



Another Indian Rope Trick

—by An American Cartoonist

**BRITISH PROPAGANDA
I N A M E R I C A**

By the same Author

Secrets of Japan.

(Three Editions in
English and six
translations.)

Vanishing Empire.

Behind the Guns.

Hindu America.

Inside America.

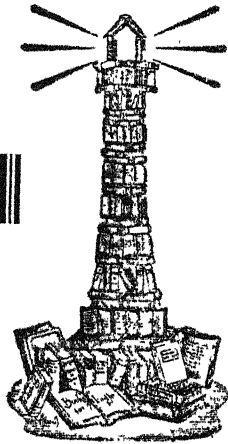
BRITISH PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA

By
CHAMAN LAL

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ALLAHABAD

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These cartoons originally appeared in American papers.

PREFACE

“Men never turn rogues without turning fools”, said Thomas Paine, the great American revolutionary writer. This truly applies to the authors of the anti-Indian propaganda carried on in the United States by our rulers and their Indian hirelings. I do not agree with the *Hindustan Times*¹ that the British are good propagandists. I agree with the view of a reputed member of Lord Linlithgow’s cabinet, who said (of course in a private talk) that the British propaganda is simply clumsy and stupid.

The success of any Government propaganda should not be judged by the number of papers subsidised by a Government for the dirty job of maligning a helpless nation whose leaders in concentration camps are deprived of the opportunity to hit back, on the contrary it should be judged by the reactions of the man on the street—the common man (in the words of Henry Wallace.) “Tell Gandhi keep the British hitting”, was the message average Americans always gave me throughout the United States. Judging from this standard the anti-Indian propaganda in America miserably failed except for a short

¹The Editorial referred to is printed after the Preface.

duration in 1942 when British propagandists hoped that by discrediting Gandhi and the Indian National Congress as friends of Japan they would be able to convince Americans that nationalist India was in secret alliance with the Japanese. It might have been a clever move but it fell flat when honest and bold Americans like Ambassador William Phillips and General Chiang-Kai-Shek, the Head of the Chinese Government, told President Roosevelt and the American people that the Indian National Congress was more anti-fascist than any allied government. The chief British weapon was to depict Congress leaders as friends of Japan and therefore enemies of China, America and Russia. When I managed to leave for America last year, the British censors in Bombay went to the extreme stupidity of confiscating all photographs of Gandhi and Nehru fraternising with Chiang-Kai-Shek. I had secured a whole set of pictures to show them to American friends but the censors in Bombay confiscated them without giving any reasons.

I have no hesitation in stating that I was granted a passport to the U. S. A. on the strict understanding that I would not indulge in lecturing. I tried to keep my word and devoted most of my time to historical research on the ancient relations between Hindu, Astic, Maya and Inca

cultures of America. But the British authorities compelled me to break my pledge, since they depicted me as an agent of Japan and tried to prove that my book "Vanishing Empire" was almost certainly published by the Japanese Government" (I am quoting from a memorandum written by the British Secretary of the Indian Agency General. I managed to take into my possession the original document which was however snatched from me in Karachi (where I was thrown in the Military lock-up on my return to India.)

I accepted their challenge and fought them every hour of my stay in America. Thereafter, I twice visited the White House and acquainted President Roosevelt with the whole situation in India. I supplied him all the banned and underground literature on British cruelties perpetrated in India during the revolution of 1942. I was received by the Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, Madam Perkins, Minister of Labour, Mr. Henry Wallace (then Vice-President), Mr. Wendell Wilkie and several dozen leading politicians of the United States, Central and South America. I met most of the Ambassadors of the United Nations and also neutral countries. I was invited to a dinner by leaders of the Senate and the Congress in the Senate building where I was asked to speak on India. During the three

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months that I spent in Washington I devoted nearly twenty hours a day in acquainting the American leaders with the true situation in India. I secured hundreds of propaganda documents, circulars, pamphlets, books and 'strictly confidential notes for British Officials only' distributed by Halifax & Co.

