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# **The Aspects of Social Instability in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises***

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of the requirements for a Masterdegree in English Language, Literature, and Civilization*

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I thank all my teachers.

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this work to:

- My precious Parents.
- My beloved sisters and brothers.
- My sweethearts Zinedine and Rihem.

## Abstract

This Paper explores the aspects of social instability in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. The novel is a reflection of the lost generation, it depicts the characters as lost, disillusioned, and unstable. This study aims at detecting the aspects of social instability that lie within this novel. To achieve this purpose, we define first the term social instability, and then we carry on by analysing the main characters, some of the themes, and the author's style. By examining all these elements we are introduced to a new feature of *The Sun Also Rises* which is the aspects of social instability.

**Keywords:** Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, Social instability, Moral decay, disillusionment, loss.

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## *General Introduction*

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Literature has always been an important element in human being's life, it gives them ways to express themselves and make their voice heard, it also gives people possibility to immerse in periods they cannot not live in, and places they cannot visit, it is a mirror that reflects history, culture, and even the interior selves of human beings. Throughout history, different kinds of literature emerged, and each one is unique in its style, techniques, and even in the themes it explores.

One of the major literatures that has created controversy is modernist literature because it is a break from the classical and traditional literary norms, in themes, techniques and style. American modernist writers for instance, expose themes that reflect their generation, the disillusionment that the war left, the loss in which they find themselves, the shift in the American ideals, and their nostalgia towards the past, and this by using a range of new techniques.

It is true that modernist writers or artists in general seek the new in their works, but they mourn their harmonious past where peace reigns. Most of the leading figures of American modernist literature left the United States to live in Paris because they were not able to live in their country due to the shift mainly in moral values of the population, and also because they wanted to escape the restrictions imposed upon them, and to flee censorship. They formed a group of avant-garde writers, and together they worked to create one of the most beautiful literatures. F.S. Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway are the most prominent modernist writers that reflect the issues of the lost generation, their worries and concerns, and this through their two novels *The Great Gatsby* and *The Sun Also Rises*.

Ernest Miller Hemingway is a modernist writer and a contributor to the creation of the modernist style. He starts writing during his High School years, and then he works as a journalist and a reporter. He participates in the Great War as an ambulance driver, he reports the Spanish civil War, and reports also much of the events that come after the war, and during the Second World War. His large experience in writing gives him the possibility to grow as one of the defining figure if the modernist American literature. His novel *The Sun Also Rises*, the one under study is considered as a novel of the lost generation; through it, Hemingway evinced his capacity as a writer, he captures the essence of the era in such a mesmerizing way. The story is very complex and hides so much in it, yet it is told in a very simple and fluent way that any one can read it, but not everyone can understand it.

All along the reading of the novel I have been startled by the amount of alcohol the characters consume and the long times they spend in pubs, cafés, restaurants, they in fact spend time there as much as a person spend time either at home, or at work. I have also perceived a very important element, which is the absence of the familial entourage, as we are not introduced to the characters' families. The characters are single; we see that Jake and Brett Ashley are in love, but nothing serious has ever happens between them. All these ambiguous elements, and the way the author narrates the novel made me determined to make it a theme to my research paper.

Through the novel we see the author introduce us not only to unfamiliar settings, but also to unfamiliar behaviours and depiction of genders, the loss of purpose and aims. We see that everything is taken as normal to the characters; all the different issues that are mostly a legacy of the war made the characters socially unstable.

My study aims at giving more depth to the reading of the novel and provide the reader with a clearer vision through the introduction to the period in which the novel was written,

and then dig into the author's life and give the reader an insight into the events that occurred in his life at the same time. Later, I want to provide him with new information about the social instability of the characters, this is why I will be answering the following questions: what are the aspects of social instability in Ernest Hemingway's *Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises*? What tools did the author use so as to reflect this social instability?

Before reviewing the novel, it is important to mention that *The Sun Also Rises* has been reviewed several times since its publication, and the critics through time give us different interpretations, and each time new readings are discovered, here are a few of the critical receptions of the novel.

