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Democracy Vs. Colonialism: Dream for Freedom in Steinbeck's *The Moon is Down*

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English**

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Nirajan Sharma has completed his thesis entitled, "**Democracy Vs. Colonialism: Dream for Freedom in Steinbeck's *The Moon is Down***" under my supervision. He carried out his research work from January to May. I hereby commend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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This thesis titled **Democracy Vs. Colonialism: Dream for Freedom in Steinbeck's *The Moon is Down*** submitted to the central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by **Mr. Nirajan Sharma** has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research committee.

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Abstract

This research attempts to explore the will of the freedom and democracy emerging in the colonizers as well as colonized in Steinbeck's novel *The Moon is Down*. Mayor Orden along with the townspeople feels excessively hurt after the occupation in their town by the unnamed armed force. People tolerate the brutality of the invading force but their love for nation and nationality always hunt them and the great hurt burst into resistance. Thus, the study explores the psyche of the local peoples at the time of invasion. Along with it, it also tries to unravel the inner psyche of the invading soldiers. The desire of freedom and enjoy in democratic system is the reality interwoven into the psyche of all people.

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I. Free Human prevail over the Herd Human in *The Moon is Down*

The long history of human being shows that the stronger have dominated the weaker. From sixth century BC, the Greeks had started to establish colonies in the Asia Minors. Through this colonial motif, they dominate the Asian people. When the industrialization process of the world began, European people move here and there in search of the raw materials for the production and the market for the consumption. But their economic venture transformed into political one because they found that the Asia and Africa were the better place for them to rule. So they started to laden their authorities to the Afro-Asian people. According to the passage of time, Asian and African people felt that their freedom and democracy was in danger. They felt that their rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were seized by force. So, they started to revolt against the colonial rulers and the Europeans. The war between the local people and the fascistic ruler began. In other words, the war between the fascistic ruler and the democratic people started. In the war, people lost their identity and freedom, chivalry and romance were gone, as well as laws, only the will to be free remained, in which people could gain their identity and worthiness of livings.

This is the human history since past. The same history of human being is captured in *The Moon is Down* by John Steinbeck. *The Moon is Down* is written at that time when Second World War was in climax. The novel includes the resistance movement of the people against the Nazi supremacy. People's life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were shattered by armed activities. Armed force controlled the all economy and ruled against the will of the local people. Local people felt that their democracy and freedom was put under the danger by the invading force. The condition of them turned into resistance because they had no choice but to fight against them. Though armed force was powerful, people's eagerness to restore their

freedom and democracy empowered to fight against the brutality of the armed force. Their nation and nationality always hunted them; their bound desires for liberty always wanted to burst into flame. This condition of the townspeople made them to revolt against the chauvinistic rulers for restoring their endangered right and democracy in their towns.

John Steinbeck was born in the farming town of Salinas in California. His father was the country treasurer and his mother was a school teacher. He accepted his mother's influence to be a writer spent most of his time in writing. His experiences among the working classes in California lent authenticity to his depiction of the lives of the workers, who are the central characters of his most of the novels. He was a leftist writer who always supported the common people and the autonomy of civilians. In other words, Steinbeck's writing always concerned with poor people, and he often empowers the powerless and celebrates the nation and the nationality. In the novel, *The Moon is Down*, he shows the failure of capitalism and imperialism. He also empowers the powerless local people as against the invading force. In this connection, John Tessitore in his book *John Steinbeck: a Writer's Life* says:

In his latter life and work, Steinbeck would prove sympathetic to the nation's minorities and advocate the impaction of civil rights. Even during his days in the sparkles ranches, his sympathies lay with his bundles stiff co-workers, not with man like his father who controlled the government and economy (47).

From this comment, it becomes clear that in Steinbeck's writings we find resistance of capitalism and imperialism. In his novel, a forceful tussle between the classes and strong reaction against the system that had oppressed them are beautifully presented. The Second World War experienced by him made him to write about war and its

adverse impacts upon the human society. He was also a war veteran and this experience of war compelled him to move his subject of writing into war experience. Then he started to writing through the viewpoint of powerless and helpless people. *The Moon is Down* is the perfect example of the war novel.

Steinbeck's first three novels *Cup of The gold* (1929), *The Pasture of Heaven* (1923), *To a God Unknown* were unsuccessful both critically and commercially. His writing of the first phase is described as the novel related to nature. But when the Second World War began, he was involved in war and the experience of war motivated him to write war novels and he started to write war novels in his second phase of his writing career.

Steinbeck from the beginning of his career laid his interests towards the minority people. He supported to democracy and he was extremely against the colonialism, imperialism and any other authoritarian rules. His endeavor to establish democracy and overthrow any kinds of fascistic rule made it possible for him to win the Nobel Prizes in Literature in 1962. He lauds literature in his speech:

Literature is as old as speech it grew out of human need for it and it has not changed except to become more needed [...]. Furthermore the writer is delegated to declare and to celebrate man's proven capacity for greatness of heart and spirit for gallantry to defeat, for courage, compassion and love [.....] I hold that a writer who does not passionately believe in perfectibility of man has neither dedication nor any membership in literature (2).

Steinbeck is a novelist who is interested in social reform. "He had developed ideas about the unity of the cosmos which may fairly be called mystical ideas which, of course, ultimately go considerably beyond what his scientific naturalism would

support but which are connected with his love of nature " (Ross 434). His notion of unity of thing is complicated, but in its simplest aspect, as might be expected, it is presented as a conclusion which goes but little beyond what is warranted by scientific observation." In *The Moon is Down*, one of the latest of his novel sees an invaded community as a group strikingly like his school of fish which turns as a unit and dive as a unit (Ross 435)."

Wood Burn O.Ross further adds that Steinbeck tries to create unity among people but he never succeed to do it. He talks about unity but never deals about the nature of it. In his own words:

Steinbeck never explains the nature of unity of cosmos which he perceives. How can his colonies of fish form a single creature? What the nature of consciousness of these larger beings? [...]. Indeed he is never able rationally to prove that the unity about which he speak exist at all. But the fact that his notion about the unity of things are very incomplete and rest upon feelings, insights, intuition than upon reason is neither here nor there , the fact is that as an artist he believes in these things (436).

As discussed by Ross in his criticism *John Steinbeck :Naturalist Priest* , the reader finds that in *The Moon is Down* , Steinbeck has tried to study the effect of war and indeed, he wants to show the unity of the people in both sides. In other words, by direct war between local people and the invading force, the whole novel includes the desire of freedom and democracy in both sides - Townspeople and The Invading force. But it remains as incomplete and the war of freedom and democracy with the fascistic and colonialist rulers never ends. The murder of the Mayor Orden, a democratic ruler of the town, does not end the war as assumed by the colonialist

rulers. Rather it adds the further encouragement to the townspeople to fight intensively with the invading force. Dr. Winter takes the responsibility of the Mayor Orden to revitalize the identity of the townspeople. The desire of becoming free people of the resident of towns is not fulfilled though they are not afraid. They move ahead when Mayor Orden is murdered. The fierce attack of the townspeople reminds the invaders to their own freedom and rights. They also have desire to go home and enjoy with their families with full freedom. In this way, by showing the psychological impact upon the member of both sides, Steinbeck tries to unite those two opponent sides but he never succeeds to do so.

Steinbeck is a prominent American novelist who studies the conditions of war and post war scenario of the world, where traumatic experience of nations, nationals, identity and economic depression seems visible in verbal artistic creation like *The Moon is Down*. His contribution to literature counts different epithet from different critics. However, reading through the leftist point of view, no one can go beyond the perception of exploitation and individualism in his novel. It shows that Steinbeck struggles for the common people objecting to the contemporary capitalist domination.

Likewise, in *Harvard Guide to Contemporary American Writing*, Steinbeck is described as a novelist who does not separate politics from nature. He lets them go hand in hand. He looks at the condition of the farmers and finds causes for their migration and writes about how poor people are gradually crushed down by industrialization and historical changes. Similarly, in *Outlines of American Literature*, Steinbeck is described as:

Steinbeck combines realism with primitivism and romanticism that find virtue of poor people who live close to the land. His fiction demonstrates the vulnerability of such people who can be rotted by

drought and the first to suffer in period of political unrest and economic depression (74).