How I managed to smuggle those documents to India will however remain a secret. Some of these materials were published in the form of articles in the Hindustan Times and several other papers. Several nationalist leaders and editors advised me to print the articles in book-form and this is the result: I had never planned to publish a book on the subject but the attitude adopted by the Government of India and its spokesman, Sir Sultan Ahmed, compelled me to incorporate my articles into a book so that the truth may be revealed not only to the people in India but in the United States, China, Russia, England and all other parts of the world where British Propaganda has been trying to mislead public opinion against India.

WHO IS A LIAR ?

Sir Sultan Ahmed as spokesman of his British masters has made some very ridiculous statements in the Central Legislature in connection with the facts brought out by me in my articles.

- (i) He says the statements contained therein are ninety per cent lies. Any reader can see that I have simply reproduced most of the propaganda circulated by his department and his master's—the British Information Services. If the original publications of British and Indian information offices in Washington are full of lies I cannot be held responsible. A statement does not become a lie by mere reproduction and I can claim to have reproduced their propaganda truths very faithfully. So the charge of publishing lies rests on the shoulders of the authors of the original propaganda literature.
- (ii) Sir Sultan denies that any Anti-Indian books have been published, subsidised or circulated by the Indian Information Office in Washington. I repeat that the following books among others were definitely arranged to be published, subsidised and circulated in the United States and other countries.
- (1) *What does Gandhi want ?* by T. A. Raman.
 - (2) *A Report on India* by T. A. Raman.
 - (3) *This is India* by Peter Muir.

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- (4) *India Against the Storm* by Post Wheeler.
- (5) *Verdict on India* by Breveey Nichols.
- (6) *Mother India* by Katherine Mayo.

The exact number of copies purchased and circulated by British and Indian propaganda offices in Washington is mentioned in the text and I declare that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai personally admitted having circulated these books. He gave me a copy of Raman's book "What does Gandhi want?" and I secured free copies of about two dozen books from his office. I have them all in my possession and have shown them to Gandhiji and several other leaders and editors in India. Sir Sultan must have those books in his office. If his assistants have not shown him the books I can supply him gratis.

(iii) I repeat that the authors of these publications were generously subsidised and enjoyed the hospitality of the Government of India and through them the leading Princes. Some of them were whole-time paid agents and their tours were arranged by Sir Sultan's department. Only 'liars' can deny these hundred per cent truths and I am sorry for Sir Sultan who has been misinformed by his office of misinformation.

- (iv) Sir Sultan denies that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai spies on Indians in the U. S. A. He calls the allegation a black lie. This allegation was made by Mr. G. L. Mehta and not by me, but it is true. Sir Girja Shankar did so in my case and definitely tried to get Shridharani, the famous writer, sent back to India to be locked in prison. I had brought with me a copy of Sir Girja's letter admitting that fact, but that document was seized by the Police Officer who arrested me at Karachi. Sir Sultan can see the document. This complaint against Bajpai was general amongst the Indian residents of U. S. A.
- (v) Sir Sultan may deny a hundred times but it is a fact that Sir Girja Shankar costs India 52 thousand dollars a year which is more than the salary of the President of the United States of America. Sir Sultan cleverly avoids telling us the amount paid in generous allowances and the palatial mansion occupied by Sir Girja. Who pays for it if not the tax-payer of India? Total up the figures and it comes to fifty-two thousand dollars a year. Similarly

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does his Assistant get a larger salary than the Secretary of the State Department in Washington.

- (vi) Sir Sultan denies that the British Information Services and the Indian Information Office ever distributed copies of Miss Mayo's notorious book, while thousands of politicians, professors, libraries, schools and radio stations received free copies. Some persons received two copies each. The book was being distributed by two agencies even last year when I was in Washington. Who does not know that the late Miss Mayo was a guest of the Viceroy, Governors and Princes and was given fullest assistance by the Government of India.
- (vii) Sir Sultan denies that there are ten thousand British propagandists at work in the U. S. A. and ridicules the statement that there were three thousand British officials in America last year. He says there are only three British officials. He does not know that the number of British officials in Washington alone at one time was eight thousand and three thousand was the minimum number in 1944. Let the United States

Government deny the fact.

