

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Political Disillusionment  
in Arthur Koestler's *The Gladiators***

**A Thesis submitted to the Central Department of English in partial fulfillment of  
the requirement for the Degree of Master  
of Arts in English**

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This thesis entitled "Political Disillusionment in Arthur Koestler's *The Gladiators*"

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## **Abstract**

The novel deals with the political disillusionment of Arthur Koestler by bringing to light the drawbacks of politics. *The Gladiators* was Koestler's first published novel, an historical novel set in the ancient Rome and narrating the revolt of Spartacus, a slave gladiator that escaped, succeeded in collecting several thousands of fellows and building up an independent state in the south of Italy that was able to survive for a few years. Apart from the historical character of Spartacus, that Koestler studied at length, the book was largely inspired by the reflections that he was having on about the ethics of revolution, thoughts that led in the very same period Koestler quitting the communist party.

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