So Steinbeck's writings are the result of political unrest, depression and poverty rampant everywhere in the globe. The novel *The Moon is Down* reflects the same situation of contemporary capitalist domination in which innocent people suffer and are tortured by the colonialists. Therefore, we can say that his knowledge, experience and contemporary situation are equally important in his writings.

The research paper tries to explore the resistance of townspeople against the invaders who settle there and seize the political, social, and economic and individual freedom of the townspeople by force. Then the townspeople organize the war against the invaders. Their longing desires to live free lives in their own homeland and live in a democratically ruled state remind invaders for their free life when they were in their own country. They are reminded of their life with the family and happiness they achieve there. Thus, the present researcher focuses on how people struggle for democracy against with the colonialism and its adverse effect upon the human society and the rights of the individuals.

Steinbeck, as a war veteran, tries to include the history in his work. Though at the first phase of his writings, he is only impressed by the nature but later on, he is moved toward the reality of the contemporary society. So he is described as a realist as well as naturalist writer. Critic Levant describes "several of Steinbeck's novels have complex histories of overlapping period of composition"(1087). This type of history creates confusion to the readers or critics. So David Daiches says:

Steinbeck attempts to put across his meaning both through the relation of the events he describes to the events that are happening in real life today and through the pattern of the whole. It thus is the species of art

which claims some of the qualities of history. As such it is open to both historical and aesthetic appraisal. Hence the confusion of the critic (416).

Daiches considers that Steinbeck's intention is both rhetorical and fictional i. e. he is both trying to persuade his reader of the point of view and produce an aesthetic pattern out of a series of related events. Hence the critics are in confusion. He further adds: "There is double intention in *The Moon is Down*, an attempt to blend an immediate and purely contemporary aim with a long terms and profounder aim, and out of this mixture of ends comes the confusion of means - and eventually, the confusion of the critics (419).

John Steinbeck, the Nobel Prize Winner literature, from *The Moon is Down* has drawn the attention of the numerous scholars and critics since its production and premises in 1942. There are some critics who have proposed that the novel depicts the historical ground realities of the then Europe. Critic Donald V. Coers does an especially fine job of placing Steinbeck's novels "within the local political context of the occupied Scandinavian Countries (3)." He tries to prove Steinbeck as political propagandist by taking reference to the novel *The Moon is Down*. He calls Steinbeck's works "soft and dreamy" and the German Officers "Unrealistic" (Nobel 153). Coers adds:

Steinbeck wrote *The Moon is Down* as a piece of propaganda during World War Second - Steinbeck's critics found the invaders too human and some suggested he was uselessly endangering the liver of occupied people by encouraging them to resist the invaders and assuring them, naively, that "Free man" will always prevail over the "herd man" who blindly obeys orders (VII).

Here, Coers criticizes Steinbeck as a more propagandist than sentimentalist of his writings. In the novel there are many serious conditions which are not mentioned in his criticism but he only explains the political and superficial situation of the novel.

Charles De Clancy explores the novel as cooperation between the colonizers and the colonized. Clancy states: "Annie scolds some soldiers in the rare porch Lanser excuses her conduct on an effect to get Mayor Orden's cooperation "(103). Another critic Peter Lisca's opinion is that Steinbeck's novel tries to make changes in the psychology of the human beings but remains incomplete. She claims the form should be changed but the content always remains same. In his own words:

Of all of them Colonel Lanser knew what was really is in the long run [.....]. Treachery and hatred, the middling if incompetent generals, the torture and killing and sickness, until at last it is over - and nothing has changed except for new weariness and hatred[.....]. The strength of the conquered people in *The Moon is Down* is that of the pioneer in the leader of the people. Their leader is an impression of the body politics, one who happens to be going in the direction the people wants to move (188).

Some critics view this novel as the novel full of psychological details. In this connection, we can add Nicole Smith. He describes Steinbeck catches the war time to present the real psychology of the people of that time. He says:

The Novel *The Moon is Down* offers readers insight and analysis about the psychology of wartime from both the perspectives of conquerors and conquered. Although early on the reader learns more about the small community and is thus compelled to sympathize with it as it struggle with the violent transition, as more is learned about the

opposing force , it is clear that it is the conqueror who suffers more throughout the occupation (617).

In this way, Smiths studies the adverse impact of war upon the human society in *The Moon is Down*. He shows how psychological tension can be as destructive and challenging as any physical assault. It means Smiths study on *The Moon is Down* reveals the bad side of psychological struggle.

Though many critics have seen and evaluated this novel from different angles and with difference lenses. This study is different from the aforementioned critics because it focuses on the human side of the supposed enemy; their desire of freedom and democracy. *The Moon is Down* is a war novel reveals the psychology of the people at the wartime. As an analysis of *The Moon is Down* by Steinbeck notes the opposing force is confident and vigorous at first but as the townspeople organized more and more, this lace of human connection proves almost deadly. While the townspeople have each other to count on, the opposing force sinks deeper into despair, doubt, loneliness and homesickness. In general, Steinbeck's *The Moon is Down* reveals that there is no good side during a war or occupation and it reminds readers that both sides are simply human, after all. Through his portrayal of the human sides of the supposed enemy, Steinbeck presents readers with a paradox in *The Moon is Down* that goes beyond good and bad side in a conflict. By presenting the soldiers and the officers on both sides as a real people with common concerns such as family, friends, and love, we are forced to rethink the inhumanity of war.

Although this research of *The Moon is Down* argues that the conqueror had the greatest challenge psychologically, it must be stated that this does not mean the occupied town did not suffer. So there is the presentation of psychological illness in the both sides in this novel. Though they pretends that they are unknown about each

other's problems due to their own duties and responsibilities. In this way, the present researcher found that there is a threat to democracy and freedom and tussle between democracy and colonialism. The Present researcher superiorizes democracy over colonialism by taking the reference of the psychological illness faced by the both side the conqueror and the conquered presented here in the novel *The Moon is Down* by John Steinbeck.

This research has been divided into four chapters. The first chapter presents an introductory outlines of the novel's raising issues, its problems, and a short history of John Steinbeck along with the critique on *The Moon is Down* by different critics. Moreover, it gives a bird's eye view of the entire works. The second and third chapter analyses the novel *The Moon is Down* by highlighting the democracy and freedom of the people in comparison with the colonialism and fascism. So, this chapter tries to prove the hypothesis of the study - in *The Moon is Down*, Steinbeck tries to explores the consciousness of the freedom and democracy emerging in the townspeople as a result of suppression faced by them from the colonial agents. Finally, the fourth chapter sums up the main point of the present research and finding of the researcher.

II. Colonialism Power and its subversion in Democracy

Colonialism is a process whereby sovereignty over the colony is claimed by the metropole and the social structure, government and economics of the colony are changed by colonists - people from the metropole. Colonialism is a set of unequal relationships: between the metropole and the colony, and between the colonialists and the native people. In the book *colonialism: A Theoretical Overview*, Jurgen Osterhammel settle on a three sentences definition of colonialism:

Colonialism is a relationship between an indigenous (or forcibly imported) majority and a minority of foreign invaders. The fundamental decisions affecting the lives of the colonized people are made and implemented by the colonial rulers in pursuit of interests that are often defined in a distant metropolis. Rejecting cultural compromises with the colonized population, the colonizers are convinced of their own superiority and their ordained mandate to rule (1).

In this way, colonialism is the policy of acquiring and maintaining colonies, especially for exploitation. Colonial rulers exploit the native people in the pursuit of fulfilling their interests. In the novel, *The Moon is Down* John Steinbeck shows the unequal relationship between the townspeople and the invading force. The invading force always wants to dominate the local people. But the locals always want to free. So, the local people of the town started to resist the invaders from their town.

