



# The Paradoxical Prime Minister

*Shashi Tharoor*

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## The Paradoxical Prime Minister Details


Date : Published 2018 by Aleph Books

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Author : Shashi Tharoor

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## From Reader Review The Paradoxical Prime Minister for online ebook

### SHANKU SHARMA says

An amazing and wonderfully written book. The language is superb...

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### Shriya Dasgupta says

The Paradoxical Prime Minister is a conclusive account of the contradictions between PM Modi's promises and delivery in the past four and a half years of his governance. Beginning on a fairly positive note saying how the author had posed some faith in Modi in spite of being a member of the Opposition, Shashi Tharoor goes on to state how the NDA government has failed him and the people of this country.

The book not only analyzes Narendra Modi's personality quoting Ashish Nandy's analogy of the early symptoms of a fascist rule but also looks at the various problems plaguing the Indian legislature at present and even goes on to suggest some solutions. The author has called out the shortcomings of the anti-defection law which curbs the right of ministers to disagree with their party while voting in Parliament and has expressed concern over the decreasing quality of debate in the House in this book.

The Paradoxical Prime Minister, in a way, is a reflection of the angst of the common people curated beautifully into a book sighting ample data and statistics. It addresses all the concerns of an average Indian beginning from demonetization to cow vigilantism to India's image abroad.

Questions have risen about the author's intentions of releasing the book just before the 2019 elections but personally, I feel that there couldn't have been a better time for releasing the book as it will make the voters conscious too.

Shashi Tharoor is one of the most balanced political writers of our times and hence, given the nature of the book, I had expected some amount of criticism for the Congress party sitting in the Opposition too. But I was probably hoping for too much from a Congressman. That apart, this book has been a very enjoyable and enriching read with puns and criticisms placed side by side, something only possible from a literary genius like Tharoor.

I would recommend this book to not just non-fiction lovers but every conscious citizen of this country.

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### Vispi Jokhi says

#### Extraordinary book .

An extraordinary personality has been analyzed in an extremely unbiased manner. Opinion about this paradox has been based on facts and figures. With an increasingly biased media this book needs to be read by the citizens of India before they vote in next few months.

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### Devansh says

One of the closest and finest accounts on the tyrannical prime minister that is Narendra Modi. A dictator in the garb of a democrat. Broke the Indian economy, devastated the sheer value of India and its secularism,

supported riots and what not. Great Job Dr. Tharoor.

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## **Sravan Devathi says**

After reading this book, I understood what it is meant by ‘ a pen is mightier than a sword’

The tarnished image of Indian National Congress is meticulously sewed by MR Tharoor, using this book as a needle, and Modi as a thread.

In a first, after reading this book we get to know that the book name is one of the possibilities, and so the correct one could be THE PARADOXES IN INDIAN POLITICS AND PROPAGANDA OF CONGRESS.

The book is divided into 5 sections, comprising of 50 chapters, which gives details on a wide array of topics. Most of the things which MR Tharoor explains can be meant to both current ruling party and its predecessor, this is to say that it gives detail accounts of failures of the current Government that can be attributed to the past Government as well. Italicized words are from the book and the other is my reply to these assertions.

Paradoxical Tharoor:

1. A) pg-46: Yet Narendra Modi has managed a complex modus vivendi with the RSS. B) Pg-57: In some ways, Mr Modi seems to have outgrown the RSS prejudices. Pg-58: Mr Modi’s love towards Gandhi is just for political gains since Gandhi enjoys a high charisma in the international audience. C) Pg-82: RSS Leadership is currently struggling with a critical dilemma to support the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections.

2. A) Pg-71: Comparisons are, of course, ALWAYS invidious, all the more so when they involve political leaders from different countries. But there’s something about the trajectories of Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan and India’s Narendra Modi that makes comparisons irresistible.

3. A) Pg 153: In this 2013 judgment that reaffirmed section 377, the Supreme Court said that legislators, not judges, must decide its fate. Unfortunately, Parliament proved itself unequal to the task; the bigotry and homophobia in the ruling party and the indifference and prejudice in much of Opposition had rendered the institution a temple of hypocrisy on this issue. Indeed, the legislative recourse of the injustice of section 377 would not have been available as long as the Bjp was in power. B) Pg 154: The Modi government deserves no credit for the abolition of section 377. It allowed its MPs to twice thwart my attempts to raise the issue on the floor of the house. In point A Mr Tharoor said it was the collective fault of the ruling party and the Opposition, in the B point, he has no qualms in accusing the Bjp government.

