

Research Paper



## Burned by history: war, violence, and memory in edward bond's vision of post-apocalyptic humanity

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### ABSTRACT

This paper explores how Edward Bond portrays war, violence, and memory in his post-apocalyptic plays. This study will focus on the first play Red Black and Ignorant of the trilogy. It aims to show how Bond uses dystopian worlds to critique history and imagine ethical futures. Bond's play belongs to a tradition of political theatre. Written during the Cold War, the play reflects fears of nuclear destruction and social collapse. Bond's theories of "rational violence" and "radical innocence" help explain his dramatic goals. This study uses close reading of play, alongside Bond's essays and interviews. It draws from trauma theory, memory studies, and political dramaturgy. These tools help interpret the plays' structure, characters, and imagery. Bond reshapes the post-apocalyptic genre by focusing on moral and mental wounds instead of physical ruin. Memory becomes a source of pain and resistance. His use of violence and broken timelines urges audiences to face truth and question forgetting. Bond's view of humanity is harsh but not hopeless. His plays show that memory can inspire change. The destroyed settings become spaces for moral choice and protest. They argue that remembering can fight injustice. Bond's post-apocalyptic plays offer deep reflections on war's aftermath. They show theatre's power to challenge silence and reimagine the future. By treating memory as both burden and duty, Bond calls for awareness, justice, and hope.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Edward Bond is one of Britain's most politically engaged playwrights. He uses theatre to question violence, injustice, and dehumanization. Born in 1934, Bond was shaped by World War II and the Cold War. His plays reflect a deep concern with memory and the failure of institutions to respond ethically to human suffering. His War Plays trilogy *Red Black and Ignorant* (1980), *The Tin Can People* (1981), and *Great Peace* (1985) depict bleak futures shaped by war. These post-apocalyptic settings explore psychological, moral, and social consequences. Bond uses memory to critique systems that enable or ignore violence. This study explores how Bond's dystopian settings confront trauma. It examines how memory functions as both pain and resistance. The goals are: To analyze how the War Plays show war, violence, and memory. To explore how dystopian settings, enhance moral and political messages. The study aims to examine how memory shapes the characters' ethical choices and to assess Bond's dramatic tools for urging audience reflection. This study is relevant in today's world of conflict, division, and denial. Bond's plays challenge how society remembers war and deals with injustice. They offer a theatre of ethical urgency. This research contributes to political theatre studies. It shows how Bond's later work remains radical and urgent. It also explores memory, a key concept often missed in Bond's criticism. The study uses Bond's key essays but does not cover all his writings. It draws on trauma theory but avoids clinical analysis. The focus stays on dramatic texts.

## 2. RELATED WORK

The critical discourse on Edward Bond's theatre centres on violence, political responsibility, and the ethical function of drama. In *Modern and Postmodern Theatres* (1997), Bond critiques postmodern aesthetics for detaching theatre from social responsibility. He insists that theatre must act as a moral agent, confronting historical violence and offering rational frameworks for understanding human behaviour. Jenny Spencer, in *Dramatic Strategies in the Plays of Edward Bond* (1992), examines Bond's dramaturgy, highlighting his use of Brechtian alienation and direct address. She shows how these techniques foster critical reflection, situating Bond within British political theatre while emphasizing his innovations in staging and narrative.

Janelle Reinelt's *After Brecht: British Epic Theater* (1996) further explores this tradition, showing how Bond and others adapted Brechtian methods to a British context. Reinelt contrasts Bond's emphasis on individual moral agency with Brecht's collective vision, illustrating how Bond's work interrogates national identity and ideology. Robert D. Hostetter's "'Drama of the Nuclear Age'" (1988) explores the pedagogical importance of politically engaged theatre. He advocates for Bond's plays as essential tools in developing students' critical consciousness, especially concerning the ethical implications of nuclear warfare.

