

## **Book Review**

### **Society and Social Justice: A Nexus in Review by Brij Mohan. 2012. Bloomington, IN: iUniverse (ISBN: 978 1 4759-4 sc; \$13.49 hc; \$23.95; \$3.99 ebk; P. 102)**

About a decade ago, I had the pleasure of writing a Foreword (with S.Zafar Hasan) to Professor Brij Mohan's *Social Work Revisited* (2002). We noted 5 trilogies of his books evolving as a formidable Magnum Opus. Brij Mohan's unmatched ability to deconstruct and conceptualize complex constructs has earned him an enviable international status, not only as the most published social work author, but also as a social philosopher in the tradition of Sartre, Foucault and Habermas.

When length and breadth acquire depth, the outcome assumes the oceanic quality. The book under review is an embodiment of this rare attribute. Brij Mohan's work spans through half-a-century of journey on the vast spectrum of social-psychological phenomena. The outcome is a compendium of about thirty plus concepts broadly clustered around five major themes (chapters) intertwined in their nature and scope. Each theme substantiated by relevant samplers is assiduously revisited and reflectively commented upon with concluding observations.

The nexus of human society and social justice sits at the heart of Mohan's theory of new social development, a requiem for social work and its anachronistic situation in the realm of social sciences. Students and scholars in the field will find this outstanding book immensely beneficial for strengthening their intellectual bases commanding authority in a simple but complex world. There is no match to rival the significance of this laconically detailed, politically incorrect, and philosophically sound book in social work. This uniquely self-anthologized opus is guided and constructed by three former colleagues- Dr. Kapur, Dr. Soodan and Dr. Srivastava, of the author whom he graciously acknowledges as his co-editors. Their preferences and selection of 'quotes' is doubly helpful to readers who seek to find some jewels in fathomless depth of Brij's work *A profession adrift in its missionary direction*, increasingly assuming uncritical—Mohan calls it

anti-intellectual—strides should read through and in-between the lines of this challenging expose.

The last three components offer a penetrating insight into the author's odyssey--triumphs and travails—that capstone his take on the human condition. The 10 + 7 unvarnished questions, brilliantly framed and answered with outrageous honesty, is a rare treat for intellectually hungry readers: The man behind his words; the words depicting a world that is so uplifting amidst the banality of madness. The Afterword, a neo-Nietzschean essay on contemporary social reality, sums it up well: “Man is a lonely creature, incomplete at best, predatory at worst” (p. 73).

*Reviewed by John W. Landon<sup>1</sup>*

---

1. Professor Emeritus; College of Social Work; University of Kentucky; USA;  
Email: [jwlandon@windstream.net](mailto:jwlandon@windstream.net)