(viii) Sir Sultan denies the fact that Rs. 25 to 26 lakhs per year were spent in the United States on anti-Indian propaganda in the years 1942-1943. He gives the figures for the current year and not the stormy years when the propaganda was in full swing. He does not give any figures for 1942-43. In his estimate does he include the following—

- (a) expenses of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai's office ;
- (b) expense incurred on tons of publicity materials, posters, pamphlets, cables sent to the United States of America by air ;
- (c) expenses incurred on sending the various stooges such as "Sarma mission" (which cost more than two lakhs alone), and entertainments given in honour of the stooges ;
- (d) expenses incurred on the special publicity officer maintained for preparing literature sent to America ;
- (e) expenses on air travel to America incurred by the officials of his Department who have had luxury trips to America at short intervals ?

It is no use further questioning his statements since they are all based on complete ignorance. Although ignorance is no excuse in law, yet I am prepared to forgive Sir Sultan, ex-Law Member for his ignorance because I have always known him as a man of high talents and great culture for which Patna his home town is famous. I can only sympathise with him for playing into the hands of interested subordinates.

AMERICA REPLIES TO BRITAIN

Britain's main excuse for its domination of India is the lack of communal agreement in India. America has given the fittest reply to the British Government. British propagandists have wasted millions of dollars in America on telling the Americans how difficult, even impossible, it is to work out the solution of the communal problem in India. These propagandists forget that the United States of America ran up against similar problems in the Phillipines. The British argument is that India has a variety of races and languages. The Phillipines have no less than forty-three ethnographic groups with forty-three different languages and dialects on the 7083 islands which make up the archipelago. India is definitely one geographical unit and has hardly a dozen dialects mostly from

PREFACE

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the same mother—Sanskrit. The imperialist-propagandists dwell upon the conflict of religions in India, but they forget that the Phillipines have many religions too. If the Phillipines can be educated in 30 years and a date fixed for their complete independence next year why cannot India be treated similarly? Where there is a will there is a way. British imperialism has thrived on propaganda long enough, it cannot fool the world, not even the British people any longer. We must continue to expose and fight British propaganda in every part of the World. We must fight British imperialism on the home front as well as abroad specially in England and America. A struggle is inevitable and we must prepare for it *NOW*.

VANDE MATRAM!

Bombay,
September, 23, 1945.

CHAMAN LAL.

A MENDACIOUS CAMPAIGN*

The British are good propagandists, whatever may be the tributes they pay Dr. Goebbels. For some years now we have been receiving reports of the intensive propaganda that the British Government and their subsidiary agencies are carrying on in the United States against the Indian nationalist movement. This week we have published in the columns of this paper a series of articles on the nature of this propaganda by an Indian journalist who was recently in the U. S. A. The correspondent makes astounding revelations, though nothing should be astounding about British propaganda against this country. No misrepresentation seems to be too bad, no calumny too vile. Many of our readers, like ourselves, could never have imagined the depths to which British and British-inspired propagandists could descend. The campaign is particularly directed against the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi. British propaganda hopes that by discrediting them, it could cheat Indians of self-government. Ten thousand propagandists of every hue have been kept busy

* Editorial of Hindustan Times of 17/2/ '45 referred to in the Preface.