Colonialism, as an expansionary political policy, is very old. The Greek had established colonies in Asia Minor in seventh century B.C. Most Europeans countries reached out after 1492, and founded colonies on the continent discovered to the west.

But the term colonialism in the modern sense does not refer to those events.

Colonialism means the kinds of arrangements made by and fought over by the European power during the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, mostly in Asia and Africa. But "these new colonies were not created for political, social and cultural motive. The nineteenth century colonialism had the economic motive at first."(Doren 135) To produce the undreamed amount of goods in a short time and to the search of market for consumption, European moved to colonize. Beside this motive of market, the wandering Europeans knew everything about "the weak administration and governing mechanism of the oriental countries"(Said 6). They began to translate into reality their dream of colonialism. They have to encounter many unexpected and unprecedented things while roaming through the orient with the motive of Christianization and colonization.

After the colonizers arrival, they impose their own culture, politics and economic model onto natives with new form of production, and the new way of power exercise and with new pattern of exploitation. This consequently results into the loss of their native tradition which was binding force element of the nations. Neither they completely give up the tradition of their own nor could they adapt fully from the colonizers. Colonizers tried to exclude the native people from the authoritarian role. They adapt the theory of exclusion to the natives. The natives were economically deteriorated and human rights of the native people are violated by the colonial rulers. So people realized handicapped and felt crisis of identity and freedom.

Colonialism is become one problematic category for the colonized people. Stephen Selmon is well aware that colonialism raises its own problem, problems that have been part of recent debate. As he noted "Colonialism is an obviously enormously problematic category. It is by definition Tran historical and unspecific and it is used in

relation to very different kind of historical oppression and economic control” (Selmon 31). Selmon also makes the point in this same essay that an assumption that the relation of oppressed people will always be resistant may actually remove agency from these people.

The colonizers were excess punishment, suffocation which brought turmoil and disturbance, physical and psychological pain, and many other internal and external hurt in the people. Aime cesaire claimed in his *Discourse on colonialism* that between colonizers and colonized there is “no human contact, but the relation of domination and submission which turn the colonizing man into a classroom monitor, an army sergeant, a prison guard, a slave driver and the indigenous man into an instrument of production (81)”. They lost identity in their own homeland and compelled to live like a slave. The painful and traumatized situation turns into resistance because people had no any choice but to fight against them. So the movement of "Anti-Colonialism" was started. The local is perceived to be fully corrigible and involved in an inevitable process of historical change. M. Crabal in his *Return to the Sources: Selected Speeches* notes that:

The working masses and in particular the peasant, who are usually illiterate and have never moved beyond the boundary of the village or their region ,come into contact with other group and lose those complexes of their own that constricted them in their relationship with other ethnic and social groups. They realize their crucial role in the struggle. They break the bonds of the village universe (10).

Here, Cabral's point is that when colonized people are excessively suffered from the colonizers, they have no need of other forces; they are encouraged by their own to go against such kinds of tyrannical rules. The recent example we can take from the Egypt.

The tyrannical rule of Hosni Mubarak has overthrown by the power of the people. The 30 years long regime of Mubarak has passed away by the people.

Democracy provides space and opportunities to make citizen's voice heard, and to organize and mobilize to influence the leader and the political processes. They must utilize these opportunities if they want to make the polity better, the more people organize, and the sooner some of the problems might be addressed on some ways. In the novel *The Moon is Down* townspeople are organized and started their democratic movement. Then the invaders felt that about the freedom of the people and themselves. "The global history of democracy tells that citizens have obtained more power, the policies have become more accountable, and democracy has deepened when citizens have organized and mobilized" (6). So colonialism is serves as a crucial component in the historical process throughout modern democracy were created and sustained.

Modern democracy is the most popular and inclusive form of government that ensures freedom right of the people. So, all the people want to live in democracy in full fledged. In democracy, people are free to use their unalienable right of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness by peaceful means. Along with it, freedom of speech, religion and political opinion are further assets provided by the government to the all of its nationals. By their representatives people have direct access to the government. So democracy can be taken as "a way of effective social change without suffering." (Peroutka 146) in the book 'Democratic Manifesto', Ferdinand Peroutka further adds: "Democracy demands that political power be nationalized, socialized where it has not been, that political power be restored to those who create it and to whom it belongs, briefly, let private ownership of political power be abolished (141)."

Of course, in democratic state, man has the free space in which he can shape his life according to his own ideas and be what he believes himself to be. If his own right can be violated, people have right to protest by peaceful means. So, Kulchandra Gautam, former assistant general-secretary of United Nations, further clarifies: “in a democracy, people have right to protest, to agitated, to demand and fight for justice and equality. But such right must be exercised peacefully.” (129)

Initially, it can be said that the foundation of democracy is said to be seen in the principle of advancement of human potentiality. Democracy is regarded “not only as a form of government, but a way of life; not only as a system, but as a method of making man realize to the full of his place in society (Lewis 15). In democracy, man has a free space in which he can shape his life according to his own ideas and be what he believes himself to be. So it is taken as “an effective way of social changes without suffering.” Liberty, equality and popular sovereignty are said to be the foundation of any system claiming to be democratic in nature.

Democracy aims to treat all people equally. “Everyone to count for one and none for more than one” wrote the English legal theorist Jeremy Bentham in his attack on the colonialist view that some people’s lives were intrinsically more valuable than others. The principle of equality requires not only that people’s interests would be attended to equally by government policy but also that their views should count equally. Working class people, women, down-trodden people, marginalized people all are equally treated in democracy. Only when democratic society has included the marginalized group in the freedom movement and democratic system will perpetual gamblers for uncontrolled power be isolated. In *Democratic Manifesto*. Peroutka writes:

Since with the help of democracy, the working class has become one of the main bearers of political power, democracy can no longer win the struggle of freedom without the work and still less against them. He who wish otherwise can proclaim his idea in the public square, must write them in the secret diary. Only when democratic society has included the workers in the freedom movement will the perpetual gamblers for uncontrolled power be isolated (164)

Here, freedom of the citizen in a modern state is not that of Robinson Crusoe on a deserted island, it is the state of affairs that has stemmed from solidarity, cooperation and mutual help.

A democratic society presupposes that each individual is free to think as s\he wishes and to hold his or her own ideas, opinions and general philosophy of life. Equally a democratic society offers freedom for the individual to adhere along with others to a religion or belief and to practice and manifest beliefs subject to the rights to others. Freedom of thought must be always protected as an individual right against what may be the prevailing and even the overwhelming majorities' beliefs whatever it be of a religion or secular nature. In particular, minorities of religious beliefs are entitled to the same guarantees of freedom as a majority community.

The World Conference on Human Rights recognized that “the exercise of human right and freedom is necessary for democracy to function properly at all”. By supporting this point, David Bentham and Kevin Boyle, on their book, *Democracy: 80 questions and Answers*, writes:

Democracy guarantees basic freedom. Open discussion, as the method of expressing and resolving societal differences, cannot take place

without those freedom that are enshrined in convention of civil and political rights, the right of free speech and expression, of association with others, of movement, of security for the person” (4).

In this way, democracy is the most desirous political system in the world. It is a form of government in which all citizens have an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives. Ideally, this includes equal (and more or less direct) participation in the proposal, development and passage of legislation into law. It can also encompass social, economic and cultural conditions that enable the free and equal practice of political self-determination.

Of course freedom is a goal, but, for the present democracy is the means by which freedom comes into the world. In the present historical situation, freedom has no more chance than the democracy can give it. So democracy is the most popular and inclusive form of government that ensure freedom, rights of the people. Practically speaking, almost all the people of the earth desire democracy and this desire exist despite the most earnest efforts on the part of numerous governments to conceal the idea of democracy from their people. Moreover, after the decolonization most of the countries have democratic and have began to love freedom. In a nutshell, the series of exclusion that colonialism produces are, I claimed, part of democracy very logic and can operate in tandem with democracy’s basic principles.