On the year of its publication, *The New York Times* reviewed the book considering it as a novel which "treats of certain of those young American concerning whom Gertrude Stein has remarked: "You are all a lost generation"" (49). This point of view is among the first and most prevailing till nowadays since the writer himself is a member of the lost generation which he equally pictures in his fictional characters. This idea is reinforced by the use of the remark of Gertrude Stein as an epigraph for the novel, and also by referring to the sense of aimlessness of the characters and their meaningless speech and their lost destinations and control over everything around them. Mark Spilka remarks that "[I]n *The sun Also Rises*, a full length novel, his characters are not only puppets and caricatures unable to stand by themselves; they are also products of sentimental failure founded in impotence" (205), he thinks that portraying Jake as impotent says much about the story itself, it is not a mere injury resulting from the war, or a reflection of a part of the author's experience, it also suggests much about the psychological state of the characters and their inability to be stable in their lives. James Nagel thinks that "*The Sun Also Rises* is much more a novel of characters than of events, and the action would seem empty were it not for the rich texture of the personalities

that interact throughout the book” (90), this is because he thinks that Hemingway demonstrated the issues of the lost generation in the characters themselves: Jake the war wound, Cohn the rejected Jew, Brett the picture of the new woman...etc. And by exploring all their lives and situations, their struggles to live, one can see the loss and instability of the lost generation.

Moreover, David Savola claims that “[i]n *The Sun Also Rises*, the counterforce is more internal” (145). This is because we see the characters struggle with themselves, their feelings, and devastated moral states, and they manifest these struggles in their actions or behaviours, for him the novel is so much related to nature, and he takes as an evidence for this the title, the epigraphs, and the different scenes that occurred mostly in rural areas, all of them appeal to the recurrence of nature, something which is shared with the human nature, and both as parts of the natural world. This similarity, if it was noticed by the characters, it would guide them, in that they could look how the natural world functions, and function according to it. To have faith and forget the past with all its effects, and move on to the future, exactly as the cyclical natural processes, this for Savola, could absolutely help the characters to settle down, and make their whole life harmonious and stable. He added, “*The Sun Also Rises* is an effort to guide the lost home.”

Paul Civello further supports this idea by referring to the loss of the Christian faith, “the universe in *the Sun Also Rises* is depicted as one of constant flux.” He backed up his idea by the disbelief in the divine power, or in the Christian faith which according to him give a reason to everything that happens in the natural world, and because the characters lost their religious beliefs they consider the natural processes only as a routine that happens every day without purpose, and this reinforced the character’s sense of loss.

As it is mentioned above, critics have provided us with some of the most important reviews on Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. Now the significance of this research is to provide the readers with more in-depth analysis of the novel, and to help them get a better understanding of the story; all the events that take place, and the incidents that occur reflect an unstable mood in the social order which is mirrored or paralleled in the interior world of the characters. Whereas my own contribution to the existing body of knowledge is to widen the view of the readers towards the analysis of the novel, and give them a new reading by analysing a new perspective, and a new theme, which is the social instability that is considered a common characteristic of all the characters of the novel, and a significant reflection of the lost generation of the post-First World War period. We see the critics talk almost of everything, but not this very aspect of the roaring twenties.

So as to achieve the aim of my research, I need to explore both the socio-historical and literary context, thus I analyse the novel according to a New Historicist perspective, this is because New Historicism is the most suitable theory for my research since it focuses on linking a literary work to political, social and historical field that affected its creation. So in my research I linked the socio-historical background of the era during which the novel was created, and the content so as to be able to explain the social instability.

So as to accomplish my aims stated above, I divide the work into two chapters, The first chapter is in its turn divided into three parts. In the first part I explore the socio-historical background, and in the second part I deal with the biography of the author, his social life and his literary accomplishments. As for the third part, I give a short summary of the novel so as to make the reader better understand the synopsis.

The second chapter is divided into three parts, but before I first define the concept of social instability. Then I work on detecting the aspects of social instability by focusing on three elements: the analyses of the characters, a focus on the themes, and finally an exploration of the writer's style.

*Chapter one*  
*The Socio-historical and Literary Background*

## **Introduction**

This chapter is dealing with the socio-historical and literary background of the novel under study. It is divided into three parts; it starts first with the most important characteristics that define the era then carries on with the different key historical incidents.

After that, I move to refer to the author, his biography which includes the most important events that occurred in his life, his works, and his style. Last but not least, the synopsis of the novel in which I drew the plot in a summarised way. It is indeed very important to mention that there are many other events that happened during the 1920s, and those I mention in my chapter, are those related to the novel which affected the story and events.

