

Foreword to Tamil Version of “India Mortgaged”

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This is a fabulous book that splendidly illustrates the tragic history of slave nation that nailed on the cross. “India Mortgaged”, a statement made by Comrade Tarimela Nagi Reddy in the court defending the programme of communist revolutionaries, was first published in English and Telugu in 1979 and then in Hindi. It was reprinted three times in English and Telugu. Now it is being published in Tamil, which meets the long awaited expectation of the activists who work for social change.

The author, a noble Marxist philosopher, had digested the profound ideology of Marxism-Leninism and Mao’s thought. He, being an incomparable revolution-ary, tenaciously applied Marxism-Leninism and Mao’s thought to the concrete situations prevailed throughout the national and ethnic landscapes of Indian subcontinent until his last breath.

From 1939, from his college days, when he became a member of the Communist Party – the vanguard of the proletariat – till he stopped his thinking and embraced death in Osmania Hospital with severely damaged health due to rigorous underground life, the great leader dedicated his life for the victory of new Democratic Revolution. He was arrested nine times in his political career and spent many years in Jail and in underground.

From the struggle against the British colonial rule, to Telangana peasant armed uprising, to Naxalbari peasant struggle and Srikakulam Girijan struggle, he stood on the side of revolting people and fought against right and left deviations that arose within the communist movement. When the communist Party of India was afflicted by lethal disease called Kruschevite modern revisionism, he admired the revolutionary path of Communist Party of China led by Comrade Mao Tse Tung and waged intense struggle in the party. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) – the newly originated party as a result of split of CPI – exposed itself as neo-revisionist as it rejected the essence of “The Great Debate”, Comrade TN waged an intense struggle against its leadership and isolated them in the Palakollu Plenum of Party by gaining the support of the majority of the party cadre to the revolutionary politics. When the comrades were expelled from CPI(M), they formed APCR to which Com.TN was elected as convener. Following the formation of the AICCCR, the Andhra revolutionaries decided to join it and formed into APCCCR.

The CPI (ML) which formed out of AICCCR took up the left adventurist line – line of annihilation which is contrary to Marxsim-Leninism and Mao’s Thought as well as rich experiences of Telangana, Tebhaga, Terai and Srikakulam peasant movements. It caused a great harm and set back to the revolutionary movement.

The right opportunists and left extremists slandered and disgraced Com. TN. He faced them with political élan and strived hard to build and strengthen the revolutionary party by raising the new democratic revolution and its core, the armed revolutionary politics. Though he was to face vicious slanders, he did not criticize personally those who had taken up left adventurism and right opportunism. For strengthening the revolutionary movement, such abusive approach would not help; instead the ideological and political struggle alone could achieve unity. Com.TN raised the debate to a higher political plane. He passed away at this critical juncture and it is a great loss to the Indian revolutionary movement.

I had an opportunity to meet Com.TN in Hyderabad city of AP when I was running “Manidhan” magazine as its editor. I met him along with Comrade Devulapalli Venkateshwara Rao. At that time, I was able to talk with Com.TN for an hour. During our conversation, I was astonished by his masterly knowledge in Marxist philosophy. I was humbled on seeing this great leader’s simplicity and affectionate embrace. Those memories are still deeply ingrained in my heart unforgettably.

Comrade Vindhavi Vendhan has requested me to translate this book into Tamil. Sudheer Reddy, the joint Secretary of TNM Trust, too insisted on this. I doubted that whether I could translate this book on my own due to my poor health. I told them that I would translate with the help of a few other comrades. At last I had to complete it on my own.

I am not well versed in English. I have developed my knowledge of English gradually through the guidance of top leadership on translating articles and books as and when required by the movement. I am even afraid that whether my imperfect learning is sufficient to translate this book. Really, it was harder than climbing Mount Everest. While translating, whenever I bewildered, comrades S.Kannan, Founder of Kari Marx Library, Bhaskaran and lawyer Nagarathinam lend their tender hands from time to time. However, the style of English of valued Comrade TN was extraordinary. I cannot be proud, as

I had completely succeeded in translating this book. There might be flaws. If pointed out in a friendly manner, it will be helpful to improve the future editions.