Barry B. Witham, in "English Playwrights and the Bomb" (1988), situates Bond among writers responding to post-war anxieties. Focusing on *The War Plays*, Witham shows how Bond captures psychological and societal fragmentation through experimental forms suited to the abstraction of nuclear violence. Lauri Scheyer's *Theatres of War: Contemporary Perspectives* (2022) places Bond's War Plays in a global context, exploring their relevance to contemporary warfare and displacement. The volume reaffirms Bond's enduring political aesthetic and ethical vision.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

### Research Methodology Overview

#### Historical Contextualization

Analysing the historical context of Bond's works, particularly the ways in which post-war trauma and global conflict shape the narrative. This includes examining the socio-political context of the 20th and 21st centuries, especially post-World War II Europe, as well as the Cold War era.

## Theoretical Framework

### Post-Apocalyptic Theory

The research would draw on post-apocalyptic literature and theory to frame the discussion around Bond's dystopian worlds. This theory often engages with ideas of human survival, societal collapse, and the trauma of a destroyed world.

### Trauma and Memory Studies

Bond's portrayal of violence and war in his post-apocalyptic plays invites a reading through trauma theory. This includes investigating how memory is affected by the violent histories Bond examines and how societies (both fictional and real) grapple with the aftermath of destruction.

### Theories of Violence

Scholars like Slavoj Žižek and René Girard offer frameworks for understanding violence, which could be applied to Bond's portrayal of systemic violence in a post-apocalyptic world. This would help illuminate how Bond critiques not just the overt violence of war, but the structural violence that continues to permeate societies after the conflict ends.

### Textual Analysis

The primary research method would involve close readings of Bond's key plays, such as *The Tin Can People*, *The Sea*, *Bingo*, and others that explore themes of war, trauma, and apocalyptic visions. These plays would be analysed for their depiction of violence, human suffering, and the mechanisms through which history is remembered or forgotten. Analysing Bond's use of symbolism, character development, and dialogue would shed light on how memory and violence intersect in his plays.

### Impact of Bond's Dramatic Techniques

Bond is known for his use of unsettling realism, minimalistic settings, and intense character interactions to convey the brutal realities of war and violence. The research would focus on how these theatrical techniques serve to enhance the emotional and psychological impact of his plays, particularly in terms of illustrating the trauma of living in a post-apocalyptic world.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The evolution of society, as articulated by Marx, Engels, Lenin, and their intellectual successors, is fundamentally rooted in the dynamics of class struggle a theme that profoundly informs Edward Bond's dramatic vision in *Burned by History: War, Violence, and Memory* in Edward Bond's *Vision of Post-Apocalyptic Humanity*. Marx's assertion that "the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles" [1]. Resonates with Bond's portrayal of war-torn futures shaped by unresolved class antagonisms. In Bond's post-apocalyptic worlds, violence is not merely a rupture but the inevitable result of a long history of exploitation. Marx's metaphor "Capital is dead labour, that, vampire-like, only lives by sucking living labour" [2]. Captures the brutal economy of destruction in Bond's plays, where human suffering feeds systems of power long after society has collapsed. Engels' insight that "whatever benefits some necessarily injures the others" [3]. Mirrors the moral contradictions Bond stages: progress achieved through domination leads only to further fragmentation and despair.

Bond's theatre of catastrophe is not disconnected from materialist critique but rather stages its most violent consequences. Lenin's identification of imperialism as "the monopoly stage of capitalism" [4]. This aligns with Bond's depiction of militarised states and globalised power, where wars serve economic interests and suppress resistance. Trafford's reminder that "the State embodies an elaborate tool for the legal oppression of one class by another" [5]. Is seminal concept in Bond's work. It is embodied in Bond's representations of authoritarianism, where the state survives as a mechanism of repression even in the ruins of civilisation. Marx's proposition that "the state can be nothing but the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat" [6] becomes a haunting absence in Bond's plays, where no transformative revolution arrives only its failure, or the memory of its necessity. Luxemburg's grim warning "either transition to

socialism or regression into barbarism” [7] finds vivid theatrical form in Bond’s narratives, where history has burned away possibilities for justice, leaving behind a wasteland of war and trauma. Marcuse’s observation that “the people recognize themselves in their commodities” is significant [8]. Bond’s work dramatizes the philosophical truth that without radical transformation, humanity remains trapped in cycles of violence burned by history, burdened by memory. Figure 1, shows factors effecting the artistic freedom

