1933 and since that time there were tensions of war. Let us quote the words of Anna to Bigby: "All these terrible years since 1933..." (p 116). In some novels of D. H. Lawrence and Aldous Huxley (*Kangaroo, Mumsy*), also the effects of war are mentioned. In *The Ministry of Fear* mention is made of refugees, air-raid casualties, battles, the Shell-shocks and their effects. Many people develop neurasthenia and hysteria due to Shell-shock. Thus, their minds get disordered and as a result, they cannot adjust themselves to society. So their life goes wrong. These are the bad effects of the war besides colossal destructions and heavy casualties. Evidently, war is an evil thing in human society. It is undesirable. So after the First World War the League of Nations was formed in order to prevent war and establish peace in the world. The League of Nations could not achieve its goal owing to the insincerity and selfish interests of the big powers. The U.N.O., however, works well. In order to make it more effective and stronger the big and powerful countries should be sincere and should work together to fulfill its aims.
Otherwise, if the Third World War breaks out, God forbid, the whole of mankind with all its achievements and civilizations is sure to meet its doom as the atom and hydrogen bombs which are at the hands of some of the nations, may be used indiscriminately.

**Other Elements of Unhappiness**

Let us find out other elements of pessimism, if any, in Greene's novel, [**Mimitch**, a soldier and gate-keeper of a prison in *Stamboul Train*, is not happy at all with his present lot. The author narrates his unhappiness as follows:

"Mimitch suffered a pang of disappointment. He had looked forward to telling his wife the story of Colonel Hartop’s coming, and now the chauffeur had anticipated him. It was always the same. A soldier's life was a dog's life. It was the civilians who got high wages and robbed the soldiers at cards and abused them and even interfered between a soldier and his wife." [149]

It should be noted that no man is quite satisfied with his circumstances in which he is placed. Every man has got some desires of his own. If one desire is fulfilled another crops up in his mind. Desires are infinite and limitless from the Hindu and Buddhist points of view. All of them can not be satisfied in life. Therefore, religious scriptures teach us to renounce our desires.
Desire makes man restless and unhappy. A truly happy man is he who is without desires. Only spirituality can help one to become a desireless man. Thus true and permanent bliss dawns upon man when he is able to renounce his desires which torture the human mind. So spiritual development alone is the ultimate panacea for all dissatisfaction, disappointment and despair. But it is very difficult to attain to spirituality and it is wellnigh impossible for many to attain it. And in order to go beyond our desires and to develop spirituality one must practise spiritual sadhana which is very difficult to undergo for most of the people.

In the novel called England Made Me Anderson's father has been sacked by Mr. Krogh, an international businessman who is a megalomaniac. In connexion with his father's dismissal from employment Anderson has come to see Mr. Krogh but he would not see him. In disgust Mr. Krogh says to Anthony, his employee: "Send him off..."

He has no business here". Anthony replies: "I doubt if he'll go." Then throw him out", orders Krogh. "I pay you, don't I? Go and throw him out". At this Anthony is deeply offended and replies: "I'm damned if I will". He repeats the same when Kate, his sister, tells him to 'Go and send the man away'. Thus Anthony does not carry out the orders of his boss. He now stands against his employer. Thus, the relation between them is broken.
Later, we see Krogh say to Hall: "His (Anderson's) father was behind the strike they threatened at the works. I talked him round."

"Then I had him sacked. They planted something on him. It was the best way. The boy's asking for trouble."

Here we come to learn about the bitter and unhappy relationship between the capitalist and his employees. This is a common thing in modern industrial society. The unhappy relationships that frequently occur in Lawrence's novels may be recalled here.

When Mr. Hall meets Anderson who wants to call on Mr. Krogh the former asks him to go home. But Anderson insists on seeing Mr. Krogh. Hall then struck him on the point of the jaw and he bleeds. He said: "You bastard,... you bloody bastard." Young Anderson's mouth is full of blood; blood is in his eyes, and he cannot clearly see. Hall then raises his boot and kicks him in the stomach.

This incident presents the inhuman and bitter relationship between the employer and the employees in the frame work of capitalism and also shows how this relationship leads to the most inhuman and brutal behaviour on the part of the employers towards the poor factory workers.