III. Dream for Freedom in *The Moon is Down*

“By ten-forty it was all over. The town was occupied, the defender defeated and the war finished.” (11) These are the beginning lines of *The Moon is Down* which reflects how townspeople’s unalienable right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is seized by the invading force. Though ‘the war is finished’ it was so but it is the beginning of war. The despotic rules of invaders give suffocation to the people. Townspeople tolerate the brutality of the invading force but the love of nation and nationality always hunt them and that great hurt burst into resistance and their effort to revitalize their identity and rights (that very democracy and freedom) brings a war between townspeople and the invading force.

War affects everyone involved - the conquered and those being of conqueror. War is a struggle that is internal and external. Man can be a dedicated soldier for only so much at a time. He then longs for laughter, music, girls, a good meal and more. In *The Moon is Down*, the soldier feels the need to return home. The soldiers feel uneasy when enemy does not talk to them. The townspeople’s hatred is growing. They remain indoors and stare from behind outgains when the patrol walks through the town. With the direct war between local resident and the invading force, the whole novel incorporates the desire of democracy and freedom in the both sides – the townspeople and the Invading force.

John Steinbeck’s *The Moon is Down* was written in 1942. The story gives details to the military occupation of a small town in northern Europe by the army of an unnamed nation, much like the occupation of Norway by the German during world war second. General Lanser, the leader of invaders, would execute any order of the Nazis. On the other hand, Mayor Orden, "democratically elected and much liked Mayor" (21), along with the townspeople feels excessively hurt after the occupation

of their town by the unnamed nation. The policeman and postman are deprived from their duties. Townspeople never feel that they are free in their own land. This sentence by Steinbeck proves so: "The Policeman and postman could not even get into their offices in the town hall, and when they insisted on their rights they were taken prisoner of wars and looked up in the town jail" (11-12). Local people who try to revolt against them and the local armies are captured and killed by the chauvinistic rulers of the invading force. "Joseph suspected that something pretty important was happening, what with foreign soldiers in the town and local armies captured and killed."(15) In this way, the townspeople face the tyranny of the invading force. Day by time, the invading force tries to become hero in the foreign land by dominating the natives of the town.

From the first page of the novel, Steinbeck presents the pathetic condition of the local residents of this town. The invading force attacks the town and gets victory over it and rules over there. In other words, the townspeople's ideology is interiorized by the armed force from the first part of the novel. The armed force starts to generalize the townspeople's culture, custom along with the views and ideologies. So, Steinbeck's point is to show that the traumatized psychology of the people at the wartime. The reader learns more about the small community and he is then expected to sympathize towards their sufferings. Nicole Smith, in his writing "Analysis of '*The Moon is Down*': *The psychological ailing of the enemy*" express this concerns:

From the first page of *The Moon is Down* by Steinbeck, the reader is encouraged to feel some sympathy to this small town in the face of occupation. The first page of this Steinbeck's story introduces us to several rapid-fire sequences before the settling in one the Mayor. (1)

This town is important because it has a large coal mine and the appropriate environment for the settlement. In addition to it, the fishing also attracts the people. So the vulture eyes of the rulers of the unnamed nation fall on it. Then the armed force of the unnamed nation invades this town especially to exploit the human and natural resources. Lieutenant Tonder's conversation with the colonel Lanser is the proof that the place is pretty nice for settling and this town is full of beautiful lands. Tonder says: "There are some beautiful farms here. If four or five of them were thrown together, it would be nice place to settle I think" (58). Furthermore, Colonel Lanser's remarks also give hints that they entered into this town for the economic purpose: "We want to get along as well as we can. This is more like a business venture than anything else. We need the coal mine here and the fishing. We will try to get along with just as little friction as possible" (33).

Here, we know that, at first, the invading force enters this town for the business venture but later with the passage of time, they have a desire to rule over there. They start to transform their desire of politically ruler of this town from the economic purpose to political power.

The invading force has colonial mentality. That's why they again talk about the conquering. "Half the world is ours" (112); "the armies move everywhere" (15); "we have conquered half of the world" (117). In this regard, it is not only the product of colonial mentality but a dream to be the Nazis. Certainly, colonial mentality brings problems in the identity. In colonial state, people lose their identity; they are bond into the ties of colonialism. The memory of past always hunts them. So, *The Moon is Down* , the novel consist of these elements where people realize that they have lose their identity and fins themselves alien in their own land.

For the purpose of colonizing this town, the invaders send George Corell, as their representative to know the real condition of the town and preparing for the invasion. The invader adopts the military procedure to conquer the town. "George Corell prepared this town for the invasion. He sent the soldiers of town into the hills and had made a list of every firearm in the town" (31). To know the military status of this town, he organizes firearms shooting competition in the hills and rewards the winner. It is his trick to know about the inner reality of this town militarily. "He had done a lot for this town; he even gave prizes for the shooting match in the hills" (20). This sentence by Dr. Winter with the Mayor Orden helps us to know the trick of George Corell for preparing this town for invasion. After finished the job of George Corell, the invaders attacks this town and get victory over it.

Mayor Orden's palace is captured by the invaders and made it headquarter of their battalion. People are cut off from their rights of freedom. Whatever the invaders teach to the people they are compelled to do so. Armed force increases suppression but people want to negotiate with the invaders. The invading force is guided by colonial mentality so they do not want to negotiate with the townspeople, instead threaten them. "We must get coal you see. Our leaders do not tell us how; they order us to get it. But you have your people to protect you must make them to the work and thus to keep them safe" (36). Here Colonel Lanser directly threatens to the Mayor Orden to protect his people. He adds that Orden's Order should not go against the invading force. In another point, Colonel Lanser threatens Orden to execute their order what they ordered. If not, they use force to restore that order. He says: "Mayor Orden, you know our orders are inexorable. We must get the coal. Your people are not orderly; we will have to restore that order by force" (36).

By threatening to the townspeople the armed force controls the economy and rules against the will of the people. The identity and freedom of the local residents are put into crisis by the vampire of the colonialism. The town which has experienced the liberty under democratic leader faces injustices and tyranny. By praising Orden, Steinbeck writes: "He had been Mayor so long that he was the Idea Mayor in the town. Even grown people when they saw the word "mayor", printed and written, saw Mayor Orden in their mind" (21). This shows that Mayor Orden is the democratic ruler of this town and he is the fond of all seeing the people of this town free and independent. "They are orderly under their own government" (35). The people of this town are responsible for the state and mayor Orden is responsible for his people. So with the Colonel Lanser, Mayor Orden says that his people have right to him live freely use their rights and make him the leader or not. Before the armed force attacked this town, the town move ahead by peaceful own leaders. In this confrontation, Mayor Orden says:

Sir, I'm of this people and yet I do not know what they will do. Perhaps know. Or maybe it would be different from anything you know or we know. Some people accept appointed leader and obey them. But my people have elected me. They made me and they unmake me. Perhaps they will if they think I have gone over to you (46).

Here Mayor Orden sees that their identity is in the threat. The colonialism has posed plenty of problems to the townspeople. There are excessive punishment, suffocation, and ultimately death to the people, which brought physical and psychological pain in people. No country, however, powerful can enslave the psyche of the other kinds of people forever. Mayor Orden in his speech at the last of the chapter one says: "To break men's heart permanently is Impossible" (89). The time

comes in which even the enslaved raise the voice of resistance against the domination of the impregnable kind.

Democracy provides space and opportunity to make citizens voice heard, and to organize and mobilize to influence the leaders and the political activities. The townspeople have rights to protest, to agitate, to demand and fight for justice and equality. So the townspeople organize the resistance against the colonialism which has created plenty of problems in the path of life journey of them. So we can see the tussle between democracy and colonialism in the novel *The Moon is Down* by Steinbeck.

Kenneth Burke, in his book *war and cultural life* says: "Democracy is the key term in the present structure of the symbolic action would seem to be a different sort of motives of war and war of business. But democracy as a motive against fascism, colonialism, is ideal, a purpose" (405).