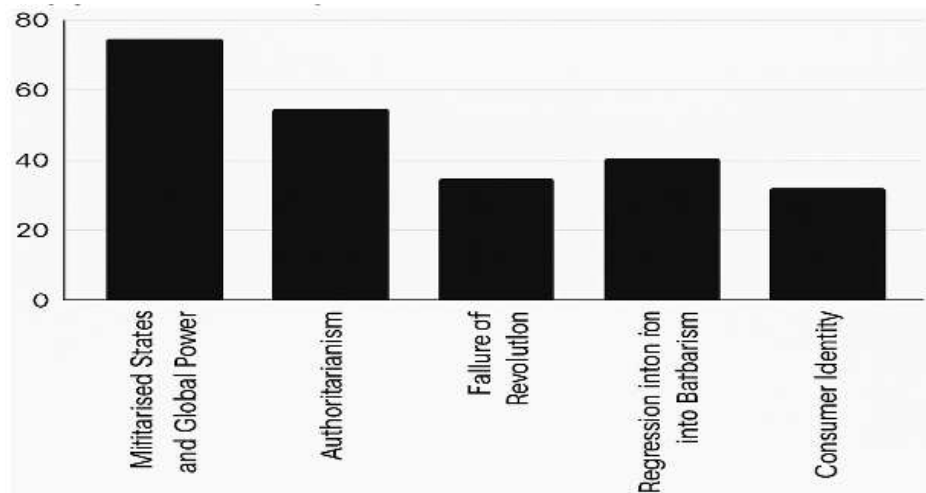


Figure 1. The Results Indicate that Bond’s Theatre Powerfully Reflects the Influence of Critiques on Militarised States and Authoritarianism.

Bond’s *Red Black and Ignorant* (1984) is an experimental play that explores violence, alienation, and societal failure. The title *Red Black and Ignorant* represents bloodshed (red), destruction (black), and ignorance. It is the first play in Bond’s trilogy *The War Plays*. The play critiques the impact of war and human complacency. The story is set in a dystopian world. Its disjointed, non-linear structure mirrors the chaos of war. Bond uses innovative techniques like fragmented dialogue, symbolic imagery, and jarring transitions. These highlight the disorientation and alienation caused by war. The central figure, the Monster, embodies humanity’s failures. Born deformed due to a nuclear catastrophe, the Monster is a stark symbol of human greed, apathy, and violence. His tragic life critiques systemic inequality and warns against societal neglect. According to, Hostetter “The history of the nuclear age is usually written with a tragic theme at its center” [9]. Bond’s portrayal of violence is direct and unflinching. He forces audiences to face the brutality of war and the normalization of violence.

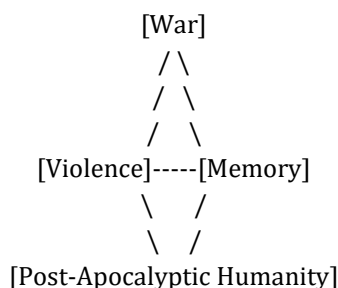


Figure 2. War Leads to Widespread Violence and Distorts Collective Memory

Figure 2, correlation between war, violence and memory is highlighted besides the results indicate that the war triggers immense violence, leaving deep scars on societies and individuals. It distorts collective memory by rewriting history through trauma and propaganda. In post-apocalyptic humanity, these effects culminate in fragmented identities and lost cultural continuity. Jenny Spencer comments on *The War Plays* trilogy, especially the first part, *Red Black and Ignorant*, which is insightful. She explains that the play works well both on its own and as part of the larger trilogy. Spencer sees the play as showing our everyday activities. She comments, “When we live our ordinary lives eat, go to work, raise children, and express love.

In a violent society, the audience may be spared the violent confrontation, but not the responsibility for it” [10].

Bond’s plays confront the brutal reality of war and its aftermath, from Cold War paranoia to nuclear apocalypse. Table 1 through stark depictions of political execution, domestic terror, and mass destruction, the violence fractures both individual identities and communal memory. In The table each work shows, the erasure or manipulation of history underscores how trauma reshapes the stories we tell about ourselves.

