

SKBU JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY
PEER REVIEWED

**THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE:
A CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

Debashis Mondal

Abstract

Rabindranath Tagore's political philosophy embodies a profound synthesis of spirituality, ethics, and humanism that transcends conventional political boundaries. Although not a systematic political theorist, Tagore's reflections on nationalism, society, and the state reveal his deep concern for the moral and spiritual dimensions of human life. He sharply criticized the aggressive nationalism of the West, which he saw as driven by materialism, egoism, and power. Instead, he advocated a cosmopolitan humanism based on harmony, cooperation, and mutual respect between the East and the West. At the core of Tagore's thought lies his belief in the dignity and creative potential of the individual. He distinguished between the coercive mechanism of the State and the voluntary, moral, and creative fellowship of Society. True civilization, he argued, depends not on political domination or economic prosperity but on the moral vitality and cultural creativity of people. For Tagore, politics must be guided by ethical and spiritual values; otherwise, it degenerates into oppression and moral decay. Tagore's vision of universal humanism promotes unity among all races and nations, encouraging a synthesis between the scientific rationalism of the West and the spiritual wisdom of the East. His critique of nationalism, emphasis on social cooperation, and call for the subordination of material interests to moral ideals remain profoundly relevant in the contemporary world. Ultimately, Tagore's political philosophy is a moral appeal for a world founded on freedom, love, and creative unity—an enduring message for global peace and human progress.

Keywords: Political Philosophy, Nationalism, Humanism, Society and State, Universalism, East-West Synthesis, Moral values