

## **ABSTRACT**

The advent of war brings with it a plethora of issues as war sweeps away all nice distinctions between victors and vanquished, and suffering comes out as the sole champion. The Second World War in more than one way was not a simple repetition of the atrocities of the first. For the Indians, the then denizens of an imperial colony, the Second World War holds greater significance. It accelerated, if not precipitated the liquidation of the Empire. What is most significant here is India's ambivalent response to war, the mixed motives, apathetic distancing from the whole affair and slavish endorsement of the reality of war.

This thesis is not meant to be an exhaustive study of either WW II or the motives behind it. Nor is it supposed to identify the running strain in writers or writings of WW II. This research is limited to the Indian Sub-continent and specifically to a marginalized section of the Indian society, Muslims. The purpose of this study is to bring to the surface writers of fiction, prose and poetry who addressed the grievances of the soldiers and the families left behind, and of the general suffering caused by WW II.

The fact that Indians fought another's war; a war imposed by the ones who had captured the land and the resources, produced a dual response in many Indian Muslims. Out of this ambiguity rises the ambivalent response to war. With people divided into various schools of thought, this study will focus only on those Muslim writers who have dealt with this duality, this contradictory response that had its roots in Indian subjugation.

Dealing with only those texts that delineate ambivalent apathy and subjugation, I will discuss the historical framework in the first chapter and in the next the terms ambivalence and subjugation would be analysed. In the next chapters I will discuss fiction, prose and poetry written during that time, which shows the multifaceted reality of war, not just in terms of soldiers but also their families, and the response it generated in the Muslim population of India.

The fact that texts written on WW II have been ignored or sidelined and the need to bring such texts to the fore propelled this study. Bound with it is the desire to see this study promote research in this area, providing a launch pad for further inquest