**Table 1.** Representation of War and Violence in Selected Edward Bond Plays

<b>Play</b>	<b>Historical Context Referenced</b>	<b>Forms of Violence Depicted</b>	<b>Impact on Memory and Identity</b>
Lear (1971)	Cold War, totalitarian regimes	Political executions, psychological torture	Memory manipulated by state; personal identity fragmented
The War Plays (1985)	Post-WWII militarism, nuclear anxiety	Atomic war, militarised bureaucracy	War erases individual histories; collective trauma
Saved (1965)	Post-war Britain, working-class alienation	Domestic violence, infanticide	Cultural amnesia; systemic violence normalised
Red Black and Ignorant (1980)	Nuclear holocaust	Omnipresent destruction, genocide	Spectral memory; survival without history
Bingo (1973)	Elizabethan era, political corruption	Class, violence, starvation	Revisionist memory of Shakespeare’s legacy

Table 1, Bond uses diverse historical backdrops His presentation spreads from Cold War paranoia to nuclear apocalypse to stage extreme violence, both public and intimate. Bond identifies himself as a postmodern playwright responding to the fragmented, uncertain, and relativistic nature of contemporary society, a hallmark of postmodernity. He finds disconnect between those who create postmodern plays (the dramatists) and the institutions that present them (the theatres). Postmodernity is marked by the decline of grand narratives, the rise of globalization, and a questioning of universal truths. The playwright’s work reflects and responds to these changes. Bond in ‘Modern and Postmodern Theatres’ says, “I regard my plays as postmodern. They are a response to the changed situation. But there is a failure of contact between today’s dramatists and the theatres themselves. This prevents the creation of a postmodern form of consciousness” [11]. He sees this as the role of creative writers, artists, and dramatists who use imagination to “redeem” this “existential debt” [11]. Spencer addresses the compatibility between postmodernism and the work of playwrights like Bond, who defines his artistic aim as “telling the truth” [10]. This undertaking, as a postmodern playwright, is fairly vindicated in his stance in his Red Black and Ignorant.

With this desire for telling the truth in postmodern times, his critique of societal complacency is striking in the play. Bond challenges viewers to question their complicity in systems of oppression. The playwright takes the real-life memory of witnessing a man, burned in a contemplative pose. Later he reimagines it in The Monster” in Red, Black and Ignorant. “I remember one man sitting on a box, who had been charred so that his flesh and clothes all seemed to be made of the same stuff like a bronze statue” [12]. The charred figure transforms into a child who perished in a nuclear apocalypse, a vision of humanity’s self-destruction. “And as the flesh burned from faces the skulls whistled. ... The heart leapt up like a bird in its burning cage and the ribs whistled” [13]. This child addresses the audience, forcing them to confront their complicity in the conditions leading to such devastation. Janelle Reinelt says: “The Monster is a visible product of both the holocaust and of the conditions that are producing it. He is an image of what is being done to him within the play. He is also an image of the misfit and misplaced one who, because of his knowledge and still existing sensitivity, is a monster in a world in which the monstrous has become normalized” [14].

As the first play, it lays the groundwork for exploring the lasting effects of war. “The War Plays ... chronicle the reasons behind the outbreak of nuclear war, the impact on those who survive and the ultimate consequences of survival” [15]. The play begins with a striking and unsettling moment as the Monster, the central figure of the play, addresses the audience directly. This opening immediately disrupts any sense of comfort or detachment. The Monster recounts his conception and birth, events that occurred during a nuclear explosion. He is a “young boy who was incinerated at birth by the hydrogen bomb, showing us what it would have been like had the bomb not fallen” [15]. This catastrophic incident has left him grotesquely deformed, making him a living embodiment of humanity’s self-destruction. “When the rockets destroyed the world, everything whistled/ every hard surface and hard edge whistled” [13]. Through monologue, the Monster intertwines dark humour with profound despair, setting the tone for the rest of the play. His words force the audience to confront the consequences of humanity’s actions, presenting him as both a victim and a symbol of collective failure.

