

Fernand Braudel: A Critical Study On The History of Annales School

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Abstract

Fernand Braudel (1902-1985) was one of the pioneer historians of 20th century world history. His major Historical works are 'The mediterranean and the Mediterranean world of philip-11', (1949) and 'Civilization and capitalism'. Braudel newly established the historical approach on sociology, climatology, natural law and world Economic function. In his famous division of subject- *structure-longue duree* (Thousand of year, geological time, Geography, culture etc. for example long term climate change), *conjoncture-moyenne duree* (decades or hundreds of years economic and social time, for example the industrial revolution) '*Evenement- 'Courte duree'*(days, weeks, a year, political and diplomatic time for example the battle of Lepanto). Previously Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre had written such of history for only past. But, Braudel consciously Pointed out the social science and human life is all field. He had gathered deep knowledge about civilization, culture and human life. His realization was a part of Annales school. The Annales school consists of an International Group of historians. Braudel's historical views was concretely based on the pluralistic and totality. '*The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean world of Philip 2*' in 1949, '*Civilization and Capitalism*' dealing with various events of politics, human life and regional history.

Keywords: Pluralistic, Totality, Longue Duree, Moyenne Durée, Courte Durée, Civilization.

Introduction

Fernand Braudel was one of the most eminent historians among the Annales School. He achieved a higher historical profession .Fernand Braudel was admired in a local historical explanation, climate and sociological sector of all purpose. His greatest historical work is '*The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean world in the age of Philip-2*', James A Henretta describes the Mediterranean as a '-Comprehensive multidimensional cubist portrait of the society' The Annales founded in paris in 1929. The annals school led the international group of historians. The Historian apparently does not strictly adhere to any commonly well developed theory of history and are generally known as critical historian. ¹

The Annales school had been formed and nourished by the eminent thinker Marc Bloch and Lucien Fabvre. Fernand braudel finished a model of historical explanation . Braudel improved the discipline of the historical merit in early 20th century like sociology, Economy, Geography and social law. Annales school Seriously concentrated to the recreation of dynamic, total aim as human and animate past. Especially Annales school interested in all the minor and major research. Generally Braudel's Concepts are globality, Structure, depth and shape. The Annales have a centre for international discussion on the method of historical studies within the frame work and human science.

Braudel's published three volumes of *civilization and capitalism*, (1979). Earlier his well known work was '*The Mediterranean and the mediterranean world of Philip 2*'. Including the second world war years already Braudel completed his massive work containing 600.000 words when 1st published in 1949. ² The Mediterranean was written on such large scale that it is idle to except the same kind and quality of documentation. For Braudel there was no single Mediterranean sea. There were many seas Indeed a 'Vast, complex, expanse '. Braudel Mediterranean was centered on the sea. Braudel's tried to represent his concepts of the *longue duree*. Braudel's work is mainly concerned with "*Histoire problem and histoire totale*". Fernand Braudel Briefly explained the thinking of long term cycles in the capitalist economy. It's fluently developing in European country in 12th century. The



Subhamay Dutta
Research Scholar,
Dept. of History,
Cooch Behar
Panchanan Barma
University, West
Bengal, India

writing of history he was appropriately focused on the '*durees*' (unit of time) '*courte duree*' (Short span), or on '*histoire événementielle*' (A history of events) .On the other word Braudel's divided to three parts in the Mediterranean history. His great work 'Mediterranean history' made a powerful contribution to rise of a new kind of history. So, Braudel Sincerely studied social and geo-political history. He slowly patiently and deeply contemplated on the Mediterranean, his book on the '*Mediterranean in the time of Philip-2*' is recognized as a historical classic. ³ Mediterranean is lot of thinking and some kind of quality. Practically Braudel's Historical Viewed was based on the totality and pluralistic. '*The Mediterranean*' and '*civilization and capitalism*' dealing with various event of politics ,people and daily life. Braudel was the first man who had a immense creative energy, his five volume on the Mediterranean history and capitalism, comprised nearly three thousand pages. ⁴ But only two thirds of the book was in printed form.By the age of 36, Braudel had a deep experience of three different civilization; his own French attachment to *Lorraine*, the Islamic North African experience of teaching in Algeria for about ten years and the portuguese, south American. ⁵

Fernand Braudel pointed out to establishment the relation with geography and climatology .His ecological determinism that is, the centrality of the natural world and world history. The loyalty of the Annales school depended on three founding historian Marc Bloch, Lucien Febvre and Braudel.

Braudel is the third of the founding fathers the last survivor of the great triumvirate with whose names the Annales school is always rightly associated. His first work, published in Algiers in the '*Revue Africaine*'. His notable work '*The Mediterranean and the mediterranean world in the age of Philip-2*' was gathered a lot of aspect in socio-cultural, Economic, Geography and Environmental issues. The Mediterranean was divided into two parts, one is generally emphasized in the role of the Environment. Another one focuses to the history of collective destinies and general trends. Needless to say, The Mediterranean sea of the sixteen century was made the determinant factor for the background of human history, which had helped Braudel to see unity region.⁷ Braudel divided into three '*durees*' his remarkable work is '*The Mediterranean world and Mediterranean of Philip 2.*' He tried to explain the history of man in relation to geography and climatic environment.⁸ Mediterranean is the bottom layer of braudel three phases of history ⁹ Spans the immense tireless phase provides here its what he himself cause-'Geological-history'- A kind of historical geography devoted to mountains and plains, island and coastline, climate, land routes and sea routes. ¹⁰ Here, man is intimate relationship to the earth which bears and feeds him. ¹¹ The Mediterranean had as its guided principle a new conception of time, and of historical change in relation do space. ¹² There are no doubt to that his *longue duree* approach to stress the slow and of ten imperceptible effects of space climate and technology on the actions of human beings in the past. ¹³ Braudel focused on climate factors into consideration, harvest, epidemics etc.

