(BOOK REVIEW)

DEMOCRACY – THE POWER OF ILLUSION: A CRITICAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to critically review the book Democracy – The Power of Illusion by Stanislaw Filipowicz. The work gains prominence in the wake of formation of uniformitarian rationality among the people across the globe about democracy as rational form of government. Different axioms, theories, and day to day practices seem to have democratic footprints in one way or the other. The concept of democracy has occupied an unsurmountable status, and the changes in socio-economic and political spheres in every country, culture, or region seems to be moving towards the goal of democratization, in varying degrees. All the ‘rational’ discourse seems to point to one direction i.e., democracy. The concept of democracy has occupied such an overwhelming space that all ‘non-democratic’ ways of looking at the world have been dismissed ‘democratically’. The ‘rational’ basis for ‘democratically’ accepting or rejecting ideas have been inherently laid down in the axioms that defend the concept of democracy. Decisions in a democracy are (presumed to) made in a ‘rational’ manner thus giving it an undefeatable space for dominance. This undefeatable, ‘rationally’ constructed ‘democratic’ space resists all non-democratic forms from gaining space, and sometimes some democratic forms also find it difficult to get acknowledged. All the axioms that define democracy are constructed in a particular manner, by following a particular ‘rationality’, and deviations from these ‘rationally’ constructed constructions are bound to sound ‘irrational’ to ‘rational’ minds. In Democracy – The Power of Illusion, Filipowicz attempts to explore the ‘rational’ foundations of democracy, and critically looks at how these foundations circumscribed in forming the ‘democratic’ space that ‘democratically’ encourages us to will-to-illusion i.e., to will to be ‘democratic’.

KEY WORDS: Emancipation, Enlightenment, Faith, Illusion, Manufacturing Laws, Manufacturing Opinions, Morals, Natural Law, Rationality, Representation, Uniformitarian Rationality, Values

References