**Table 2.** Impact of War and Violence on Bond’s Characters

<b>Lear</b>	<b>Lear</b>	<b>Tyrannical King</b>	<b>Tortured, Blinded; Gradually Seeks Justice and Moral Clarity</b>
Len	Red Black and Ignorant	Unborn soul / potential human	A symbolic being scarred by war, questioning human potential
Birdboot	The War Plays	Bureaucrat	Becomes a symbol of moral apathy and complicity in violence
Soldier	The Tin Can People	Agent of the state	Emotionally numb, fragmented by the dehumanizing effects of war

**Table 2**, Bond’s characters start with clear pre-war roles that are violently upended by conflict. Bond juxtaposes the profound care once shown to children with the shocking reality of harm inflicted on them. The play mourns a tragic shift in human values. Where children were once seen as divine, but modern society has failed to protect them. Bond contrasts the harsh truth of modern violence or neglect, encapsulated in the powerful statement, “But now we kill them” [13]. Bond uses child’s innocence to describe the world as a “place of toys” and referencing “a huge red ball inflated in the sky” [13]. Bond uses childlike metaphors to describe destruction. The “cloud glowed like a bonfire” refers to the aftermath of an explosion, evoking a visual of destruction [13].

Bond juxtaposes the innocence of childhood with the psychological and social forces shaping the Monsters’ understanding of the world. “The Monster’s humiliation begins with the casual cruelty of being spat on, escalates with the Girl’s mockery, and culminates in the Teacher’s authoritarian instructions. The teacher’s “solution” to the incident commands the mother to spit back. This turns the act of humiliation into an institutionalized cycle, reinforcing the absurdity and futility of the situation. “It is unhealthy and shows disregard of others’ feelings/ It’s my duty to help you break a habit you should have outgrown with infancy” [13]. The Teacher embodies an oppressive authority figure, more concerned with maintaining superficial order than addressing the underlying problem. The teacher rebukes, “Don’t pretend you’ve discovered how to think,” dismiss the Monster’s introspection and humanity [13]. Furthermore, the presence of the Monster introduces an additional layer of tragedy. He is a creation born from humanity’s hubris and disregard for consequences. He stands as a living reminder of the damage caused by selfishness and violence. “A bullet passed from side to side of my brain and left a vapour trail across the sky” [13].

The scene underscores the pervasive sense of alienation that pervades the play. The Father and Mother’s relationship is defined by antagonism and a lack of mutual understanding. It reflects the isolation that plagues individuals in a fragmented society. Their inability to connect meaningfully highlights the profound disconnection at the heart of modern existence. This alienation is not limited to the family. It extends to society, where individuals are increasingly isolated from one another. They are also isolated from the structures that govern their lives. “The impact of war on family units and tearing asunder of parents and children, with reverberations for future generations...” [16]. The Monster’s presence is a haunting reminder of the destruction wrought by these systems.



With the progression of play, audiences are introduced to the soldier, a brutal and desensitized figure. He embodies the dehumanizing effects of war. His interactions with the Monster shift between confrontation and unspoken poignancy. On the surface, the Soldier appears callous and cruel. However, Bond subtly suggests that beneath his hardened exterior lies internal turmoil. This turmoil is the psychological cost of his participation in violence. “When a soldier heaves a grenade what does he see: a body explode like a bottle on a wall” [13]. The Soldier’s character helps Bond explore the human toll of war, particularly emotional and moral decay. War strips individuals of their empathy and humanity, leaving them numb. “When a soldier slits a belly, what does he see: guts spill like clothes from a suitcase When a soldier fires a bullet what does he see: blood spurt like water from a hosepipe that is the soldier’s reward for his skills: the pleasure of seeing the way he kills” [13].

The interaction between the Soldier and the Monster emphasizes disconnect between perpetrators and victims of violence. The Soldier sees his actions as part of his duty and survival. “When you’re a soldier all your problems are solved by training Kill or be killed No apologies or explanations” [13]. However, the Monster’s silent presence forces him to confront the victims of that violence. The Soldier cannot empathize with the Monster or recognize the human cost of his actions. This underscores the moral corruption that war creates. The Soldier, once a potential victim of his circumstances, is now both a perpetrator and a victim. He is trapped in a system that values aggression and survival above all else. This system forces individuals to suppress emotions, causing them to lose touch with their moral compass. The Soldier’s moral decay is mirrored in his interactions with the Monster. The Monster symbolizes the human cost of violence: “We live like prisoners in a death-cell facing death every Day” [13]. As the Soldier grows more hostile, the Monster’s passive suffering becomes even more poignant.

