

*Social and Political Views  
in selected Plays of George Bernard Shaw*

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Although the first profitable writings of George Bernard Shaw (18-56-1950) was music and literary criticism but his talent was for drama. He authored more than sixty plays, which deal with different problems and ideas. He examined marriage, government, class privilege, and equal rights for men and women, etc. Shaw as a dramatist continued to write, not propaganda or pamphlet, but plays. He remained fundamentally an artist to the end of his life. As an artist he aimed at rendering the social and political systems as he saw them, not as he would like to see them. Reading his purpose as a playwright, Shaw once made this statement:

I am not ordinary dramatist in general practice, I am a specialist in immoral and heretical plays. My reputation has gained by my persistent struggle to force the public to reconsider morals. In particular, I regard much current reaction as disastrously wrong. I regard certain doctrines of Christian religion as understood in English today with abhorrence. I write plays with the deliberate object of converting the nation to my opinion in these matters.(1)

Shaw considered writing as a way to further his view. He uses his greatest gift as a playwright to illustrate his theme. Ifor Evans stated, "the combination of wide social enthusiasms with a gift for comedy was, to say the least, unusual, and it is thus that Shaw's plays have a quality all their own".<sup>(2)</sup> Shaw was neither a propagandist nor a dramatic pamphleteer but an artist, for whom ideas were of prime importance . This study will concentrate on