4. Pg 168, Chapter thirteen: One of the hallmarks of a vibrant, thriving democracy is a free and health press, India is ranked 138th out of 180 countries, a disgraceful score.

(The Wire, 02-11-18) the decline in journalism and the state of freedom within the media is not a creation limited entirely to 2017 or the past four years alone. Even the UPA government in 2012 had sent out advisories to broadcast media on the criticism of the then prime minister Manmohan Singh by the opposition after his Independence Day address.

So the matter before us is not the 138 this year or 140 ranking (2014) or 131 ranking (2012). It is whether the press will get due freedom and if political parties are ready to address it through their manifestos. It would be a wonder if civil society stands up and makes the matter personal enough to emote over. And it would be even more powerful if journalists themselves came together to protect their right to expression as it is their

diversity and plurality that will help us learn more about the length, breadth and width of what our nation is while checking the powers that be at the Fourth Estate.

#### FALSIFICATION:

1. Pg-84: It is clear that Modi wants his supporters to view him as a messianic figure.

The Hindu 30-05-14: I firmly believe that the life story of living individuals should not be included as a part of school curriculum- Narendra Modi.

2. A) Pg 89: While assorted Hindutva thugs and goons are busily engaged in assaulting minorities, Dalits, liberals and Women, another battle is being fought for the hearts and minds of all Indians. B) Pg 103: Chapter three, a growing wave of communalism. C) Pg 121: Chapter five, Minority report.

June 6, 2018. Times of India: India has moved up four places to the 137th rank on the 2018 Global peace index; it is due to a reduction in the level of violent crime driven by increased law enforcement, according to a report

Finally, these are very few points that I pointed out, there are many more. Only one side of the argument is given, and while stating some definitions and platitudes, I somehow found a very good correlation with the Congress rule.

Well, these things are as far as my knowledge could reach currently, however, I'm prepared to read further, and keep updating my review.

\*\*LOSING CREDIBILITY:

This is a new addition which is written after the loss of the Bjp in Hindi heartland. \*\*

\*In this book, it is grandiloquently described that in the 2014 elections there is a number of young voters who do not know what has happened in the Godhra riots, and by listening to Modi's words everyone did vote. \*

Now, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister is Kamal Nath who has been accused of heading a mob lynching Sikhs after the death of Indira Gandhi. Our magnificent author of this book stated that Kamal Nath should get the benefit of doubt as what Modi has got.

I guess this statement erodes the integrity of the literature, mocks the readers for purchasing, and a wonderful insult of supporters of this book: By saying you people are going to read this book and believe because I've got a very good vocabulary and make use of magical words. The people who support this book are going to bend their head in shame.

\*He pointed out the changing of Vice Chancellors of the educational institutions and uses his vocabulary by stating: it dampens the organisational quality. \*

After Kamal Nath has become CM he transferred 24 collectors, 48 IAS officers. Loan waiver increased the NPA'S to 24%. Rajasthan Government has taken back the law of having a certain educational qualification, and a functional toilet to be an eligible candidate in participating civic elections. The statement given was: it is an advertisement for'' Swatch Barath mission''. I'm literally ashamed that a party exists in my country which can withdraw such a good law.

Now, the people who supported this book, just think aren't they literally liberal rhetoric and a device of propaganda?

And by believing this book is not a loss to the nation but the loss to our self-respect.

DOs:

Read this Book, keeping blame aside for a minute think of the other government, if Modi didn't do, did others do?

Check online for additional information, since only one side of an issue is given.

Post reviews and be open for discussion.

To get into a conclusion, please do read, THE MYTH OF HINDU TERROR- MANI, OF COUNSEL- ARAVIND SUBRAMANIAN, URBAN NAXALS- VIVEK, AND RSS- WALTER ANDERSON.

DONTs:

Don't be infatuated with the mellifluous work, and vouch for everything that is written.