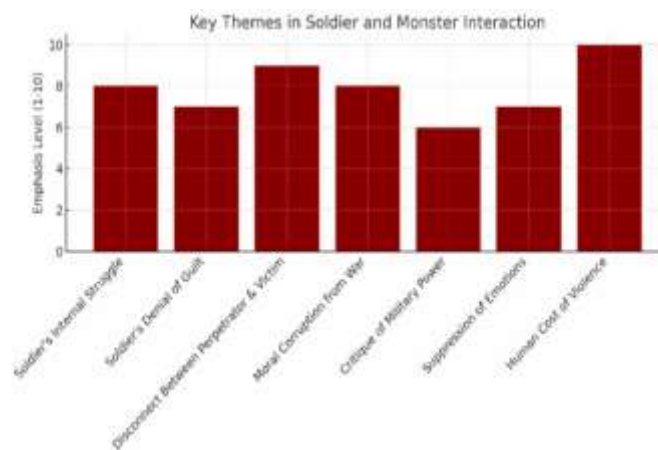


Figure 3. Key Themes in Soldier and Monster Interaction

Figure 3, theme of the human cost of violence is prominent. Further, the results in graph 5, indicate that the theme of the human cost of violence is followed closely by the disconnect between perpetrator and victim. The bar graph 5, also represents the emphasis placed on various themes in the interaction between the Soldier and the Monster. The Soldier’s inability to confront his humanity adds depth to the play’s exploration of violence. He is not merely a villain; he is a product of the system that shaped him. “In the end the army’s doing this for the public good” [13]. Bond presents him as both a perpetrator and a victim. Bond, in his Commentary on The War Plays, states, “As we grow our radical innocence becomes embroiled in the social contradictions which turn our cities into armed camps in peace and ruins in war” [13]. War, with its cycles of violence, corrupts individuals on both sides. The Soldier’s actions and dialogue critique the glorification of military power. Bond challenges the audience to reconsider how violence is normalized and celebrated in society. The Soldier’s dual role forces the audience to confront the dehumanizing effects of war. It also prompts them to question their own complicity in such systems.

Bond uses the Soldier’s complex character to explore the consequences of violence. The Soldier’s brutal exterior hides a deep internal struggle. The Monster’s silent witness forces him to confront the human cost of his actions. Through their interaction, Bond critiques the glorification of military power. He

urges the audience to reflect on the dehumanization and moral corruption in a world shaped by war. In one of the play's most surreal and allegorical scenes, a group of bureaucrats convenes to discuss the Monster's existence. This moment serves as a sharp critique of political and military institutions. "You who live in barbarous times under rulers with redness on their hands blackness in their hearts and ignorance in their minds" [13]. The Council's focus is not on the human cost of the Monster, but on his "worth" and the implications of his being. Their conversation is filled with euphemisms, obfuscations, and circular reasoning. Monster responds, "You killed us for freedom Democracy isnt the right to vote but freedom to know and the knowledge based on knowing your democracy is the way truth is suppressed and freedom hustled away to prison" [13].

The Council's dialogue is both absurd and chilling. They deliberate on the Monster, but never consider the pain he embodies. In this scene, the Monster becomes a symbol of the human cost of bureaucratic indifference. He represents the millions of lives lost or harmed by systems that prioritize control over empathy. The Council's inability to address his suffering demonstrates the dangers of a world where power operates without accountability. Their focus is on maintaining the status quo, not on addressing the damage caused by their actions. The lack of recognition for his humanity is a reflection of society's failure to confront injustice. This scene serves as a warning about the dangers of systemic dehumanization and the need for accountability. Compassion must replace indifference. Without it, the cycle of violence and oppression will continue. Through this powerful allegorical moment, Bond critiques the world of bureaucracy and the moral consequences of institutional power. The Monster's treatment serves as a reminder of the urgent need for compassion and accountability in the face of systemic injustice.