As I noted, The book of Mediterranean has divided into three '*duree*'s, that is '*moyenne duree*' i.e. '*middle duree*' has special fascination for braudel known as *conjoncture* for lack of any other satisfactory equivalent, Braudel suggestion that is a second layer of tier of history of the type rhythmic of cycle pattern similar to economic cycles or conjunctures.¹⁴ He extended the notion of cyclic movement from economic to social phenomenon. ¹⁵ Mr. Kinser looks at the Braudellian three *durees* (unit of time) structure from different eyes. He pointed out that there is a basic contradiction in his conviction that is structure always previous upon the conjuncture and events, and by virtue of that human action from a scientific analysing totality. ¹⁶ In this respect Braudel has done a notable work --- mediterranean ' was closely associated with economics, geography, sociology and methodology. Braudel's model is most valuable thought- 'A general history always requires an overall model, good or bad, against which events can be interpreted".....

says Braudel'. He agreed with German Economist Warner Sombart who said 'No theory, No history'¹⁷

In fact Braudel's three *durees* always maintain the three level or sphere "Everyday material life, very wide spread, concerned with basic necessities and short range, Economically life calculated, articulated emerging as a system or rules and almost natural necessities, and finally the more sophisticated catalyst mechanism which encroaches on all forms of life, whether economic or material. However, little they lend themselves to its manoeuvres"¹⁸ 'The peasants of the *languedoc* (1966) the outstanding segment of 'total history'. Mediterranean a kind of regional 'total history'. Braudel's great work with a 'structural interpretation'. He saw the exertion of the European ---- shift from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic from the old to the Brave new world. Braudel's attempt to chalk out the relation with geography and climatology. Immanuel wellerston said- "*Braudel's insistence on the multiplicity of social times and his emphasis on structural time- what he called the 'longue duree'-became central to world system analysis.*"¹⁹

The Annales school is a historical enterprise of such colossal scale that has captured the imagination of the historian.²⁰ After establishing itself in France under the able leadership of such scholars as Marc Bloch, Lucien Fabvre, Fernand Braudel, fried man, moraja, le Goof, Le Ray ladurie, Ferro leulliot.²¹ Thus Annales' tradition and thinking widely across to the U.S.A., Russia, Italy, Romania, Portugal and ultimately India. This Annales School has led to the establishment of huge number of Journals of economic and social science related. Fernand Brandel was a follower of the Annales tradition, which was very influential in Ottoman historiography from the beginning especially through the studies of a leading scholar.²² "*Mediterranean and the Mediterranean world of Philip2*" ;it influence of the Annales perspective entirely.Specially he wrote "*Civilization and capitalism*", 15th - 18th century in 1979. In these volumes contained detailed explanation of the economic history of the pre-industrial Europe.Mediterranean region was a super power and a post of the world before the rise of a Atlantic region. Braudel discussed the economic theory from the grass root to the top. He defined the cultural, social and political realities of the age. Braudel gradually developed the pyramidal structure in the Broad economic sense. There are no doubt that the 16th century was the last great era of the historic Mediterranean. The roots of Annales school implemented the traced in the positivist method of historical research. That is growth of human and natural sciences. Mediterranean as the centre of European civilization.

A serious drawback of Braudel's great work and his historical views is its comparative neglect of the people. Every work of Braudel is with the structural interpretation with its anthropological, ecological and archaeological predilections. The American Humanist Historians Eugene and Elizabeth Genevese mentioned the fault. In the case of the Annales tradition is a stereotype concepts. Interestingly Fernand Braudel refused the Marxist materialism. Earlier Marc Bloch lightly viewed feudalism differently from Marxian point of view of social mode of production. The Annales tradition had never taken political history seriously. The neglect of politics in a history which claimed to be 'total' is open to question.²³

Objective of the Study

The main purpose of this article is to present the subject of Annales school in a new way in the study of History.

The school of Annales is important in the History of France and The World. Farnand Braudel (1902 - 85)was one of the renowned Historians of the 20th Century world History.

Conclusion

The Annales school have belongs a model of scientific historical thought. There are no doubt that Annales history was totally influenced by the social and fundamental issues. In the long time Annales school vehemently influenced by the Jacques Le Goff's European survey, medieval civilization, 400-1500 (1964), Le Roy Ladurie's *Montaigne* (1975) and *Civilization and Capitalism* (1980). Braudel's Structural approach and the notion of the long durée have an come to stay. Braudel is one of the prolific personalities and immensely represent the sociology, climatology, Geography and historical fact. His notable work '*The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean world of Philip-2*', '*Civilization and capitalism*' is valuable. The Annales have become a model of scientific history to historians throughout the world. After all Fernand Braudel succeeded Fabvre and finished model of historical explanation.²⁴

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