IN STALINISATION LENIN'S RULES

Nigel Biggar

Since "revolutionary romanticism" had little appeal, he decided to do something concrete. Soon after college, he founded a non-profit organisation called Briath's Cult to use media as a tool for campaigning for human rights. In 1930, the year which saw the expansion of media from one TV channel to four, he says: "Later I realised that for most of the country, drinking water was more important than four channels."

Still later, his understanding of dependency was deepened. "When I asked some tribals whether they wouldn't rather have water on their right and means to say "I don't have water", most of them cried the latter." He chose, therefore, to give them that voice by using his camera. His documentaries explore the entrenched systems of injustice and prejudice in society and question the powerful presence of an elite that would prefer the poor to spend their lives. From Camp Goa, he and Jessica Mayberry as Video Volunteers, an organisation that took shape after he met the American researcher in Ahmedabad. "We're not married by religion or state," he clarifies. "Our relationship is sanctified by something more powerful — mutual love and respect."

A preserve initiative that wants to build a media network for the poorest people of the country. DVD is founded on the principle that people have the right to speak rather than be spoken for. One of the projects, CVU community video unit, is about providing equipment and training to local groups. He also worked in Mumbai, admissibly in the isolated East Godavari district — to enable them to make films on issues relevant to them.

Caste is the latest nettle that Stalin has grasped. His two award-winning films, India Untouched and Lesser India, both of which explore the unspoken crime of untouchability and how societies, from village to city, have suffered every day. India Untouched is widely accepted as "the most comprehensive look at untouchability ever undertaken on film". Instead of hammering the same issues without much rhetoric, he allows the people to tell the story. In Rajasthan,gün's profits vividly depict the claim that the police have to seek permission before pursuing cases about atrocities. Leading Hindu scientists from various organisations have no objections about saying that India has no right to education. And then there is the reimagined scene of a primary level classroom in North India. The camera focuses on Dil-t's who say they are forced to sit at the back of the class while upper caste students sit in front. Then the camera zooms in on the upper caste who are looking down at the Dil-t's.

In his address to the impossible his mission. To meet Stalin K, you have to try through a small jail and half a dozen steep steps to reach the den on an immense hill, off the main road to Sapa in Goa. From this tranquil coastal paradise, the man who was not to be constrained — he shed it twenty years ago because it was a marker of caste — waged a peaceful war for a more equitable society by making documentaries on inconvenient truths like caste and untouchability.

The 41-year-old activist's long, untidy hair is tied in a spotless. But his smeared face, which would look like a non-drinker, would be the way it was. He would not change his hair cut and was cut twenty years ago because it was a marker of caste — waged a peaceful war for a more equitable society by making documentaries on inconvenient truths like caste and untouchability. Stalin's engagement with the politics of the marginalised has its roots in his childhood. "I found it natural to empathise with the poor because I was one of them," he says. His father was a playwright, who didn't make much money and who wasn't very bothered about providing for the family. "We were not starving, but not affluent either," says Stalin. "Everything was rationed in our house.

These empathy translated into action in 1988, when a killer gas leak occurred from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, one of the worst industrial crimes in history. The 18-year-old Stalin used a sports event in Bhopal as an excuse to his family to move to Bhopal, but once there, he returned home to Ahmedabad in two days. It was chaotic and traumatic," he says. "I couldn't handle it.

Since his Bhopal trip was such a success, the young boy couldn't share the burden with his father. The reaction of the government made his anger into the Bhopal gas tragedy made by Union Carbide. That was the moment that he decided to do something about it. He wrote to his MP and helped create the Bhopal Gas Relief Trust. In any case, his childhood was not easy. When he was three, his parents divorced to split, and his mother had to stay in the city until she got a job at ISRO. He says his father was the only thing his communist father gave him, besides his name. He needed to stick with it. He grew up reading Russian literature and political science books in his house. In the absence of the role models that helped shape the personality that has made him such a formidable public war-rior, it was a tough battle to win.

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The other tribe that he enjoys spending time with is the young. Whether it is lecturing at some of the top schools in the world such as Harvard, Yale and IBM, or playing with his young and still little boy, he always makes sure that he is not the only one.

But Stalin painted blood drops on the black cat logo of Eveready batteries made by Union Carbide Corporation in Bhopal after he witnessed the aftermath of the gas leak at the tender age of 16.

Only inequality can spark violence, and any move towards equality can sometimes be met with resistance, but it is a movement that despite its grinding poverty, India hasn't a civil war. As compared to our neighbours, community subject to militarisation, and endless violence, we should consider ourselves very lucky to be living in a world with only sporadic violence.

To the co-writer held middle-class belief that education is the only tool that can raise India's status and profile. This Liberal is a Liberal who "George Bush went to Yale." And to the even more arrogantly assured that caste is a thing of the past. He shouts back, "The Times of India's magnificent apology will catch you a lesson or two about the caste system."