Here, Kenneth Burke defines democracy as the struggle against the colonialism which has seized the right of the free people. In this novel by Steinbeck, he understood there is a tussle between democracy and fascism, another facet of colonialism. In the same book, he says:

One can discern something of this change in the critical temper by considering the controversy over Steinbeck's novel *'The Moon is Down'* which has been generally attacked and defended not simply on its merit but from the strength point of mellitus to win or to lose the war (409).

In this way, the people of this town are ready to fight the invading force for revitalizing their identity and freedom. They start restraints and resistance against the armed force from their own decision and hope that the Mayor will also help their

movement. So the war has been started between the townspeople, the lover of democracy and the invading force, the lover of colonialism.

The townspeople: Restraints and Resistance

As a reality of the occupation sinks in, “the simple and peaceful people of the town” (67) are angry and confused. The relationship between the townspeople and the invader was the relationship of confused, relationship of mystery. Their relation triggered up plenty of problem. Lots of problem erupted out of the volcanic relationship. So, in order to overcome all the injustices, townspeople choose to fight against them. They start to resist the invaders. The murder of Alexander Morden by the armed force catalyzes the people of the town and they settle into “slow, silent and waiting revenge” (100).

All the townspeople want to resist the invaders and reestablish their right in the town. “Everyone was thinking about the war, thinking about him, thinking of the past, and how it had suddenly been changed” (72). Mayor Orden stands by his people. The invaders capture the palace of the Mayor Orden and make it headquarter of its battalion. Mayor Orden is uncomfortable with the idea of the soldiers sheltering in his palace. He is afraid that townspeople will think him on their side when he has given the space for the invaders in his palace. So Orden wants to go against them but he is compelled to welcome in the town and abandon his palace. He tries to resist indirectly from the first part of the novel. In the receiving ceremony to the invaders in the town, the Mayor resists to drink wine with them. Then he tells to his wife:

Madam, I think with your permission we will not have wine. The people are confused now. They have lived at place so long that they do not quite believe in war. They will learn and they will not be confused any more. They elected me not to be confused. Six town boys were

murdered this morning. I think we will have no hunt breakfast; the people do not fight for sports. (25-26)

Here, Mayor Orden is so anxious when he hears that six town boys are murdered this morning. He expects that people are starting the revenge from their side. He also wants to join with the people. So he asks to the Doctor Winter: “Was there no resistance anywhere?”(27) But Doctor Winter’s answers disappoint him. ” I do not know. The wires are cut and captured. There is no news” (27).

Mayor Orden is confused about how to approach the invaders in his town. “He laughed softly. ‘I am little afraid’, he said apologetically. ‘Well not afraid, but I am nervous’ and he said helplessly, ‘we have never been conquered, for a long time” (28-29). He is quite upset when he discovers that Mr. Correl is prepared for invasion. Orden says angrily: “you have sat at my table. You never drank port with me. Why you helped me plan to hospital! This is not true! I do not wish to speak in this gentleman’s company” (31). The more he realizes that the town has elected him and the greater he is conscious to protect the people from any kinds of harm. The strength of the conquered people in *The Moon is Down* is that of the pioneers of the leader of the town (Lisca 190). Peter Lisca, in her writing *The Wide World of Steinbeck*, explains:

At the beginning of the novel, Mayor Orden is concerned about the way he looks for the conqueror and at the end; he is willing to die for his people. He is made to rise from the triviality of the first scene , in which we see him getting the hair trimmed from his ears, so he will look neat for the conqueror , to the greatness of the last scene in which he is led out to be shot, he calmly quotes Socrates last words.(192)

In this way, Mayor Orden is ready to die for his people but Colonel Lanser tries to convince the Mayor to follow their orders. But The Mayor Orden rejects their proposal by saying that his people are orderly under their own government; they follow the order of conqueror or not it is no sure. The Invaders had expected that “the local people will continue to work the mine” (39). They do not want to have any harm from the townspeople. But Mayor Orden gives the hints that the people are trying to struggle against them. They feel that their rights are seized by the invading force. Mayor Orden says to Colonel Lanser: "You won't believe this, but it is true; authority is in the town. I do not know how and why, but it is so. This means we cannot act as quickly as you can, but a direction is set, we all act together. I am confused. I do not know yet" (41).

Mayor Orden realizes their identity less in their own land. Their freedom is seized by the invading force. Then he thinks about himself that people have chosen him as a guardian of them. It is his duty to protect his people from any kinds of harms. So his condition becomes poor when he thinks about his responsibility towards the nation and his people. He even dresses uncomfortably: “Mayor Orden unbuttoned his coat and took out his watch and look out it and put it back and unbuttoned his coat again, one button too high”(28). The excessive mental torture makes him like a mad person. In this way, the novel exposes the traumatized condition of the townspeople. So Mayor Orden determines to go against the invading force with his people. He says: “I am a little man and this is a little town, but there must be a spark in little men that can burst into flame” (71).

Mayor Orden is very upset when he discovers that the soldiers expect him to pass the death to Alexander Morden. But Mayor Orden says that he has no right to do so because this is a town ruled democratically. So Mayor Orden remarks: "I have no

right to pass sentences of death. There is no one in this community with that right. If I should do it, I would be breaking the law as much you” (87). His role of being a Mayor for so many years is now changing because of invasion in this town by the unnamed nation. He has added a duty to protect his people from any kind of disturbance of from the side of the invaders. Townspeople are compelled to face the suppression, oppression and the chauvinistic act of the armed force. Mayor Orden leads them and starts the restraint and resistance against them from their country.

The extreme brutality compels anyone to go against the act of such person. Here, in the novel, *The Moon is Down*, Steinbeck makes that the townspeople are ready to die instead of facing such kinds of brutalities by the invading force. Alexander Morden kills a soldier on the spot when he tries to seize his right to freedom. And Morden is captured by the armed force and is sentenced to death. Mayor Orden in talking to Alexander Morden during his trial tells him that his act of killing a soldier is the starting phase of townspeople’s expressing their anger against the invading force. Orden says: “you will make the people one” (97). Here Orden takes the action taken by Morden is a catalytic act for the townspeople.

The Alex captivation inspires all the townspeople to revolt. Mayor Orden is ready to lead them. So, in the custody. Mayor Orden assures Alex that he will show the town he is in favor of them.

When they came, the people were confused, and I was confused. We did not know what to do or think. Yours was the first clear act. Your private anger was the beginning of the public anger. I know it is said in town that m acting with this man. I can show the town (69).

The townspeople who have been practicing their democratic rights become angry with invaders for their invasion of their virgin land. The workers of coal mine are also

happy. The cook and servants are also enjoying in the democratic state, but the arrival of the invading force in the town seized their rights of freedom. They are bound in the norms and values and orders laden by the invading force. This act of invaders is intolerable for the townspeople. So, they express their anger with the invaders. The workers of the coal mine starts revolt in the coal mine. The cook and servants express their anger by throwing hot water upon the body of the invading soldiers. Alexander Morden, one of the workers in coal mine, kills the captain Bentick. "I have a pretty bad temper. He said I must work. I am a free man. I got mad and I hit him. I guess I hit him hard. It was the wrong man'. He pointed at Loft. 'That's the man I wanted to hit, that one". (94).

Here, Alexandre Morden wants to remain free. He needs some rest after hard labor. He feels that his right in the factory is endangered by the invading force. So he expresses his anger with the captain Bentick. Being a free man, the workers have a desire to remain free in their job in the coal mine. But the presence of the invaders' force in this town creates fury upon them and strikes the force. Death of the Bentick is the consequences of the people's anger at invaders. The Invading force does not this incident seriously. Giving verdicts the death sentence to Alexandre Morden, Lancer says:

The court has no lee way. The court finds you guilty and sentences you to be shot immediately. I do not see any reason to torture you with this any more. Captain loft, is there any thing I have forgotten? 'You have forgotten me' said Mayor Orden' (35)

Here, Mayor Orden also wants to die along with Alex. Orden's anger against the invading force shown directly at that time. This speech of the Mayor is taken as the beginning of Orden's revolt against the invading force: "This is a war. Don't you

know will have to kill all of us or we in time will kill all of you? You destroyed the law when you came in, and a new law took its space. Don't you know that?" (87).