Then Anthony leaves Mr. Krogh, his boss. Krogh
settled marriage with his beloved Kate who is none but Anthony's sister. Anthony now discloses this secret news to a journalist named Minty. This news appears in the paper, which is much against Mr. Brogh. At last, the marriage can not take place.

One critic writes: "England Made Me was Graham Greene's most ambitious pre-war novel and its themes and personal morality are as relevant to-day as they were in the depression years". [On the 4th Cover of the Novel]

In Greene's novels we find a corrupt society, and Greene teaches that a single man cannot challenge a whole society. He has no way of putting it into practice. Innocence is therefore cruel and ironic in this world and in the long run more harmful than corruption. This is exemplified in Mr. Osmer (Stamboul Train) and Anthony (England Made Me).

Rose in Brighton Rock loves Pinkie who is very wicked. He, on the other hand, does not return her love. Her unhappy life is narrated in the following language: "Driven to her hole the small animal peered out at the bright and breezy world; in the hole were murder, copulation, extreme poverty, fidelity and the love and fear of God, but the small animal had not the knowledge to deny that only in the glare and open world outside was something which people called experience." [P 123]
Bose and Pinkie get married through the advice of the corrupt lawyer, Mr. Drewitt. But Bose is not happy at all with this marriage. Later from a woman Rose comes to know that Pinkie is a murderer. Really Pinkie is evil (Pp 198 - 199). And because of him Rose suffers painful agony and she even wants to kill herself. Indeed hers is a tragic life (P 245). It is quite true that a woman having a murderer and unloving husband cannot be happy at all. The husband’s character and love are everything to a wife. But Rose is an unfortunate woman having deprived of her husband’s love and affection. Moreover, her husband is a murderer. She and her husband are quite opposed to each other and so they cannot enjoy the bliss of the married life.

From the dialogue between Drewitt and Pinkie in Brighton Rock we see that Mr. Drewitt feels unhappy because of his wrong choice of wife. "I married beneath me", Mr. Drewitt said. "It was my tragic mistake. I was young. An affair of uncontrollable passion. I was a passionate man."

(P 209) "You know what Mephistopheles said to Faustus when he asked where Hell was. He said, "why, this is Hell, no are we out of it."

Bose and Drewitt are unhappy owing to their wrong choice of life partners. Lawrence shows in his novels many unhappy marriages like these two just mentioned here. It is to be noted that marriage is very important in one’s life.
One's happiness largely depends upon one's marriage. Marriage makes or mars one's life. So it is a decided factor in one's future life. But the choice of husband or wife is not always rightly made, specially the young people with "uncontrollable passion" often make mistakes in selecting life's partners and in later life they greatly suffer. Indeed, an unhappy married life becomes a hell. Similar is the case with Mr. Breevitt as well as Ross.

The Confidential Agent deals, among other things, with troubles the confidential agent D, is put to in England when he comes over there from the continent on some secret business. The detective is harassing him as his passport photograph does not quite resemble his appearance. After many questions and replies he is, however, set free by the passport officer and the detective. In London he puts up in a roadside house. There he comes to a bitter quarrel with a chauffeur whom he suspects to have taken something from his coat hanging nearby while he has been in the lavatory. The chauffeur takes offence at the question put to him by D: "What are you doing with my coat?" (P 23)

"What do you mean?" the chauffeur said in a hot tone. "I was hanging up my coat. Are you trying to put something on me?" "It seemed to me", D said, "that you were trying to take something off me". (P 23)
Then follows a long unpleasant and undesirable dialogue between D and the chauffeur. And heated words are exchanged. They come even to blows. D is attacked by the chauffeur and his mouth is full of blood. The manager of the hotel is also displeased with D. Thereafter he puts up in a London hotel. He speaks of his own troubles and difficulties in the following words: "First I missed my train - delay at the passport control - then a woman offered me a lift: the tyre burst, and I was delayed at a roadhouse." So we see that he "carried the war with him. Wherever D was, there was a war". (P.9)

D calls on Lord Benditch and other coal traders and talks with them about the contract for the purchase of coal. He has come on a confidential mission of sending coal to his country during the civil war. At last, when the traders want to see his credentials he puts his hand into his breast pocket and finds them missing. So he becomes panic-stricken. For, without his credentials no business contract can be signed.