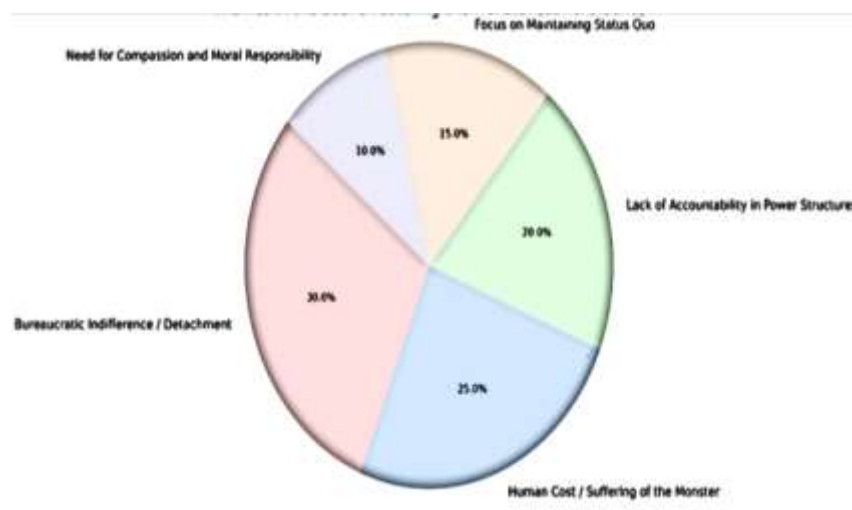


Figure 4. Themes in the Scenes Featuring the Monster

Figure 4, illustrates the thematic breakdown of the scene involving the Monster. It highlights the dominance of bureaucratic indifference (30%) and the human cost represented by the Monster's suffering (25%). The chart also emphasizes the lack of accountability (20%), the Council's focus on maintaining the status quo (15%), and the urgent need for compassion and moral responsibility (10%).

The Monster's words are a call to action, not just a critique of societal failings. He wants change. "Everything before your time was the childhood of humankind with the new weapons that age passed" [13]. He challenges the audience to stop turning away from the pain of others. His lament is not just about the world's brokenness but also about the possibility of repair. Bond's message is clear: it is a call for individuals to recognize their power to challenge the systems that perpetuate harm. "What is the freedom you gave me? Two fists of ash" [13]. This final scene serves as a powerful conclusion to the play. It encapsulates the central themes of dehumanization, violence, and apathy. The audience is forced to confront uncomfortable truths about their world and their own involvement in its injustices. "Artists who shut themselves in private fantasies Their verbal and graphic images have no force An artist's imagination connects him to his audience's world as much as his knowledge does" [17]. In the end, the Monster's lament is both a critique and a call to action. Bond's play does not offer easy answers, but it demands that the



audience reflect on their role in the perpetuation of violence. In Bond's introduction to play *Bingo*, he says, "if you know so much about suffering and violence, the futility of it, and the final innocence of all defenceless things, and the time when you can do nothing about it – then you feel like you describe, and your writing mimics that suffering. Writing on that level you must tell the truth" [17]. It challenges them to take responsibility for changing the world. The final monologue serves as a lasting reminder of the need for empathy, accountability, and action in the face of systemic injustice. Bond says, "I was bombed when I was very young. It's a problem I have to deal with and I think society has to deal with" [18].

### Key Themes in Edward Bond's *Lear*, *Bingo*, and *Red, Black and Ignorant*

This bar graph visualizes the emphasis placed on recurring themes across Edward Bond's plays: *Lear*, *Bingo*, and *Red, Black and Ignorant*. These themes reflect Bond's critique of systemic injustice and the consequences of unchecked power and societal complacency.