with guidance notes, background material, press releases and more insidious prompting. We are sorry that the list includes outstanding American journals and journalists, professors and missionaries. We are sorry to find that the Royal Bank of Canada and the Federal Council of the Churches of America should have taken a hand in it. The British Embassy is a powerful centre of contacts and it is no wonder that the British Government are lavishly spending about four crores of rupees a year to defend their policy in this country. It is a rather peculiar irony that Lord Halifax, who as Lord Irwin attained a certain shortlived reputation for statesmanship in this country, should be the patron-saint of this campaign. The Americans are a great people but some of them may be gullible. It is no matter of surprise that some of them even out of mere motiveless malignity, should have been persuaded to lend their names to anti-Indian bulletins and articles. Papers like the *New York Herald Tribune*, journalists like Dorothy Thompson, have been successfully drawn into the magic circle. The office of the Indian Government's Agent-General is a subsidiary agency which, for some reason or other, has to keep step with the Embassy. To questions in the Central Assembly, Sir Olaf Caroe gave some naive replies denying the existence of

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'secret funds' and affirming that nothing that is not published in India is being allowed to be published in America. We shall know more of that, for this Government, of all Governments in the world, is not expected to be frank or responsible.

The substance of the propaganda material is, however, too clumsy and ridiculous to make any lasting impression. Indian agents have been employed to give a sense of verisimilitude. There have been many painful desertions among the Americans themselves from the ranks of freedom. But we are reliably informed that a feeling of satiation has already spread among the Americans, that while they may still imagine some difficulties about settling the Indian problem, they can no longer be fooled about the main question of Indian freedom. How long can the Americans believe that the Four Freedoms are applied to India? How many of them could be persuaded to believe, even at the time, that Mahatma Gandhi undertook his fast of 1943 to help the Japanese? How do the Indian members of the Viceroy's Executive Council like the assumption that if the British element in the Council is removed, the representation of Indian parties and interests in the Council would become irritatingly unbalanced? How did the Americans, who happened to

see it, like the confidential circular admitting that the Viceroy did not allow Mr. Rajagopalachari to see the Mahatma in jail because it would encourage the 'open rebellion'? In another confidential circular, British propaganda told Americans, long after Mahatma Gandhi had condemned the violence in a letter to the Viceroy, that he was not allowed to see Mr. Jinnah in jail because he had not condemned the disturbances. Does Mr. Jinnah like the compliment that his suggestion to Mahatma Gandhi to open negotiations was mere political window-dressing? In a news release, it is claimed that the Frontier, Assam and other so-called self-governing provinces 'have approximately the same powers as a State of the United States.' The President's Personal Representative, Mr. Phillips, himself was refused an interview with Mahatma Gandhi because the Government of India were anxious to do nothing which would damp the enthusiasm of all those wide and powerful sections of India which were giving such splendid co-operation in the war effort.' In a piece of historical fantasy, the Americans are asked to imagine what Europe would be if India had conquered it, with the shameless claim that if the Muslims have the right to be in India, the British also have a similar right. Sometimes the assertions are too brazenly naive, for

in the same pamphlet it is said that 'every Englishman today fully subscribes to the ideology which lays down that it is wrong for one race to rule another against its will.' Will the British kindly shout it from the housetops in India ?

How long will this last ? The Americans, who have an attachment to first principles, know that freedom should know no qualification, that Indians deserve freedom as much as anyone else. They have had it from the Personal Representative of the President himself. But we would ask the State Department why it should allow this campaign of calumny issuing from the British Embassy ? The Department, according to our correspondent, refused to grant passports to India to certain propagandists sponsored by the British Ministry of Information. If so, the U. S. Government are wiser than the American Press. But will the State Department take steps to put an end to the wrong done to a people whose only fault is that they insist on freedom ? Will the Department stop all facilities offered to British propaganda which has by now played itself out ? We would ask the Government of India too when they will stop this game of frightening people here and bluffing people abroad ? Sir Olaf Caroe may be content to suggest that India's Agent-Genera

does not put out in America anything that is not put out in India, but few will be deceived by this assurance. Cannot Sir G. S. Bajpai, if he aspires to serve his country more than he serves his alien masters, stop at least the more atrocious libels not only on the Congress but on the whole country? "I merely sign the bills," he seems to have told our correspondent referring to his role. Is he being paid only to sign bills? The truth is he is not so guiltless. He can be convicted out of his own mouth.



Suttee.