D's troubles do not end here. He is wanted by the police on some charges: first, stealing of a car, then, false pretences, and presenting false passport; he is further wanted in connexion with the death of a girl in the hotel where D has put up. The girl has committed suicide. The detective holds him responsible for her suicide. D
of course denies the charge. Indeed, in England D is in great predicament.

We have already seen that Greene deals with crime, killing, betrayal, adultery and the like in his novels. And these are the elements of our pessimism. Why does Greene choose these themes? This may be attributed to the following:

First, the novelist, who is a Roman Catholic, has the idea of the "Original sin" in his mind. Due to the "original sin" inherent in man he commits all sorts of crime and misdeeds as shown in the novels of Graham Greene.

Secondly, the modern industrial society based on economic relationship has become selfish to the core and thus man has lost his moral sense, so to say. Man's sense of value has greatly decreased. Indeed, he has lost his deeper sense of life. Therefore, man is bent on sex and money, the two major evils of our industrial civilization. It is to be noted that man is cut out sensuous and has natural tendencies towards sense enjoyment. In modern times there is no spirituality in man; he grows materialistic. And society grows debased. Man, born and brought up in such a society, gets also debased. Here we may refer to man's unhappy condition as related in Eliot's Waste Land. Like Eliot, Greene is of a strong religious temperament and he suggests that faith in religion,
in his opinion Catholic religion, will better our society, if, however, we take recourse to it.

Lastly, it may be said that bad environment and bad training can permanently corrupt and impair an individual's character. Here I would like to note that man is not only the victim of his environment but also the victim of some other deeper factor than environment, which is his own 'passion and belief'. Indeed man's mind is mysterious. In Lawrence we find man's deeper passion of which he becomes a victim.

The matter may further be elucidated from the standpoint of psychology. Crime of any kind committed in society has its roots in one's boyhood. After the Second World War the incidents of juvenile delinquency have greatly increased all over the world. I should like to mention here that a world conference on the subject was held in London in 1964. Some hundred psychologists and sociologists from forty countries attended the conference and expressed their opinions, among other things, about the causes of child delinquency and the following common causes were unanimously accepted:

i) negligence in family

ii) want of mother's love and care

iii) Too much strictness

iv) Too much indulgence in family

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For Greene the shape and texture of life is set in youth. On numerous occasions Greene quotes from A. E.'s (George Russell's) poem *Germinial* which is quite apt:

In ancient shadows and twilights
where childhood had strayed,
The world's great sorrows were born
And its heroes were made.
In the lost boyhood of Judas
Christ was betrayed.

This is taken from Graham Greene's *The Lost Childhood* (Collected Essays P 18). The child's corruption has become an obsession with Greene. In the same essay he makes a significant statement about man's nature. He says:

"Human nature is not black and white but black and grey" (P 17)

"It is the unhappy childhood that persists, acting on later life like a malignant germ. Unhappy childhoods left indelible marks on Dickens, Kipling and Saki." [P 166]

John Atkins: *Green Grass*

Greene is of the opinion that a man shall cease to commit any kind of crime if he has faith in God. Indeed, a truly religious man abstains from doing any evil. With Greene a man's life is meaningless if he has no faith in the Divine. Faith is therefore the solution to all sorts of pessimism whatsoever.
In connexion with the discussion of Greene's pessimism in his novels, some of his pessimistic elements found in a number of his plays as well as in his short stories may be mentioned here.

In his play *The Living Room* (1953) Graham Greene shows an illicit love between Rose Pemberton, a young girl of twenty, and Michael Dennis, a man in the middle forties. Mr. Dennis is a married man. Thus it provides a moral conflict. Rose and Michael want to get married to become happy. Mrs. Dennis stands in the way. She comes to know about their love affair and their proposed marriage. She does not like it at all, and quite naturally. One day she comes to Rose's house and requests her not to marry her husband; and if she (Rose) does, she (Mrs. Dennis) will kill herself. Mrs. Dennis leaves Rose leaving some tablets of poison in the latter's room. Later Rose feels 'a sense of pity and personal, and she cannot bear the thought of causing pain to Mrs. Dennis who has threatened to commit suicide. At last Rose commits suicide by taking poisonous tablets left in her room by Mrs. Dennis.

