



NEW HUMANISM AND PARTISAN UNIVERSALISM IN RABINDRANATH TAGORE SELECT PLAYS

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ABSTRACT

History reveals that institutions or artifacts produced by human beings can lead to the exploitation or the loss of freedom of other human beings. Thus the celebration of the good life of an Athenian citizen in Plato's time can hide the wretchedness of vast numbers of slaves whose labor made it possible for the few free citizens to enjoy that good life. Our criteria then must apply to all, or at least the vast majority of the vast of the human group concerned, if they are to lay claim to universality.

Amiya Kumar Bagchi, *Perilous Passage*¹

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