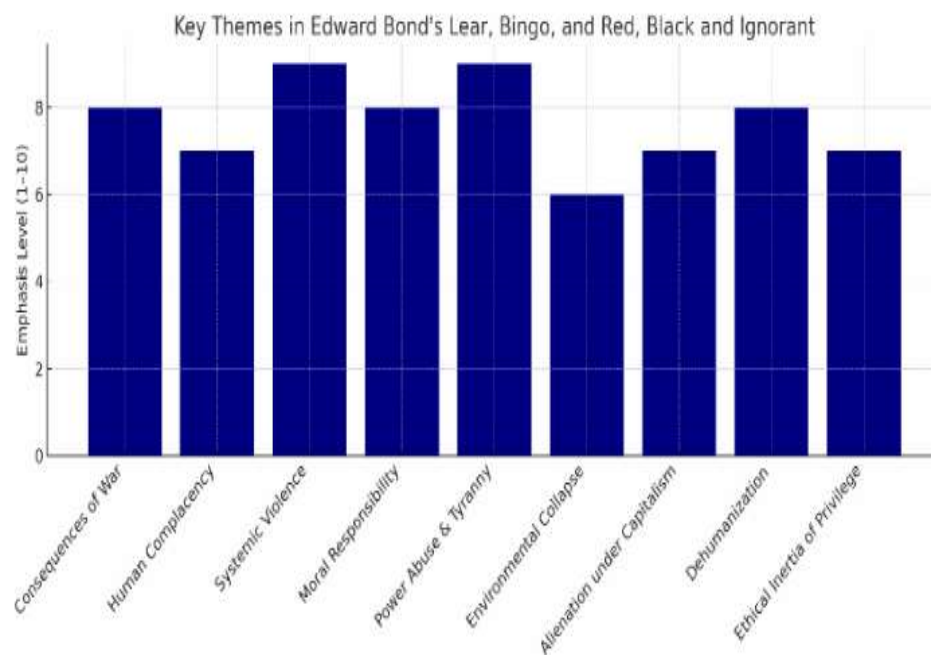


Figure 5. Key Themes in Bond's Plays

Figure 5, results indicate that systemic violence and power abuse are the most emphasized themes. The survivors of nuclear war in Bond's War Plays use stones, metal, and what tools they can find to begin rebuilding a humanized world, but in the background of this post-nuclear reconstruction lies the corporeal infliction of the holocaust itself [19]. Bond's experimental forms and provocative themes affirm that theatre must address contemporary realities to inspire change. His plays confront uncomfortable truths, urging reflection on complicity in or resistance to injustice. They demand accountability, empathy, and a commitment to a just society.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This study set out to examine how Bond's theatre, particularly his post-apocalyptic works, explores the enduring scars of war, systemic violence, and collective memory. It argued that Bond's dramaturgy confronts the audience with the consequences of historical trauma and human complicity, framing theatre as a site of ethical engagement and resistance. The key findings highlight Bond's use of stark imagery, disrupted narrative structures, and Brechtian techniques to interrogate the socio-political conditions that give rise to violence. Bond is "Preoccupied with the contradictions of a society based on class, the dramatist highlights the social, economic and political factors which shape the protagonists' consciousness" [20]. These findings underscore the implications of theatre as a powerful medium for confronting historical

violence and imagining alternative futures. “He deals with the problem of irrationality (injustice & violence) because they are the problems that break the society” [21]. Future research could extend this analysis by examining performance histories of The War Plays or comparative studies with other post-war dramatists. Further investigation into how Bond’s legacy shapes contemporary war theatre would also be valuable. Bond’s theatre compels us to look directly at the ruins of our past and present. Through a deeply humanistic yet unflinching gaze, he invites audiences to reimagine what it means to be responsible in a fractured world. His plays remain a vital call to remember and to act.

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### Author Contributions Statement

Name of Author	C	M	So	Va	Fo	I	R	D	O	E	Vi	Su	P	Fu
Sibgatuullah Nazki	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Dr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	

C : Conceptualization

M : Methodology

So : Software

Va : Validation

Fo : Formal analysis

I : Investigation

R : Resources

D : Data Curation

O : Writing - Original Draft

E : Writing - Review & Editing

Vi : Visualization

Su : Supervision

P : Project administration

Fu : Funding acquisition

### Conflict of Interest Statement

The author affirms that there are no financial, personal, or professional conflicts of interest that could have influenced the research findings or the preparation of the manuscript.

### Informed Consent

I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this research study. All participants involved in helping in this study were informed about the purpose, procedures, potential risks, and benefits of the research. Participation was entirely voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from each participant.

### Ethical Approval

This study was conducted in strict compliance with ethical standards pertaining to research involving human participants. Ethical approval was obtained from the institutional review board (IRB) of Vignan University. All procedures performed in the study involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and national research committees and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments.

### Data Availability

The data sets generated and analysed during the current study are not publicly available due to confidentiality agreements with participants but are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Researchers who wish to access the data for academic purposes may do so by

submitting a formal request outlining their intended use, subject to approval and compliance with ethical standards.





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