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## Ram Manohar Lohia and Socialism

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Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia ranks first among the socialist thinkers of India. His ideology was the predominance of socialist tendency. He combined the principles of both Karl Marx and Gandhi and gave them a new form of socialism by making some modifications according to Indian conditions. Every Indian presented his own arguments regarding socialism. Dr. Lohia was a socialist thinker who was neither prejudiced nor concerned about what an important writer wrote about him in his imagination of socialism. Dr. Lohia does not accept the old model of socialism i.e. Marxism in the same way nor does he adopt the socialism given by Gandhiji, instead he advocates new socialism. According to Lohia, the three main elements of socialism were that all industries, banks and insurance companies should be nationalized and standard of living should be improved in the whole world and a world parliament should be established. Lohia's new socialism was in favour of decentralization of economic and political powers. Ram Manohar Lohia wanted to establish equality in society as far as possible in his new socialism. Lohia wanted that the standard of living should be the same in the whole world and there should be no feeling of isolation among the nations. Ram Manohar Lohia wanted to elect a world parliament on the basis of universal adult suffrage that could govern the entire world and arrange for the army to protect it. Lohia establishment of new socialism can be accomplished only through folk tantric method and he was of the view that the protection of the world is possible only through socialism.

Dr. Lohia's view was that until social inequality is not overcome, true socialism cannot come in the country. Dr. Lohia's socialist philosophy is based on the person who comes at the bottom of the social hierarchy. The objective of Dr. Lohia's socialism is to establish a classless society in which governance is decentralized. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia strongly supports the idea of equality. He considers equality as the first condition of a person's freedom because if there is no equality then there will be no freedom. According to Lohia, socialism is another name for equality and prosperity. If it is necessary to impose some restrictions on freedom in the establishment of equality, it should be accepted. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was a strong supporter of the idea of liberty. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia strongly supported the power and economic decentralization of the regime. Where communists supported big machines and factories, Lohia has emphasized on the establishment of small and domestic industries. He was of the view that India does not have enough resources to set up big factories

and industries. Lohia wanted the government to provide employment opportunities to more and more people by giving priority to the Gandhian idea by establishing small and domestic industries.

Dr. Lohia was in favour of establishing a world parliament on the basis of adult suffrage. His main objective behind the establishment of the World Parliament was to end the economic disparity between developed and underdeveloped countries of the world. The idea was that in modern times inter-dependence is increasing in place of self-sufficiency. Ram Manohar Lohia supported the establishment of the world parliament but did not want to end the freedom of any nation for this. He wanted that national independence should also be maintained and world parliament should be formed. Dr. Lohia dreamed of a world where humans are free and there is no sign of exploitation and no country can succeed in building an economic or political empire on any country. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, in his book 'Wheels of History' has tried to explain that earlier events and characters in the universe are repeated again and again. On the basis of this theory, Lohia used to say that the country which is in progress today can also go towards collapse and the one which is going towards collapse today can also go towards progress tomorrow. Ram Manohar Lohia, presenting this idea, wanted to remind Indians of their glorious past. India was a very prosperous nation in ancient times and the present prosperous countries of the world America, Britain, France, Germany and Japan were very backward nations at that time. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia supported for socialism and he also opposed capitalism. He was of the view that capitalism creates economic disparities in society. Lohia was of the opinion that without economic equality, political equality would have no benefit, on this basis, he opposed capitalism as opposed to individual freedom and equality.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia did not agree with Karl Marx's idea of class struggle. Therefore, he gives importance to the principle of caste struggle instead of class struggle. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was the great hero of social change in India. Mahatma Gandhi was the great soul of untouchability and Hindu-Muslim unity, while Dr. Lohia was the Messiah of the Dalits, backward, poor women and the oppressed. Dr. Lohia gave the principle of social institution and opposed the social inequalities prevailing in India. Dr. Lohia was an advocate of social equality as well as economic equality. Dr. Lohia was opposed to class and varna system. Dr. Lohia was a strong opponent of untouchability and inequality. He considered all humans equal. According to Lohia, the reproduction process of all humans is the same, so the race of all humans is one. The social needs of human beings are one, so it is wrong to consider someone as high and someone as low on the basis of skin colour or caste.

Dr. Lohia was of the view that Western socialism diagnoses the problems of Western countries and fulfills their needs. Therefore socialism of developing nations should be adapted to their specific circumstances. Dr. Lohia was of the view that the main problem of Western socialism has been distribution but the problem of Asian socialism is not only fair distribution but also production. Dr. Lohia's economic policies provide a broad foundation for the reconstruction of the developing world. Dr. Lohia has emphasized that the development of Indian socialism should be according to its circumstances. Dr. Lohia was a supporter of the world parliament and opposed the right of veto in the United Nations. Dr. Lohia dreamed of a world where humans are free and there is no sign of exploitation and no country can succeed in building an economic or political empire on any country. Dr. Lohia had organized the first Asian Socialist Movement in Burma and challenged the capitalist

countries that Asia has now woken up, the slave countries will be free and will build their new through socialist system. Dr. Lohia used to say that only man can be saved if he learns to fight against oppression. He was of the view that till equality is established between male and female, the country cannot develop.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, opposing private education system or private educational institutions in his political and socialist views, has supported the state controlled education system or government education system operated by the state in his place. Dr. Lohia's idea was that by eliminating private schools, all types of basic facilities should be provided by reforming government educational institutions. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia supported the improvement of government educational institutions in place of private schools and to provide all the basic facilities in them, so that children of all classes in such schools would be provided uniform education so that equality could be established in the society.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia used to accept Marxism as an ideology of study but supported amending it. He was of the view that Russia and China, the biggest proponents of Marxism, also made changes in Marxism according to their needs and circumstances and gave practical form in their respective countries. He was of the view that according to the circumstances and necessity of India, Marx's ideas should be amended to give them a socialist form. Dr. Lohia has strongly supported the practice of reservation in his socialism and political views. He was of the view that 60 percent reservation in government services and delegations is required for the underprivileged minority of women and backward classes. Only by availing reservation, this class can develop its all-round development. He was of the view that for the improvement of these classes after independence, it is necessary that they should be given the benefit of reservation. In India, the establishment of democracy in the true sense can be done only if the government pays attention to the proper development of these classes and this can be possible only if we provide reservation facility to these classes. For this we need to make sincere efforts only then we will be able to end the economic inequality. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia strongly supported the granting of Hindi as the official language level in place of English. Lohia thought that the use of English was a major obstacle in the path of the origin of real ideas. Dr. Lohia believed that democracy in India cannot become real as long as public administration is conducted through the English medium as English is nothing less than a secret to most of the public. Dr. Lohia considered folk language, folk costumes, and folk food essential for the success of democracy.

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