



**SETTING THE PAST IN DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESENT:
CARYL CHURCHILL'S *LIGHT SHINING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE***



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ABSTRACT

The dream of a utopian future abused by people holding the top positions in the power hierarchy is one of the main concerns of Churchill's plays. In reading them, we encounter a harsh criticism against today's national and transnational capitalist patriarchal economies, which can be said to be defining today's power dynamics. The oppression and discrimination against people who hold lower positions in society and injustice prevailing among different social ranks are contemporary issues Churchill rediscovers and reinterprets through the millenarian dream in the English Civil war. However, it is the disenfranchised poor public or soldiers that desperately believe in the need of change but become disillusioned finally. Religion and strict moral regulations limit the oppressed people's power to act. It is the owning or propertied classes that do not get any harm from War and have the potency to act and change.

KEYWORDS

Revolution, English Civil War, oppression, discrimination