Jayprakash Narayan’s Works
JAYPRAKASH NARAYAN SELECTED WORKS BY BIMAL PRASAD (1929-79) vol. 1 to 10

This Series Of Volumes Has Been Planned With A View To Presenting As Full A Picture As Possible Of The Evolution Of J.P.'S Political Life And Thought Through His Writings, Speeches And Letters. As He Was In Many Ways A Mirror Of His Times, It Is Hoped That The Series Will Also Provide An Idea Of The Main Currents Of Ideas And Movements During The Times In Which He Lived And Worked.

Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works Vol. 1 1929-1935


Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works Vol. 2 1936-1939


The present volume begins with Why Socialism? a treatise on socialism with a critique of other systems of thought, particularly Gandhism, and elucidation of the objectives and programme of the Congress Socialist Party published in early 1936. This is followed by J.P.’s other writings, speeches and letters up to the outbreak of the World War II in the first week of September 1939.

Why Socialism? 1936  1
General Secretary’s Report 1935. 20 January 1936  90

Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works, Volume 3 (1939-1946)


Most of the articles included in this volume throw light, among other things, on J.P.’s stand, articulated from inside prison as well as outside, on some of the critical issues relating to the strategy and tactics of the Indian struggle for freedom between 1939 and 1945; as also his attitude towards the stands of some other stalwarts of the freedom struggle like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose.

To Provincial Secretaries and Members Congress Socialist Party  7
Clarification of Statement on the new Independence Pledge  16
To M R Masani 12 January 1940  22
Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works, Volume 4 (1946-1948)


The items included in this volume throw light on J.P.’s role in Indian politics and the evolution of his political thought between April 1946, when he was released from the Agra Central Prison, to March 1948, when the Socialist Party, under his guidance, decided to leave the Congress and function as a completely independent party. In particular, they show his consistent opposition to the path of negotiations with the British being pursued in 1946-7 by the Congress High Command, his ardent advocacy in favour of a different path - the path of struggle - for achieving independence and his strong denunciation of the forces, both among Hindus and Muslims, then engaged in fostering communal hatred among the two communities.

Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works, Volume 5 (1948-50)


The present volume covers the period from the end of the Nasik Conference of the Socialist Party held in March 1948 to that of the Madras Conference held in July 1950. The period covered marks the building up of the Socialist Party, dedicated to the idea of socialism.

Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works, Volume 6 (1950-54)


The present volume covers a period of four years (1950-1954). Those years witnessed several important political developments, such as the holding of the first general elections in India (1952), the formation of the Praja Socialist Party as a result of the merger of the socialist party and the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (1952); the failure of the talks between Nehru and J.P. (initiated by the former) in order to ensure cooperation between the Congress and the PSP (1953) and controversy over them in the ranks of the PSP; growing involvement of J.P. in the Bhooman-Gramdan movement and his announcement of Jeevandan. J.P.’s deep interest in the struggles of various trade unions till 1952, are also fully covered through his addresses to their members as also his correspondence with the officials and cabinet ministers, at the centre as well as in Bihar. The same applies to J.P.’s deep interest in the fight for democracy in Nepal.

To B. R. Ambedkar 17 July 1950 1
To the Secretary Ministry of Defence 28 July 1950 2
To Rafi Ahmed Kidwai 28 July 1950 3
Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works, Volume 7 (1954-60)


The present volume covers the period May 1960 to January 1966. Among the contents the most notable is Swaraj for the People published in 1961. Here J.P. stresses the need for strengthening the institutions of Panchayati Raj by endowing them with financial autonomy and real powers of governance in areas within their jurisdictions. Further, J.P. also wants to give them a role in electing members of the provincial assemblies and parliament, a major step, according to him, in moving from a parliamentary to a participatory democracy. The volume also contains numerous speeches, statements and letters to the then Prime Ministers, Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri, on various problems facing the country, like Kashmir, Nagaland, controversy on the issue of official language and recurrence of Hindu-Muslim riots. The volume also contains several statements and speeches by J.P. on India-china discord which finally culminated in the Chinese invasion of 1962."


Just as the previous volume, it shows J P preoccupied with the Bhoodan-Gramdan movement and at the same time actively concerned with the other socio-political problems faced by the country from time to time. This often led him to be embroiled in political controversies where he found himself attacked by both sides of the fence. However, J P was not at all deterred by it and continued to pursue his chosen path provided it seemed to him to be based on the principles of justice and fair play and served the interests of the country. The best illustration in this regard is provided by J P's role in the solution of the Kashmir problem and this volume contains the texts of numerous letters of J P addressed to Indian as well as Kashmiri leaders, not previously available to the public. The same is true of his role in the liberation of Bangladesh, and his communication with the leaders of Bangladesh regarding the desirability of their taking the initiative in fostering regional cooperation in South Asia.
Jayaprakash Narayan Selected Works, Volume 10 (1972-79)

Jayaprakash Narayan (1902-79) was one of the most prominent leaders and thinkers that India produced in modern times. Although he never sought power for himself, he played a major role not only in the struggle for Independence, but also in the Socialist and Sarvodaya movements and finally in the movement for strengthening democracy, popularly known as the J P movement. This series of volumes has been planned with a view to presenting as comprehensive a picture as possible of the evolution of J P's political life and thought through his writings, speeches and letters. As he was in many ways a mirror of his times, it is hoped that the series will also provide glimpses of the main currents of ideas and movements during the times in which he lived and worked. The present volume covers the period from early 1972 to till his death in 1979.

AboutAuthor

Bimal Prasad, formerly Professor of South Asia Studies and Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi) and India's Ambassador to Nepal, is at present Honorary Director, Rajendra Prasad Academy and Honorary Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (both in New Delhi). Before joining the School of International Studies, Professor Prasad was Research Fellow at the Columbia University (New York) and Professor of History, Patna University. In later years he was Senior Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and Visiting Professor at the University of Leeds. Professor Prasad has authored and edited several books relating to Modern Indian History and Foreign Policy. His latest work, Pathway to India's Partition, is a trilogy of which two volumes have already been published: The Foundations of Muslim Nationalism (New Delhi, 1999) and A Nation within a Nation (New Delhi, 2000). Volume 3: The March to Pakistan, 1937-47, is in press. A close associate of J P Professor Prasad has edited three single-volume selections of his writings: Socialism, Sarvodaya and Democracy (Bombay, 1964); A Revolutionary's Quest (New Delhi, 1980); and Jayaprakash Narayan: Essential Writings, 1929-79 (New Delhi, 2002). He has also edited the earlier volumes of this series (I to VIII). Besides, he has authored Gandhi, Nehru and J P Studies in Leadership (New Delhi, 1985) and Jayaprakash Narayan: Quest and Legacy (New Delhi, 1992; reprinted 2003).

Jayaprakash Narayan, essential writings, 1929-1979:
A centenary volume, 1902-2002
Jayaprakash Narayan, Rajendra Prasad Academy
Konark Publishers, 2002 - History - 471 pages

Seeks to present in a Single Volume Jayaprakash’s Most Significant Writings over 50 Years (1929-1979) - Give A Glimpse Into His Role In Public Life. The Presentation Is Under 40 Heads-up to 1979. Index.