

# Arundhati Roy's Cultural and Socio-Political Ideas for Various States and Countries

Mohammad Yazdan Zafar<sup>1</sup>, Prof. Rajat Kumar Shrivastava<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of English, CMP Degree College, University of Allahabad

<sup>2</sup>Ph.D, Professor and Supervisor, CMP Degree College, University of Allahabad

## Abstract

Being a dimensional, dynamic, and creative figure, Arundhati Roy did not overlook any important corner of any state or countries to discuss their affairs, issues, and remedies according to her own way of interpretation and expression. That's one of the many great reasons of Roy's being very ideal. Whether she talks against or in favor of any policy is secondary but rising of questions is primary importance. The paper goes through her many discussions she has presented in reference with states and countries of the world, her criticism and applauses that are with the logic and without the logics. The authors arrive at the conclusion that Roy has given the world great and she has only logical points to discuss.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Unificationism, Cataclysm, Diaspora, Multidisciplinary Ideologies

There are so many people by whom Roy may have learnt what she applies in her writings and voice, but the things make her different is the cause of Pulitzer Prize and her fame worldwide. If she accepted any prize that symbolizes her support for the betterment of society or if she denies any award as Sahitya Akademi, that's her way of protest and showing disagreements with the government or its policies. That's one of some proofs that prove her genuine service for the sake of social, political, and cultural betterment. Her essays and books are being translated in various languages that mean people need such people to favor them what they feel is right and to object them what they feel is wrong. When Roy determined to be a writer, activist, and intellectual, she did not become a single country person but her concern is with the whole world in: various countries and different states. Her way of talk can't be confined single dimensional but where there is even doubt of disaster, she couldn't stop herself to speak or write. The paper, that's why, has taken such topic to discuss logical scenario and her favor and objection against any ideology. She has talked about so many states and countries and become the international author of the time, ideal figure for the youth especially. On the contrary, Roy is criticized blaming for illogical and repetitive talk that have already been discussed by others and even in her essays. Thus the study will go comparatively descriptive in nature. The co-relational elements will be seen through different variables. In the conclusion the paper intersects the ideological talk of others against Roy and proves that Roy does not intentionally want to harm any state or country, but she wants an equal reformation and development all around through her logical understanding and expression in front the world. Where, there is any exploitation and discrimination Roy becomes first to raise their issues in front of the world demanding justice and equality, now whether the society and government are against her, she does not think about useless counter clattering of materialistic and hypocrites who pursue only power and wealth for selfish name and fame. Roy gives common solution of difficult affairs

that whole world accepts her courage of expression and dialogue that awarded her Pen Pinter Prize. Many of us are having Revolutionary attitude against the evils of the society in different ways or forms but unfortunately, different threats suppress them forcefully. Those who are ready to die for nation and betterment of society are successful revolutionary as Roy who faced the difficulties of prison, hustle and bustle of protesting and agitating crowd, Sun and rain, villages and cities round, as well as she posses no fear for her own death, poverty, and notoriousness because of speaking the truth. Roy does not only raise issue of different countries and states but becomes the part of that considering herself at the victim's place, being the part of the Cosmopolitan citizenship when she talks about Kashmir, becomes Kashmiri, when she talks about the Palestine or Iran, she becomes the citizen of those places and feels the pain and wound of the mass who are being murdered and displaced, by then she becomes their hands, legs, and voice. By this way she becomes their ideal and Hero. As Roy gets such respect from so many people, she morally and intellectually gets right to speak for the betterment of society. People become courage for Roy and Roy becomes the source of courage for people.

