

NOTE

OF REVOLUTION AND CAPITALISM

AIC writes :

ARUNDHATI ROY SAYS “IT’S outright war and both sides are choosing their weapons “When Sonia Gandhi begins to promote satyagraha at the World Economic Forum in Davos, it’s time for us to sit up and think...The Tatas [a big corporation allegedly have two charitable trusts that directly and indirectly fund activists and mass movements across the country. Could that be why Singur [a land grab there] has drawn so much less flak than Nandigram [massacre by police there]? Of course the Tatas and Birlas [another corporation] funded Gandhi too - maybe he was our first NGO.”

“The minute armed struggle becomes a strategy, your whole world shrinks and the colours fade to black and white. But when people decide to take that step because every other option has ended in despair, should we condemn them? Does anyone believe that if the people of Nandi-gram had held a dharna and sung songs, the West Bengal government would have backed down? We are living in times when to be ineffective is to support the status quo (which no doubt suits some of us). And being effective comes at a terrible price. I find it hard to condemn people who are prepared to pay that price.”

The Chinese Communists are turning out to be the biggest capitalists of the 21st century. Why should Indians expect their own parliamentary Left to be any different? Nandi-gram and Singur are clear signals. It makes one wonder—is the last stop of every revolution advanced capitalism? Revolutionaries must think about it—the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, the Chinese Revolution, the Vietnam War, the anti-apartheid struggle, the supposedly Gandhian freedom struggle in India... what’s the last station they all pull in at? Is this the end of imagination? □□□