

**The Department of Political Science**

**Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi**

invites you to a special lecture

On:

Topic: **History, Philosophy and the Things That Get Left Out**

*War is the Father of all things: Heraclitus, The Dark One (ca 535 to 465 BCE)*

by

**Prof. Dilip Simeon**

### **Abstract**

Violence has become so normalised today that do not often reflect on the fact that we inhabit an ethnically cleansed world; nor on the possibility that the established global order is nihilist. Do we agree with Collingwood that ‘true history must be absolutely passionless, devoid of all judgements of value, of whatever kind’? What is the connection between history and philosophical contemplation? Is history the story of progress and reconciliation? Can we agree with Hegel when he says that ‘the wounds of the Spirit leave no scars’? The past century has been named ‘the age of extremes’. With two world wars, numerous genocidal events, transfers of population and the spectre of nuclear annihilation, it is the period in which war is deemed to have become ‘total’. What do terms such as *totality*, *nihilism* and *extremism* mean, when applied to history? I suggest we need to study ideologies such as nationalism, communism and fascism through a philosophical prism, in order to gain a better understanding of them and ourselves.

### **About the Speaker**

**Prof. Dilip Simeon** is a well known labour historian and public intellectual in India. He taught history in Ramjas College, University of Delhi for two decades before taking premature retirement. He is chairperson of the Aman Trust. He was senior research fellow at Nehru Memorial and Museum Library and has been Visiting Professor at half a dozen international universities, including University of Sussex. His doctoral work was on labour history in Jharkhand and he has also looked at issues arising out of Punjab terrorism. He is currently working on Nihilism. He has also dabbled in fiction. His novel *Revolution Highway* was published by Penguin India in 2010.

**Chair: Prof. Mohammad Badrul Alam**

Hony. Director (Research) and Head, Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia

Date: **1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 (Thursday)**

Time: **2:00 pm onwards.**

**Venue: Seminar Room, Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia**

All are cordially invited.