

## William Faulkner and the American Society

**Dr. Sanjeev Kumar**

*Asst. Prof, Deptt. of English*

*D.A.V. P.G. College, Bulandshahar*

*Email: [drsanjeevkumar777@gmail.com](mailto:drsanjeevkumar777@gmail.com)*

**Abstract**

*The historical incidents, - one civil war and the two world wars fill the centre of the writings of William Faulkner. Before these incidents of the south region of America had set some southern values, as sense of morality, good or bad and belief in the absolute, but the society after wars was deeply influenced by the wars which divested the core southern values. For example, man was corrupted morally and socially who got involved in sexuality leaving the spirituality behind. These people, as Faulkner saw them, belonged to the then new world of machines and speed which was totally different from anything man had before.*

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## **Introduction**

The historical incidents, - one civil war and the two world wars fill the centre of the writings of William Faulkner. Before these incidents of the south region of America had set some southern values, as sense of morality, good or bad and belief in the absolute, but the society after wars was deeply influenced by the wars which divested the core southern values. For example, man was corrupted morally and socially who got involved in sexuality leaving the spirituality behind. These people, as Faulkner saw them, belonged to the then new world of machines and speed which was totally different from anything man had before.

The novels and stories of William Faulkner mark the change took place in the society of south America after wars. Let us, take some works and the first we can take is his the *Unvanquished* (1938) composed of five long fairly stories, each including Bayard's Sartories, has the experience of the civil war. This is about the southern code, its a criticism of that code. But, mostly the actions in the *Unvanquished* are romantic episodes, the adventures of the two boys. There are several Yoknapatawpha characters brought into the stories, but none of them lives meaningfully. His *Go Down, Moses* is a serious and testing of the shame and pathos of the white and black relationships.

All the novels published after *Go Down, Moses*, had Faulkner's characteristic virtues, especially willingness to try new forms, and his wit, but they also suggest a weakness of his powers. He seems to be not interested in dramatizing his stories. Social problems invite solutions. *Intruder in the Dust* is a good story, but Faulkner seems to be not satisfied to let well enough alone.

His *Requiem for a Nun* is a sequel to *Sanctuary*. This is a morality play having Temple Drake and Gowan Stevens as well as Nancy Manigoe and Govan Stevens.

Faulkner's *As I lay Dying* is a simple book structurally and stylistically it cypresses Faulkner's imaging virtuosity. This novel is a ritualistic and symbolic journey and a naturalistic and psychological story. The novel marks as having one-to-one relations with northern Mississippi.

In his *Pylon*, Faulkner focused his attention from the particular problems of Yoknapatawpha country to the general problem of life in the age of machine. It is a

story about flying fliers. The novel is a scathing indictment of twentieth century American society.

His *Soldier's Pay* is a waste land novel. In it the soldiers become a dance of death – we are still left with something: two good Jones in twilight and dust going home. The image of despair that touches them is not a flatting silvery maiden under a cool moon but a human congregation singing in the hot knight.

In place of imprisoned, confused, and Fragmented social man, Faulkner sets an entithesis, primitive man. And against the complix word of society, he sets the natural world. Like the young protagonists, the primitives are variations of a prototype. His primitive such as : Lena Grave, in *light in August*, Sam fathers of *Go Down*, *Moses*, and the tall convict of the *Wild Palms* all are simple non – intellectual people who have somehow escaped the social conditioning.

Thus, he being a great modern artist painted the life we lived and not the life we generally see. He painted life struggling between files and soul. He himself said that:-

I was doing the best I could to show man's  
Soul in conflict with his evil nature of his  
environment.<sup>1</sup>

Besides, the above mentioned novels and stories, there are some other famous novels which can be mentioned as *The Sound and the Fury*, *Absalom, Absalom!* *Light in August*, *The Wild Palms* and *Sanctuary*, etc.

#### References

1. Rebert, A Jelliffe. *Faulkner at Nagana* P.14.