The invading force murders Alex and this murder of Alex catalyzes the townspeople for revenge. They unite in one and start the guerilla war. Section of the rail road gets damaged regularly. "There are three breaks in the railroad all within the ten miles" (155), according to Hunter. Along with it, the dynamo of the electricity generators gets short circuited. Whenever a soldier relaxes his guard, drinks and goes out with a woman, he gets killed. Lieutenant Tonder is the perfect example for it. When he is in the house of Molly Morden for making love with her, "Molly raised the shears and placed them inside her dress" (146). It means Molly kills the lieutenant Tonder. She wants to take revenge with the invaders who has killed her husband.

Colonel Lanser takes the Mayor Orden as a simple and peaceful man. He thinks that Mayor does not go against them. "He is just a simple man" (186). He is not ready to accept that Mayor Orden is a leader of rebellions people. Mr. Correl presents the rebellious act initiated by Mayor Orden for the conformation to colonel lancer.

"Colonel, I had my sources that I had been here along time before you [...]. On the night when lieutenant Tonder was murdered, he was in the house where the murder was committed [.....]. Whenever men have escaped, Orden has known about it and has helped them. And I even strongly suspect that he is somewhere in the picture of these little parachutes (169).

After hearing about it, he again says eagerly, "you can't prove it" (169). But Mayor Orden is really the leader of townspeople who are struggling for their rights. He is determined to revitalize the identity and freedom of people. He revolts to establish democracy in this town. For that, he is ready to accept death rather than life and for

democracy and freedom of the people. He never undermines the situation of people. Mayors' firmness and boldness empowers people to fight against the brutal armed force. He expresses his anger to colonel publicly, "This is war. Don't you know you will have to kill all of us or we in time will kill all of you? I'm, the mayor. I have no right to pass sentence of death. They have chosen me not to stay in confusion" (87). These sentences of Mayor help people to change their hurt into resistance and they will not step down until the freedom and democracies are restored.

Orden looked at the ceiling, lost in trying to remember the old words "And now, one man who have condemned me", he said, "I would fain prophecy to you - for I am about to die and - in the hour of death - men are gifted with prophetic power. And - prophecy to you who are my murderers - that immediately after - my - my death (180)

In this way, the death sentence given to mayor does not affect him. Instead his death becomes the aspiratory factor for townspeople. "Free people cannot start war, but once it is started, they can fight on in defect; herd men, follower of a leader, cannot do that and so it is always a herd man who win battles and the free man who wins war". (186), said Mayor Orden to Lanser. Mayor Orden knows that nothing can stop his people and his death is imminent. Mayor Orden thinks that the body of the Mayor is going to be destroyed but the idea Mayor will always remain in the world. The idea Mayor rules the people here after the death of the Mayor Orden. He says to his wife, "They cannot arrest the Mayor. The Mayor is an idea conceived by free man. It will escape arrest" (186).

In this way, the mayor can be killed by armed force but the idea of mayor (democracy and freedom) is beyond the reach of any army. Mayor Orden seldom remains silent in the execution, he prophesizes that "you who are my murderer that

immediately after my-departure punishment far heavier than you have inflicted on me will surely await you" (181). Orden further adds that it is the mistake of the invaders to stop the revolt of the people by using force. Without the absence of the Mayor, people have sufficient efforts. It means the death or departure of Orden does not affect the war "that will not stop it. You did not understand, when I have become a hindrances to the people, they will do without me"(188).

At the last moment of his life, Mayor Orden reminds the dialogue of the Socrates in the apology to Doctor Winter and tells him to make sure that the debt is repaid to the townspeople's i.e. the resistance is continued. The last sentence of the novel gives the clue that the restraint and resistance will continue after the death of the Mayor. Mayor says, "The debt shall be paid." (188) The Doctor Winter takes his responsibility to revitalize freedom and democracy in the town after the execution of the Mayor Orden.

Mayor Orden's friend Doctor Winter is a beloved town doctor. He shows a state of confusion. "Our country is falling, our town is conquered" (17). These sentences reflect doctor's agony. He wants to go against them, resist them from their country. Steinbeck interprets, the rolling thumb, at the time of a waiting the invaders for welcoming in their own country as a ruler, refers the irritation against them through Joseph. He writes, "Joseph saw nothing amazing about Doctor Winter's rolling thumbs; in fact he found them irritating" (15). The peaceful people who have never seen the brutal war are amused by the developed circumstances. The condition of do or die is there. They have no alternatives either to accept the despotic rule or to fight against the tyranny. So Doctor Winter describes that "all invaded people want to resist, we are disarmed, and our spirit and bodies are not enough. The spirit of disarmed man sinks" (141).

Along with the Mayor Orden, Doctor Winter is also hopeful to restore the freedom of people. He thinks one day the townspeople will win the war. For that purpose, the town has to raise weapon against the invaders. Here, Doctor Winter supports the idea of Tom to raise the weapon against the invading force:

“They’re using hunger on the people now. Hunger brings weakness. You boys are sailing for England. Maybe nobody will listen to you, but tell them from us - from a small town - to give us weapons”. (141)

By the replies of the Orden’s speech; "We can’t to fight them and we can’t" (141), Doctor Winger expresses above mentioned sentences with the anger. His anger catalyzes the entire town. He expects that if the Mayor plays the leadership role, people must be going against the invaders. The government may be ready to raise weapon because the invading force is ornamented by the modern weapons. Even if townspeople have simple weapons, they will win the war one day because of their united strength. Doctor Winter says:

If we could have simple, secret weapons, weapons of stealth, explosives, dynamite to blow up rails, grenades, if possible, even poison. This is no honorable war. This is a war of treachery and murder. Let us use the methods that have been used on us! let the British bombers drop their big bombs on the works, but let them also drop us little bombs to use, to hide, to slip under the rails, undertakes. Then we will be armed, secretly armed. Then the invader will never know which of us is armed [.....]. They'll never know which of us armed (142) is.

Here, Doctor Winter suggests the Mayor and townspeople to use the same weapon which the invaders have used against them by reminding the “diamond cuts the

diamond". Doctor winter encourages the Mayor Orden to dare to put weapons in the hands of common people.

"The flies have conquered the flypaper" (197), Doctor said, by using this proverb, he means that one day, and the invading force will run away from there. At the time of the execution of the Mayor Orden, he hands his responsibilities to the Doctor Winter. And "Doctor Winter closes his eyes for a moment before he answers 'The debt shall be paid'" (188). In this way, Doctor Winter assures Mayor Orden that, in spite of his absence, he takes the duty of the mayor to revitalize the people for people's right of freedom and democracy.

It is not only the male characters who want to resist and revitalize their freedom but also the female characters that are also ready to resist the invaders because they have also experienced physical and psychological tortures by the presence of invaders in this town. They also do not remain silent at the time of war. Annie, the Mayor's cook, seems here more rebellious than others and she shows the great anger to invaders.

War has many results and its aftereffects turn a person as a rebellious. Annie is the one who directly shows her anger to the invaders:

"I am 'now-ing'", said Annie the red nosed, the red eyes, the angry.

Annie was always a little angry and these soldiers, this occupation did not improve her temper. Indeed, what for years had been considered simply bad disposition was suddenly become a patriotic emotion.

Annie had gained some little reputation as an exponent of liberty by throwing hot water on the soldiers. (73)

Annie has a love for her town. So, she goes against the soldiers by throwing hot water on them. Furthermore, she remembers her father when the war starts. Her father was

murdered in war who always, said "The soldier brought winter early and a war brought bad weather" (124). The war reminds Annie her childhood life with her father. This incident also catalyzes her to move ahead. A patriotic feeling hunts her. So, to protect her identity, nationality, freedom and overall democracy, she dares to resist the invader.