In this book Com. TN elaborately depicted the continuation of domination of foreign capital all over Indian social structure even after the transfer of power from British colonialists to the Indian big bourgeoisie in 1947 and also how the Indian comprador class serves the imperialism to exploit India's natural resources and labour power. He revealed with suitable data how the comprador bourgeoisie mortgaged India to foreign capital through their pro imperialist policies. He exposed the revisionist fallacy that 'the Soviet aid to India was socialist in nature and would weaken the grip of imperialism' by showing with sufficient data its shylockian nature. Thus India was turned into a happy hunting ground for imperialist powers. In this book he exposed the deceptive nature of the reforms brought by the ruling classes; the hypocritical nature of slogan of building a socialistic society; strengthening the economic and political base of the landlord sections through rural credit societies, Panchayat Raj, the throwing away of peasants from their lands by economic levers and forced migration of agricultural labour. He clearly portrayed the wretched conditions that lead to peasant uprisings and white terror unleashed by the government. In short, this book will be far more helpful to understand deeply the Indian economy and polity during the period from 1947 to 1970 and to predict its future direction.

Few comrades expressed their concerns that this book is irrelevant in the context of liberalization, privatization and globalization era. However, those who read this book could realize that the concern itself is irrelevant. Because, Com.TN removed the guise and showed how cunningly the ruling classes laid foundation for these later day policies since the transfer of power. Though the new economic policies being implemented since 1990 constitute a new phase, the political, economic and ideological ground work and been assiduously made by the ruling classes laid foundation for these later day policies since the transfer of power. Though the new economic policies being implemented since 1990 constitute a new phase, the political, economic and ideological ground work had been assiduously made by the ruling classes long before. He clearly showed that since the Nehru period, the Indian comprador bourgeoisie did not play the progressive role at all and these servants of imperialism turned India into semi-colony and nourished dangerous expansionist ambitions. No doubt, to understand these aspects this book would be useful to a greater extent. So even if its Tamil version came out very late, it would shed a new light to Tamil intellectuals and rebels who fight for social change.

Com. TN not only explained how India was mortgaged to foreign capital and transformed into a slave nation, but also how the people are pushed to the edge of destruction and have been enraged and raised to establish people's democracy. He defined this as a phase of objectively matured situation, and is in the phase of mass uprising.

Com. TN described how the spark of naxalbari spread to various states and other parts of the subcontinent. Though many revolutionary experiences were gained during this period, the movement also faced failures and setbacks. While assessing the situation, Com.TN quoted from the great teacher Lenin. It reads: Even though the objective situation is mature, sometimes we could not have enough power to overthrow the ruling class from state power, during such times society may degenerate; this degeneration may last for generations.

By quoting this, Com TN insisted on the necessity of subjective factor, that is, the building of powerful revolutionary organi-zation. Further, on evaluating the gained revolutionary experiences and intense discussion among the revolutionary groups, he expressed that though the ruling classes and revisionists are joyous at the split of the movement, the revolu-tionaries will achieve unity through principled ideological struggle. He said that the prolonged people's war is not going to be a march from one victory to another, but also faces setbacks and it is our duty to consciously carry forward the tasks of revolution with determination.

Since there are several nationalities and ethnic groups exist in such a vast country with wider uneven economic develop-ment, the revolutionary subjective and objective factors also would develop unevenly, so that our revolutionary struggle should take up various forms of struggle with giving primacy to armed peasant movement which travels through various twists and turns; then the victory of revolution is assured. With this remarkable sentence he concluded the book.

I firmly believe that this way the book is not only an economic investigative one but also a sword in the hands of revolutionary cadres.