The moral conflict and the case of suicide that one finds in *The Living Room* are themes that occur frequently in Greene's novels, and these are no doubt unhappy events.
In Greene's *The Potting Shed* (1958) we see that James and Sara got divorced. Sara is thus unhappy. She does not marry again. She sincerely loves her husband. But her husband is an abnormal type of man. One comes to know from the play that James tried to kill himself by hanging in the Potting Shed of their garden. The potter finds him and somehow his life is saved. Later, James and his mother talk about this unhappy incident.

**James:** "Mad?"

**Mrs. Callifer:** "Not exactly mad. You didn't get on with your father. Family life wasn't good for you". [Page 47]

Later we see that their family friend Mr. Barton says about James: "At fourteen he tried to kill himself. Since then he has suffered from all kinds of delusions: melancholia, a sense of persecution. He's even hinted at suicide again." [Page 64]

Now modern psychology, especially Freud's psychology, is referred to. Freud is a potent influence on the twentieth century literature. He is often referred to in the novels, drama and short-stories. Our novelist, Graham Greene, like Lawrence, is well-versed in Freudian psychology, and therefore it is quite natural for him to bring in Freud's ideas and thoughts in his books.

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Graham Greene has written and is still writing many short stories. I shall here select only a few of them to illustrate pessimistic elements contained in them. In Greene's short stories written between 1929 and 1941 we find similar themes as found in his novels.

In the story called The Second Death (1929) there is fear of death and its consequence—moroseness. And in The End of the Party (1929) there are also death, the death of Peter Morton and his brother's grief and self-pity. The Basement of Boom (1936) is a story with a strong note of pessimism. In it we see the child-world in constant conflict with the grown-up world. A little boy named Philip experiences something which makes him years older. He suffers from a sense of alienation as his parents go for a pleasure-trip and he is left "between nurses." At the same time, he tries to shake off the grown-up secrets and liabilities which his elders make him involved in. He experiences for the first time in his life, an illicit love-affair (between Baines the butler and Emmy) and a murder; Mrs. Baines, the butler's wife is killed by her husband. He also experiences deception and lie. He suffers also from a feeling of terror. He dreams a bad dream. The boy's disillusionment is the key-note of the story. (P 57).

In The Innocent (1937) there is a case of suicide of a man of middle age. There is also a case of betrayal. A Drive in the Country (1937) deals with the love between
Fred and Joe and their drive in a distant place. Fred is unemployed and steals a car in which he takes the girl he loves. He wants to commit suicide in despair along with Joe but the latter does not agree. "Don't you see? Life's hell. There is nothing we can do". These words of Fred to Joe clearly express the former's mood of pessimism.

The story named *Across the Bridge* (1938) touches Mr. Callaway's depression and despair when he kicks a dog with fury. In *The Case of the Defense* (1939) there is mention of a murder trial named the Rockham trial in which we are informed that an old woman is "battered to death". A man is arrested in this connexion and tried; but for lack of evidence he is acquitted. But the crowd catches hold of him on the road and kills him. "He gave a squeal like a rabbit and that was all; he was dead, his skull smashed just as Mrs. Parker's had been." (P 76)

*Men At Work* (1940) treats of war raids and bombardment. News runs thus: "Day light raids again. Fifty Nazi planes shot down. They are turning on the heat. Fifteen of ours lost". (P 67). In the story called *Alas, Poor Haring* (1941) there is also reference to war and an atmosphere of tension. *When Greek Meets Greek* (1941) is a story of two frauds. Its background is the World War II. The older generation not only themselves indulge in deception but also make the younger ones...
involved in it. In this story the deceptive and artificial nature of man is beautifully drawn.

In the following words the key-note of Greene's theme is well expressed:

"Theme of Graham Greene's novels is the conflict between good and evil in men's minds and the setting is always contemporary. He is obsessed by what seems to him the meaninglessness of the lives of men who have no faith."

- Modern Novelists (Ed); Percy Wilson, Thames and Hudson, London  
F - 110.