The identity, freedom, nationality and overall democracy are the greatest thing in the world for the people and for that; still people have been fighting many years. The recent Libyan people's revolution against the despotic rule of Guaddafi is the example of how freedom is valuable for people. When the people's right of freedom is seized by the state and non-state factors, people go against it for revitalized their rights. Even the cook and servants do not remain silent. Same thing happens here in the novel *The Moon is Down*.

Annie, an exponent of liberty does not want to hurt anybody and is hurt by invaders. She becomes rebellion after the Alex captivation, who is later murdered by invaders. "You remember my words. People are not going to like it if they hurt Alex. People like Alex. Did he ever hurt any body before? Answered me" (73).

Annie threatens the invaders not to hunt the people. If they hurt Alex, people do not like it. So they go against them. Annie's rebelliousness is also shown in her talking with Joseph:

"Well, you feel if they hurt Alex, people are going to be mad and I'm going to be mad, I won't stand for it!"

"Why, I'll kill some of them myself. Let them! I tell you, Joseph, things can go too far - tramping in and out all hours of the night, shooting people" (76).

These lines, by Annie, clearly show that all the townspeople want freedom. For restoring their freedom, they themselves are encouraged. Annie herself kills some of the armed soldiers for her freedom and nationality. In this way, from mayor and Doctor; through Alex and Molly; and cook and servants, all the people are in search of freedom and democracy.

Molly is another character who also resists for freedom. She is very upset because her husband is going to be executed. She keeps in asking the Mayor if her husband is going to be death sentenced. Some times later, lieutenant Tonder arrives at Molly's home. She offers herself to him for two sausages. Molly says "Do I disgust you, lieutenant? May be I'm trying to. My price is two sausages" (132). She is so beside herself with grief and timeliness that she unravels the wool from an old sweater so she can keep busy. She lets lieutenant Tonder near her. She even puts her hand to his cheek. She tells him that she does not hate him and that she too is lonely. This is in contrast to her attitude towards the mayor who she would not let touch her. Molly says, "The trouble I'm in no one can help me with" (126). Molly hides a pair of scissor in her dress which she uses to kill gentleman Tonder, Who trust Molly (Lisca 196).

It is a trick applied by Molly to resist the invaders. Molly's physical and psychological torture bursts into resistance. Her husband's murder by the invaders compels her to vow to go against the invaders. She wants to take revenge with the invaders so she kills the lieutenant Tonder.

In this way, throughout the novel, the townspeople use the benefit of safety within the community and begin to organize a very effective resistance campaign against their increasingly weary attackers. The whole town is affected by war. The townspeople's democracy and freedom are the play ground for the invaders.

Democracy, development and peace are interdependent concepts but the democracy

and peace realized by townspeople are taken away by force. So they all are united together in order to restraints and resist the invaders.

Desire of Freedom of the Invaders

Townspeople started fighting for their identity, nationality freedom and democracy. It has deep psychological effect on the enemy's sides.

Although this novel *The Moon is Down* argues that the conquerors has the greatest challenge psychologically. It must be stated that this does not mean that occupied town did not suffer. Man can be a dedicated and loyal soldier for only so much at a time. He then longs for language, music, girls, a good meal and more. In the novel *The Moon is Down* the soldier feels the need to return home. They start feeling uncomfortable and begin to doubt what they are doing. They become uneasy when the enemy does not talk to them. They also have a desire of freedom. But they are compelled to execute the order of their leaders. Slowly, they express their desire of freedom to the leaders.

All people want to remain free. Freedom is the fundamental rights of the people. So the soldiers are also wanted to remain free and enjoy in democracy. This condition of the soldier is expressed in the novel *The Moon in Down*. John Steinbeck writes:

The men of the battalion could sing only together, could dance only together and dancing gradually stop and the singing expressed a longing for home. Their talk was of friends and relatives who loved them and their longings were for warmth and love because a man can be a soldier for only so many hours a day and for only so many month a year, and then he wants to be a man again, wants girls and drinks and

music and language and area, and when these are cut off, they become irresistibly desirable. (120)

In this way, the freedom movement of the townspeople becomes the aspiratory factor for the invaders. Their hidden desire of freedom strikes the soldiers' heart and they start to express their desire with the leader Colonel Lanser.

The men of battalion are not in relaxed mode. Gradually, a little fear begins to grow in the soldiers. The fierce conflict started and soldiers felt that it would never be over. "Thus it comes about that the conquerors grew afraid of the conquered and their nerves wore thin and they shrank at shadows in the night" (104). The soldiers feel that their longing desire of home, language and freedom has never been fulfilled. So they realize the negative impact of war. Furthermore, the news from home and other conquered countries strikes their heart and they become rebellions against their leaders. But it is their duty to execute the order from their leaders:

The soldiers read the news from home and other conquered countries, and the news was always good and for a little while, they believed it and then after a while they did not believe it any more. And every man carried in his heart the terror. They remembered stores of their mean retreating from Belgium and retreating out of Russia. And the more literate remembered the frantic, tragic retreat from Moscow, when every peasant's pitchfork tasted blood and the snow was rotten with bodies (103).

In this way, it is really troublesome for the soldiers and at that time they remember their home and relatives. Home is the place where a person can realize full fathom of freedom. Home is the place of freedom where a person can do whatever he likes; moreover, home gives the identity. Perhaps for that reason, Tonder says "I want to go

home" (119). And all the battalion sings the song to show the longing for home and relatives.

Colonel Lanser is the leader of the invaders. He would execute any Nazi order. He is the only person who knows what war is really about. He remembers the past war where he finds only hatred. He has fought many wars but he has not got satisfaction in war:

Lanser had been in Belgium and France twenty years before and he tried to think what knew that war is treachery and hatred, the muddling of incompetent general, the torture and killing and sickness and tiredness, until at last it is over and nothing has changed except for new weariness and new hatred ... And he tried to put aside the sick memories of the other war and the certainty that this could be the same.

This one will be different, he said to himself fifty times a day. (47)

Here, Lanser suffers by the memory of past war. A soldier being a human can not escape from loves and sentiments. The death of people gives pains to everyone.

Colonel Lanser knows nothing more than torture, sickness, and tiredness but it is his compulsion to follow the command. Colonel says, "I'm sorry. There are the orders of my leaders" (38). The people being invaded will not cooperate and therefore Colonel Lanser's job has become difficult.

As a head of the battalion, it is his duty to execute order, though he is haunted by previous memory. War memories occupy in his mind.

In war outlines become vague, a dream like thing in which nothing is very real. A real thing becomes unreal and fog creeps over the mind.

Tension and excitement, weariness, movement -all merge in one great

gray dream, so that when it is over, it is hard to remember how it was when you killed men or order them to be killed (47).

Colonel Lanser has no hope in life, and finds a valueless life. Therefore, the identity is shattered and freedom is cut off by war. Lanser's right of freedom is seized by the leader. He knows it from the long term war. Peter Lisca's opinion is "of them all, only Colonel Lanser knows what war really is in the long run [.....]. Treachery and hatred, the muddling of incompetent generals, the torture and killing and sickness, until at last it is over and nothing has changed except for new weariness and new hatred" (188).

The Colonel has also reminded the home and relatives. He has a desire to live free life but is compelled to do the job. The futility of war made him democratic but his job compelled him to follow the order of the leaders.

In this way, Lanser shares a burden and responsibility of office he too is more than simply a cold German officer - Lanser's embittered soul is weary of war, death, and the disgusting nature of institutionalized murder - and yet he must commit it relentlessly.

You see, what I think, sir, I, a man of a certain age and certain memories, is of no importance. I might agree with you, but that would change nothing. The military, the political pattern I work in has certain tendencies and practices which are invariable.

Orden said, "And these tendencies and practices have been proven wrong in every single case since the beginning of the world.