When there is discussion of country and state policies or ideology, there is a need to understand that Roy has talked about the particular States or countries because those regions concerns with some or any particular affair. Without highlighting the particular cause, Roy has only talked about the common and general matters in country or in the world. It is very clear then that to know about any country or state with the point of Roy's, we must dip ourselves into the issue of those regions. Roy is not a historian or architect but many where she has talked about the past to interpret the future or present to future. She predicted so many great coming events that are taking place gradually with the time and space. Not anywhere else but first of all there is need to look around India where she got birth and flourished in different areas. When someone goes through her non-fiction specially, she repeatedly talks about Gujarat where of 2002 massacre took place and 2000+ people had been killed, 2500+ people were injured and thousands of people displaced. According to Roy, the disaster, artificial or manmade does not take place in sudden but it takes years of plans and propaganda. This was the communal violence that was result of BJP's dirty politics.

And it's background supporter 'the communal groups'. Roy, this is the reason focuses on the large scale of effectives that's social, political, and cultural issues. it's very clear in the site of Roy that the matters, issues, environment, geography and ways of implementation and adaptation may be different with each other, maybe bring different results or disasters in various scenario, their concern maybe positive or negative but at all, they are bound with each other in a chain to search out or free behind the odd things is not better than to grip the root cause of any downfall. Revolutions expel disasters and revolutions also bring it. War and struggle is not a latest challenge that the world is going through, since primitive time, people used it in either two aims: positive and negative, and a thing that is positive for someone may be negative for others and the same things that are negative for someone maybe positive for others. These things are decided on the basis of the particular phenomena over that particular region. It would not be wrong to say that perhaps, unless the world does not to go to the hell, such conflicts will not end. So question arises; should we go smooth either in bad or good, either in wrong or right with the time and people? No! It's impossible for someone who is really human and believes in humanity what may occur, his attitude will be positive for not only the state, country but also for whole world. I see Arundhati is one of them who discuss the issues using the root cause of the time and place with the positive attitude for the fruitful result. As she is trying her best and like her there are thousands of the people around the

world who can be called strength of the world for each other and all. Arundhati Roy first of all talks about India and over different states in India and different issues:

**Kashmir:** Kashmir has been discussed fluently in her essays over military impose, violation of human rights, and its autonomy. People have been sandwiches between fights of Pakistan and India where the common people are being accused for terrorism and smuggling while they are innocent. They are captured and beaten only for the doubt because they belong to a particular region, religion, community and place. They must be given freedom. No one has any right to snatch anyone's land and write to live and education according to Arundhati Roy. She repeatedly discusses Kashmir in her different essays to aware and to realize the government to deal with it politely and logically, but ultimately Roy is defeated against the terror and might that won Kashmir and they are handling it by its own ways as they want. In the struggle for freedom, Kashmiri lost everything. They are accused of actually what they are not. The things go beyond tolerance. When Roy speaks and writes about all, she is also called terrorist but her issue was one and only that is to rest the humanity and reform the society. This is soft feeds for the cruel politicians to make name, fame, and empire. Kashmir is if the part of India, Roy is also the citizen of here. She has birth right to talk over it, and that's why she does not stop to discuss it and again and again without any hesitation. Kashmir was heaven but became the dirty political issues that must be discussed politically. Arundhati laments for the greed of the human who can suck the blood of even his own brother. There is need of reformation.

**Chhattisgarh:** when Roy saw the condition of tribal people who are completely dependent on agriculture, forest, and land because they don't have any other skills or occupations and unfortunately so called progressive India started making dams and snatching lands and forests to establish industries that tribal people were charged, beaten, and sent to jail in protest of it that they wanted their own land to survive but the government did not accept it forcefully. They made furious reply. Roy does not support such killing acts but she accepts that the government was responsible first as they did not allot them proper employment and place to survive. Roy meets tribal people, listens them and that becomes the dark scarce for her while she did not do anything wrong. This is a rooted issue in India that Roy has taken it seriously and talked over that and gave a proper solution of the problem. Naxalite (Maoist) is not a devil's group but they are poor people and poorer than the normal people, lower class people, still the government didn't take care of them. Here Roy became the voice for them in spite of all negative blames of opponents. She demands political justice in the nation.

