

When The Wind Blows - India's Ballot Box Revolution

by S. P. Aiyar & S. V. Raju

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What the Critics Say

The book ... is not "instant history", of which we have had a surfeit for some time past; nor is it a polemical treatise on contemporary Indian affairs. It is in fact a sober, comprehensive, well-documented and ably written account of Mrs. Gandhi's disastrous stewardship of the country from 1966 till her downfall last year."

Financial Express

...here is a different book. One may also feel that the political atmosphere has even changed ... But none of these considerations affect the relevance of this book, which provides an exhaustive account of how events shaped up leading to the Emergency, how the draconian Emergency administration was valiantly fought ... and how the March 1977 poll resulted in a unique and unprecedented ballot-box revolution in India.

Dr S. P. Aiyar's academic background and S. V. Raju's experience as a political executive ... when put together resulted in this close survey and analysis. The result is that we have a book that will be a useful addition to any reference library at home or in the university.

The Free Press Journal

A superbly written book...the title of the book itself speaks for the subtle imagination of the writers.

The White Star

When the Wind Blows does not indulge in cheap sensationalism or spice its pages with hearsay. It does not simply tell "what" happened during the emergency but "how" and "why" ... this book combines analysis and narration against the backdrop of not only the emergency but also the general Indian political scene.

Himmat

... what provoked the vast majority of the electorate to act in the way it did when it came to choosing people for the new Parliament? This is what the book is about, and it can safely be said that the treatment is different from the score or so of others who have been quicker in getting into print...

The authors should be complimented for describing the nature of the opposition during the Emergency as the Resistance, with a capital "R". This chapter dealing with it is, in fact, one of the best in the 482-page book both for detail and language.

The Statesman

The most important part of the book.....is the one relating to the formation of the Janata party and the circumstances leading to it. There is a vivid account of the electoral battle that was fought in March 1977.....

The Hindu

This 482 page volume, a result of painstaking research, study of underground literature and reports from foreign newspapers, covers the period from the Emergency to the emergence of the Indira Congress and presented in a concrete matter of fact manner without becoming emotional.

A unique feature of this book which gives it a greater degree of respect is that the revelations before the Shah Commission have been woven into the story.

... by appending charts and tables listing the names of all Cabinet Ministers, Statewise position, etc. one can say that the authors have gifted a first rate book to history.

Bombay Samachar

When the Wind.....is better written, more carefully edited and proof read, and less hastily indexed than most other books about the Emergency that have come my way. Above all, it is more even-tempered. Whereas the other books have concentrated on the shady deals and the wheeling-dealing that was indulged in by the perpetrators of the Emergency, *When the Wind* casts its net wider and it is much more intensively researched.

The 482-page Aiyar-Raju book covers more ground than most others of its kind, and attempts to show how, over the years of her reign Mrs. Gandhi had contrived to enslave her own party before making a bid to enslave the country...

Freedom First

It is heartening... to come across one account which goes beyond the instant fizz of recent happenings and attempts to place the circumstances leading to, and following, the emergency, in a proper perspective...

Other post emergency books have also focussed on Mrs. Gandhi but in doing so they have tended to make a monster of her... It is this vision that the book tries to correct by examining first, the condition which allowed Mrs. Gandhi to flourish and then to over-reach her powers.

Youth Times

... their work along with a number of other studies on the subject published during the last one year, will be part of any collection on our recent history.

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In a book of this nature, documentation has to depend largely on newspaper reports and underground literature of the emergency. The authors have made copious use of all such sources.

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About the Authors

As a political scientist and an authority on Public Administration, **Dr S. P. Aiyar** is known for his work in the field for many years. He has been teaching Public Administration at the University of Bombay for more than two decades. In 1961-62, he was Rockefeller Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Universities of Chicago, California (Berkeley) and Harvard, and was Visiting Associate Professor at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (1971). Dr Aiyar has contributed to a wide range of scholarly journals and his publications include : "Federalism and Social Change" (1962); "Perspectives on the Welfare State" (edited-1966); "The Politics of Mass Violence in India" (edited-1967); "The Commonwealth in South Asia" (1969); and "Modernization of Traditional Society and Other Essays" (1973).

S. V. Raju has had a varied public life. He was Executive Secretary of the Swatantra Party for 14 years and was in close touch with several national and political leaders, including the late C. Rajagopalachari, the late K. M. Munshi, Mr. Minoo Masani, Mr. N. Dandekar and Mr. H. M. Patel, now Union Minister of Finance.

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