Lanser laughed bitterly. "I, an individual man with certain memories, might agree with you, might even add that one of the tendencies of the military mind and pattern is an ability to learn, an inability to see beyond the killing which is its job. But I am not a man subject to

memories. The coal miner must be shot publicly, because the theory is that others will then restrain themselves from killing our men. (87-88)

The Colonel expresses distaste for the rigidity and stupidity of war, and yet he consigns himself to the textbook execution of it. The truth is that Lanser is either afraid to confront his past and the atrocities of war. Therefore, we can say that Colonel Lanser also wants to free.

Not only Colonel Lanser wants to freedom from the invaders side, but also the low ranging personnel are also interested in freedom. Their freedom is cut off by the local people's resistance. So colonel suggests "don't go outside along" (36). Therefore, it is really troublesome for them and at that time they remember their home and relatives. Lieutenant Tonder is one who feels that the enemy should love him. When he first arrives in town he thinks that it is a nice country with nice people. But the situation becomes exactly opposite. The war does not end as quickly as Tonder expects. He starts to doubt the honesty of his fellow Germans. Tonder says, "If anything happened at home, I mean do you think they would let us know ... well, I would like to get out of this god - forsaken hole (109-110). In his way, Tonder who once feels the enemy should love him, now fears enemy. He starts losing control and says "The enemy's everywhere! Everyman, every woman, every child! The enemy's everywhere" (112). Tonder is already upset and loses control and suggests to Joseph that the 'leader' is crazy, that the war will never end and hysterically avows that the flies conquer the flypaper (Clancy 104).

Tonder does not remain silent; instead he has great traumatic memory of home and girls. So, he is in great tension. He expresses his anger with colonel by saying so:

Tonder sat down in his chair and put his hands to his temples and he said brokenly, "I want a girl. I want to go home. I want a girl. There's a

girl in this town, a pretty girl. I see her all the time. She has blonde hair. She lives belied the old - iron story. I want that girl. (111)

Here, Tonder expresses his inner desire with the fellow soldiers. He wants to go home and meet his relatives and remain as a free man but it is his duty which creates an obstacle in his desire of remaining free. In his loneliness he visits Molly Morden. He wants to make love with her. He wants to share a bed with her as a freeman. Tonder wants to join his hands with the local people on the basis of their struggle for freedom. Tonder says, "Can you understand this-can you believe this? Just for a little while, just for a little while! Can't we talk together like people-together"? (127) Tonder wants to enjoy but his desire remains unfulfilled. Although his longing desire of dying on the battle field comes true when Molly kills him with her knitting needles in her own house.

Prackle is another character who extremely suffers from his leaders. His freedom and democracy is seized by the leaders. He has no free time for saving. One example presented in this novel says that at the time of shaving his beard, the Major Hunter orders him by force: "This siding is more important than your looks." (49). He has a great desire to love the girl. So he always puts a picture of a girl and shows it to many people.

Lieutenant Prackle took from his pocket a folded rotogravure page and folded it and held it up and looked at it. It was a nice picture of a girl, all legs, and dress and eyelashes, a well developed blonde in black open work stockings and a low body, and this particular blonde peeped over a black lace fan (52-53).

Perhaps, this picture is a photo of his beloved. He has a desire to go home. So, he expresses his desire with his leader very angrily. "I wonder when we will be relieved,

I wonder when we will go home for a while, Major, and wouldn't you like to go home for a rest?" (108-109). He asks if they do not want to rest or go home? Obviously, they also have desire to be free but they are soldiers. The duty of the soldiers in conquered country is to seize the thought of the local people. The resistance of the local people for revitalizing their rights reminds the soldiers their right to freedom and this remembrance of freedom is not catalytic factors for the soldiers. They are compelled to express their inner desire of freedom.

"Major Hunter thought of war as an arithmetical job to be done so he could get back to his fire place" (46) He is also weary of his home when lieutenant Prackle requisitions him if he does not like to go home for a rest, at the time, "Major Hunter looks up from his work and his face is hopeless for a moment. "Yes, of course". (109). Furthermore he adds:

I've built this siding four times. I don't know why a bomb always knocks out this particular siding. I'm getting tired of this piece of track. I have to change the route every time because of the creases. There's no time to fill them in. The ground is frozen too hard. It seems to be too much work. (109)

In this way, all the soldiers in the conquered country want to go home and enjoy upon their own freedom. But they are compelled to remain silent. The above mentioned sentences by Hunter give the same hint. Not only the Prackle, the low ranking personnel wants to go home but also the Colonel Lanser, high ranking personnel also wants to go home. He says that all people want to remain free and democracy is the system which is much more appropriate for all of the people. The resistance of the local people for their rights is the good moral lesson for the invaders. So they remind their freedom and starts revolts within themselves.

Not only the soldiers express their desire to go home and enjoy freedom and Democracy, some of them starts to go home. Annie's expression with Molly gives the same hints "The Anders boys are sailing for England. They have got to. They are hiding now. Well, it was their brother, Jack, is short today for wrecking that little car. The soldiers are looking for the rest of the family" (124). In this way, the soldiers have a desire to remain free and they start expression of it by motivating from the restraints and resistance by the townspeople against their tyrannical rule.

In a nutshell, the townspeople use the benefit of safety within the community and begin to organize a very effective resistance campaign against their increasingly weary attackers. While this is powerful in terms of military or social action, its greatest effect on the effort is its deep psychological effect on the enemy's side. For the enemy soldiers who are losing faith in their abilities, each other, and their leadership this complete isolation is incredibly destructive. One by one the reader is told of problems in the opposite side's arena and soldiers go missing as the town manages its resistance. In many ways, they have gone from being overly confident to completely dejected. By the end of this work by Steinbeck, these soldiers were completely depleted and exhausted not because of their efforts in traditional battles, but because of the high level of psychological stress brought about by tough occupation.

IV. Freedom is the Goal

As its core, *The Moon is Down* is a story about the strength an oppressed people, the ability to strike back against the oppressor- even though they are human being rather than animal- because those oppressors have chosen their roles and are willing to execute them against the conquered. Though, the snowballing series of events, the military force that have overtaken the small coal mining village is assaulted a murder committed by Alexandre Morden is against the taskmaster Loft, and following Alexandre's execution, his wife taking another officer's life, as well as the execution of Mayor Orden by the colonial agents. The occupation continues to weaver and crumbles over the cold winter, until at last the sound of insurgent traps and explosive elaborates on the nature of freedom and indomitable spirit of man. So, *The Moon is Down* is a war novel dealing with emotion, psychological and physical effect and aftereffects of war.

War novel always wound, death and certain memories of past. People at war time lose their freedom; even they cannot find their identity. The rules and regulations are dismantled and civil rights cannot find there. It means the democracy can be put into threat. But the nation and nationality is the pride of all. Mayor Orden, the democratically elected mayor of this town, led the local people and they decided to restore by overthrowing the despotic rule of the invaders from this town. They love nation more than themselves. So, their only one desire is to get free their nation from the invaders. They want to revitalize their seized democracy in the town and get individual freedom forcefully seized by the invading force.

On the other hand, the invaders remember their previous war. The horror and terror of war hunt them. They shoot one man and make twenty enemies. They hate the war but cannot escape from it. They have also desire of laughter, music, girls, a good

meal and more. So they are becoming divided and are questioning their leadership as well as growing increasingly more homesick and isolation. They also want to remain free and enjoy in the democracy.

From the above discussion, we see that each side in the conflict is made up people – human being with similar emotion need and wants. In the novel, townspeople show it directly but the invaders have some compulsion to hide it. When the extreme desire of freedom hunts them, they reveal their desire at the end of the novel.

In a nutshell, by presenting the soldiers and officers on both sides as real people with common concern such as family, friends and love, Steinbeck tries to cover the inhumanity of war in the novel *The Moon is Down* though the portrayal of human side of the supposed enemy, Steinbeck valorizes the individual freedom and democracy over the any other kinds of fascistic rule. Freedom is realized by people only in democracy, not in the colonialism. In the novel, the both sides- townspeople and the invading force – want to freedom and democratic rule in the country at the end of the novel. So Steinbeck, by presenting the inhumanity of war, valorizes democracy and freedom over the fascistic and colonial rule over any states

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