**Madhya Pradesh:** For this state, Roy has raised her voice in favor of indigenous people who displaced and lost their earning, lands, and homes in the government project of industry, especially about the Narmada valley. Reading and to Arundhati Roy with the open heart will lead anyone towards the logical understanding of justification over any issue. What the things happened with the Maoist in Chhattisgarh also became the part of indigenous people in Madhya Pradesh without precaution. If the government takes any step, it will lead to disaster. Roy requests to the leaders to compensate even today they have time for it.

**Orissa (Odisha):** The same issue occurs with the tribe of Orissa in coal mining project and cooperation. It also made nature's exploitation in those areas. Roy highlights the blunder of politicians as they are

doing work without any preparation and pre plan that becomes the disaster for those poor people, indigenous, and tribal people. Why! They are not the part of country? Are they not having equal right as other people? Roy does not expect it from so called educated people, leaders, bureaucrat, businessmen, and judiciary. If any poor people do so for the sake of hunger and survival is less criminal than those who call themselves educated, and politician, and a political structure has power enough to control it and settle the issue anyhow, if they don't try to make it political issue for vote bank and for Satanic Empire. Roy wants a political system that is practically working for the people by the people.

**Maharashtra:** Here Roy has talked about the effects of urbanization and the struggle for land rights in areas like Mumbai, rural Maharashtra. Someone who is poor is getting poorer and the rich is getting richer. The higher ratio is living in struggle for common and basic needs that are bread, clothes, and house. There must be a system to make the justice with them. It can not to be ignored because such poor conditions of any region give reward to the different crimes. Where there are people living and surviving in such condition, the country can never grow or flourish.

**Bihar:** Bihar is possessing different castes and social political dynamics. The leaders allure to play the political cards on caste that leads different riots and unemployment. Here not only the government is responsible but also the public gives their votes to the leaders who are in their cast whether they talk about the education, employment, hospitals or not .If the religion and the cast is the centre for the politics and goal for the politicians, the country is not free yet. Roy expresses her deep grief over it.

**Uttar Pradesh:** UP is critiqued by Roy for its communal violence and its lethal defects on the marginalized communities. It may lead to create harm as she talked about Bihar. She, that's why, goes against the BJP. Record shows that the leaders usually become in the headlines of communal violence. Houses are bulldozed, sacred places are destroyed, and the innocents are accused that results a big drawback for India and its policies, especially the ruling party. Roy demands for equal treatment for all the religions and community who are having their constitutional rights for different things. What are those root causes that make such things possible? Looking for the answer, Roy reaches to the greed of the politicians in making their dominance and Empire. For this, she gives warning for future disasters and the solution as well if they try to understand her logic and talk.

**Andhra Pradesh:** Here, she again discusses about the corporate involvement, land acquisition, and displacement. The displacement may not harm people, if they are given enough for what they have left, but the convent failed to do so.

**West Bengal:** Arundhati Roy has criticized political powers in West Bengal especially the states handling of resistance movements and struggles faced by the rural and marginalized community. That's a great question mark on the political system that everywhere rural people and marginalized community are suppressed and challenged. People must raise their voices against it.

**Kerala:** Roy has also discussed about the political and social betterment of Kerala that how this region balanced economical growth with social justice whereas many governments of other states became loser .Kerala is known for its flourishing elements. Roy suggests others to learn from such a state like Kerala.

**Assam:** This state also became the part of discussion in Roy's essay upon conflicts in Assam regarding identity, ethnicity, and the rights of indigenous people.

**Gujarat:** Gujarat is one of the highlighted topics for discussion in the essays of Arundhati Roy. The massacre of 2002 gave a great wound to Arundhati Roy. Thousands of people died and thousands of people displaced in the time of BJP rule. Roy does not consider it causality but she considers it propaganda, preplanned. This was a communal violence by which the whole country was fearful. As usually, the marginalized community became the victim and this news got viral on international level. The government BJP was criticized badly even today. Roy expresses her lament for it. Those who passed away can never come back but those who are still among us should be treated well. Here Roy considers the common people the greatest Power who can change anything If they come together to raise their voices against communal violence, inequality, discrimination, and exploitation etc. Gujarat riot was one of the most dangerous riots that was planned to give existence. Roy has repeated this accident in her almost every essays and discussions. Roy calls it political disaster and failure that can never be compensated.