Don't come to a conclusion with these words check for the other side of the issue

.  
IT IS WORTHY TO NOTE THAT THE BOOK, " CREATIVE DISRUPTOR AND THE MAKER OF NEW INDIA", HAS COME, WHICH GIVES A COUNTER ARGUMENT TO THE PARTISAN PROPAGANDA, PLEASE DO CHECK IT OUT TO GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF CURRENT POLITICS

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### **Annie says**

As always Shashi Tharoor writes so well that it's very easy to read. This book is not just about Prime Minister Modi but his whole administration since the BJP came to power. Book is well timed as general elections are due in a few months time and the author would hope to sway some votes from the reading elite towards the Congress party (of which he is an MP). Would like to see some kind of response from BJP on the issues he has raised in the book many of which are valid and worth debating or reflecting on.

I guess it's only 3 stars because somewhere along the line I think he has lost his individual thinking and has started to sound like a party man. Inevitable I suppose.

Something else I happened to note is that his name is on header of every even numbered page, usually we tend to see chapter or section names on one page and the book name on the other header...He really wants every reader to make note of his name..

Still a really smart and erudite man with a golden tongue and I am proud to have him represent Thiruvananthapuram, my hometown.

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### **Abhinav says**

Barring the occasional bits which are repetitive to the extent of being irksome, I think this is a rather well-written critique of the last 4 and the half years of the Modi government. Tharoor shows why he is indeed one of the most eloquent Members of Parliament and this book, though overtly political, only enhances his standing as one of the country's finest writers of non fiction.

3 and a half stars plus an extra half star for the timing of this book, which couldn't have been any better. Recommended reading.

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### **Amitra Jyoti says**

What he said about Sushma swaraj was a bit harsh but the rest makes sense.If you are a political observer

you will love this. The next election should be interesting to say the least. What he says summarily is that the current government is all talk and no work. Well .....

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### **Cosmile D'souza says**

This is a intelligent analysis by a credible and brilliant author Dr. Tharoor. I thought it would be overtly political criticism coming from politician from Opposition, but the sheer finesse in using Modi's own words/Speeches as a yardstick against which his performance is measured is the genius of this book. Lot of footnotes are provided for easy reference of the reader and as usual Dr. Tharoor shines all over the book. This book is brilliant and one can also read Why I am a Hindu? written in laymans language and not a scholarly work, it leaves you overwhelmed with the greatness of one of the World's oldest faith and its inclusive characteristics that have sheltered millions over the years. Thank you Mr. Tharoor!

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### **Asha Gopalakrishnan says**

This book is not quite the normal Shashi Tharoor book - firstly it's incredibly one sided (though factually correct), and also has a tendency to blame everything (even systemic faults going on for decades) on the BJP administration. While I am fully in agreement with the fundamental premise of the book, it's not written by an author, but rather by a politician.

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### **Abhishek Indwar says**

A lost shepherd and his herd of sheep have started taking a hostile nature towards goats from the herd who have sensed the dangers of path ahead! Great summary worth the price!

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### **Tanya Sen says**

Caustic one-sided diatribe about Modi and the Modi administration. He portrays Modi as a PR-obsessed, authoritarian megalomaniac who is (a) a facilitator of his party's vision of India as basically an illiberal, Hindu fundamentalist, male chauvinistic society (b) a great orator who is prone to marketing gimmicks but incapable of implementation. Criticises Modi's approach to the economy ("demonetisation a bad idea badly implemented; GST a good idea badly implemented" etc), foreign policy ("kowtowing to China, yo-yo-ing in relations with Pakistan etc), governance (eg says there is a dangerous and impractical level of autocracy in the decision making), social policy (condoning cow vigilantism, not doing enough to reassure minority groups, etc).

I found this worth reading as it has a lot of arguments, facts, statistics, anecdotes that ranged from thought-provoking to sometimes alarming. All packaged in his characteristic wit (or perhaps glibness). However, the book (a) is extremely one-sided (b) often reads like a litany of familiar problems in the country, each with a sudden abrupt conclusion that Modi is to blame (even when it's less fair to say so) (c) doesn't truly address the alternative we have (d) really could have done with an editor (lots of repetition).

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