**Rajasthan:** It also comes under the discussed topic of Arundhati Roy regarding exploitation of natural resources and displacement of rural population due to large scale of industrial projects like mining and dams. People consider it progressive ways while they are harming themselves. As different types of diseases are getting birth and pollutions are killing people. When Roy discusses any issue, she doesn't leave nature alone because she is also a great ecologist.

**Tamil Nadu:** This region has been talked regarding the political treatment of marginalized people of Sri Lankan Tamil refugee crisis. They faced different challenges. Roy even talks about them in her essay.

**Nagaland:** Roy has discussed about the conflict of Nagaland on the point of insurgency and ongoing struggle for independence or greater autonomy and she also focused on the impact of military. Everything cannot be solved by force there must be some soft dealing among them.

**Meghalaya:** Roy has talked about North- Eastern states in the context of indigenous rights, autonomy, and the struggle of tribal community against both state and non-state actors.

**Tripura:** Roy has discussed about the Tripura's history in her essay particularly its ethnic tension and the effects of migration on indigenous communities.

**Jharkhand:** Here Roy again addresses the issues of Adivasi's right, the exploitation of resources, and the displacement of tribal populations due to mining and industrialization.

**Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand:** Roy has critiqued environmental degradation and the force to displacements of community due to large scale hydroelectric projects

So many issues that Roy has raised here are for the betterment of the poor people, marginalized community, and exploited class belong from any cast, creed, and color. The political, social, and cultural

issues are the root cause of any degradation of a society. Roy has also given the solution of such different issues according to its suitability. These were the states of India that have been mentioned in essays of Roy. Roy does not only talk about India but also discusses international issues of various marginalized exploited countries:

**United States:** Roy first of all discusses US foreign policy particularly the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan linking them to imperialism, oil interest, and human rights violations. She also blames US for its role in global capitalism, military interventions and its support for authoritarian regimes that suppress democratic movement around the world. US have also shown the racial and social inequalities such as police brutality against black community. It's straight intro of US by Roy while she has discussed these issues in depth.

**Israel and Palestine:** Roy strongly supported Palestinian's rights against occupation and colonialism of Israel. The land belongs to Palestine and they should be given complete domination. She also criticized those countries that are supporting Israel either financially or morally.

**Afghanistan:** She criticized US for invasion over Afghanistan that left great impact on civilians and the women of the country and it gave birth to the various extremist groups.

**Iraq:** Roy exposes the intention behind the US invasion on Iraq that killed thousands of innocent people, damaged infrastructures, and displaced thousands of people leaving their land and houses. US want to control over oil that is one of the biggest resources of the modern age.

**Sri Lanka:** Roy has talked about the Sri Lankan civil war focusing on the atrocities committed by the government forces against the Tamil civilians during the war final stage.

**Pakistan:** Roy shows her anger for Pakistan for his race in nuclear weapon because she is always against nuclear production in any country. She also criticizes military regimes in Pakistan.

**Nepal:** Roy has discussed Nepal's political situation during Maoist's insurgency and the subsequent civil war focusing on issues of social inequalities, class struggle, and need for more inclusive political system.

**The United Kingdom:** Roy has talked about the legacy of British colonialism and its long lasting impact on countries influencing of western imperialism in global politics and the economy.

**Brazil:** Roy has focused on deforestation and exploitation of the Amazon highlighting the role of multinational corporations including mining agri-business companies in destroying indigenous lands and ecosystem. It may leave the global effect and lead to the motivations for other countries like Brazil that shows a type of social inequality among people that's against the social norms.

**Myanmar:** Roy expressed her solidarity with the oppressed people of Myanmar particularly the Rohingya Muslim minority who faced violent persecution from the military junta. She also criticized international authorities to let it happen.

**Africa:** Roy has discussed about new colonial exploitation of Africa by global power and corporations as well as the ways in which foreign policies, debt, and trade systems contribute to the continents ongoing struggles with poverty and inequality.

**The Philippines:** Roy has logically criticized the US military presence in the Philippines, arguing that the country's sovereignty is undermined by foreign intervention. She also comments on authoritarian tendencies of president Duterte day and his war on drugs which has resulted in widespread human rights abuses.

**China:** She has targeted on China's government policies particularly its crackdown on descent and its treatment of Tibetans and Vighurs, raising question on human right violation and suppression of freedom of expression under the authoritarian regime.

**Russia:** Roy has shown her anger on the political repression in Russia particularly under Putin leadership. She critiques the state's stifling of opposition voices, restrictions on free speech, and the broader decline of democratic freedoms.

**Turkey:** Roy has talked about the state of democracy in Turkey focusing on authoritarian measures taken by president Erdogan including the crackdown on journalists, academics, and political oppositions, as well as the treatment of the Kurdish population.

**Venezuela:** Roy has talked about the economic and political crisis in the country often emphasizing the role of US sanctions and interventions in exacerbating the country's difficulties.

**Australia:** Roy has focused on the continued marginalization and mistreatment of indigenous Australians highlighting issues of land, rights, systematic discriminations, and the legacy of colonization.

Except these countries mentioned above Roy has talked about globally: global media information, warfare global corporate power, and global climate crisis etc. Roy has not only talked about India but she has gone through various countries and its minor or particular affairs and issues. This is the things that make Roy extremely valuable for the world. A root cause for creativity and glorifications of thought befall in logical understanding about different areas or issues. She talks about marginalized poor exploited people who have been left alone because of their conditions. Government and corporations make them soft crunch. In this situation, Roy raises her voice and encourages them to snatch their rights from anyone because none is greater than the common people. The things are run for the common people by the common people. Roy, that's why believe in equality and humanity. Someone belongs to any corner of the world is first of all human with the same structure and strength. They deserve same respect as any rich and politicians. Roy has really discussed great multi dimensional essays where she hardly left any corner. There are some critics who always go around Roy or defaming her while her way of talk is very straight to be criticized. Roy has talked about many countries and their features go viral on international level because she talks no useless part in her writings or speaks no words purposeless. She understands well about social, cultural, and political issues of not only the country but also of the world.

Her ideologies are in the favor of exploited, poor, degraded, and helpless people where everybody does not come in action to make their condition better. In the time of opportunistic approach where the world is heading towards the World war 3rd, people like Roy are medicine for the society's wound of capitalism, imperialism, and post-colonialism. The research paper comes to the finding that Roy's socio-political and cultural ideas for various states and countries lead the world and guide it towards the strongest steps of reformation and then betterment.

**References:**

1. Mohammed Alisha, "The Representation of Cultural Materialism in Arundhati Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*", *International Journal of Research in Engineering, IT and Social Science*, December 2018, 8 (12), 220-225.
2. Meenal R. K., "Social Issues Raised in the Works of Arundhati Roy", *Journal of Namibian Studies*, 2023, 33 (1), 3720-3731.
3. Parwinder K., "Ecological Concerns in Arundhati Roy's Selected Essays", *Akados: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Literary and Culture Studies*, July 2023, 3 (1), 2583-2875.
4. Susmita S., Bipin B.D., "Socio-Political Turmoil in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* and Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*", *Quest International Multidisciplinary Research Journal*, June 2013, 2 (1), 2278-4497.
5. Anup B., Reena S., "Study of Social Activism in Arundhati Roy's Work", *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, February 2014, 19 (1), 35-38.