## **The Socio-historical Background**

After a long struggle with the Great War (1914-1918), the world gained back peace. The USA was not involved in the war since the beginning, and even when it officially sided with Britain and France, and declared war against Germany, the war did not occur on its ground. This is what made it the number one beneficiary from the war.

The United States provided the Allies with all kinds of supplies (guns, money and soldiers), and by the end of the war, they were obliged to pay their debts back. By this the USA became a leading power after the destruction of the preceding leading European countries.

After the war ended, people fought a more dangerous threat to their lives: The Spanish flu. This epidemic disease spread all over the world, and caused more deaths than the war itself. This peril lasted for more than a year from September 1918 until the early summer of the following year causing thousands of deaths and spreading terror among people. With the beginning of the 1920s, a new era was born, it was characterized mainly by its

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breakthrough from all the preceding periods. During this significant period of time, the USA became the leading power. The government focused mainly on making the economy proliferate, and among the first businesses that pushed the American economy into prosperity is the mass production of cars, which was considered as a revolutionary achievement. After being a product limited only to the rich classes for some time in the past, cars became a product available even for the lower classes, and “By 1929 the industry was the largest in the country.” (Brogan 494).

Car manufacturing paved the way for other industries that supported it, such as the demand for the materials that helped in the car building, such as glass, steel, paint and rubber. By creating new businesses, it also created a large number of job opportunities with good salaries for Americans, the thing that helped in the social well being of the individuals.

Cars did not only help in the flourishing of the American economy, it also had social effects i.e. it bridged the gap between the city and the countryside, in that it made it easy for the American citizen to discover the other parts of their country, or to spend the holidays away from home, and this by using their own means of transportation which is the car. This development in transportation, led to the migration of a huge number of Americans from rural areas to the cities either for better working opportunities or for settlement. Cars were not the only good that facilitated the life of the modern individual; there were a range of new inventions that made their life more comfortable, the washing machines for instance, vacuum cleaners, kitchen items... etc. this resulted in an increase in the level of consumption, which went until using the instalment plans to buy even the unnecessary things, so as to add extravagance to their lives. Rodney P. Carlisle better explains this in this paragraph:

As the decade progressed, consumption increased as more items became affordable. Sewing machines, electric toasters and irons, pastel-colored kitchen and plumbing fixtures, improved phonographs and records,

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eggbeaters, food grinders, mixers, and blenders were common household purchases. Home expenditures increased accordingly. Instalment plans were available for virtually all purchases, including furniture, appliances, sewing machines, pianos, clothing, books, kitchen utensils, and luxury items. (29)

The items mentioned above and others, offered people opportunities to have free time to entertain themselves, to practice their hobbies, and spend more time with their loved ones.

One of the many ways that offered people entertainment is the radio; during the 1920s the radio was owned almost by every American. People gathered around it, listened to their favourite programs of music, sport...etc. This means enabled people to know the news of the entire world. It was an indispensable tool that offered entertainment in a comfortable private place.

Among the many achievements during the roaring twenties is Charles Lindbergh's flight to France, which was the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean, from New York City to Paris. This exploit was of great importance because it proved that aviation was possible and safe to longer distances and for a longer time. It also attracted many investors, who thought of creating an airline to carry passengers.

On August 26, 1920 after a long struggle, women finally got their right to vote. Women proved themselves capable of taking part in the decision making of the country, especially after filling the place of men that went to participate in the First World War.

The development that was attained during the era, did affect people not only positively, but it affected them negatively as well. The pre-war American was no longer the same with the post-war one. The globalization that occurred in the United States changed people's way of life, thinking, and behaving. People were more interested in entertainment rather than politics. It is during that period that the new woman emerged, women who have nothing the

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same with their Victorian mothers. The flappers (as they were called) shared nothing in common with traditional women; they were wearing skirts that showed their knees, tight and translucent dresses, in addition to a short bobbed hair, they shocked the elders with their behaviours; they were smoking in public, drinking a lot of alcohol, and spending a lot of time in pubs or in nightclubs, in addition to having a sexual liberation. This moral decadence was more fuelled by the prohibition of alcohol, which was thought of as way to sober up the population.

The battle for the banning of alcohol did not occur suddenly, but it was the result of many years of work. It started back in 1900, with a campaign that fought to limit the consumption of alcohol and to ban it. The two leading organizations that fought for this cause were, “The Women’s Christian Temperance Union” and “The Anti-saloon League” (McNeese 89). Most of the members of the parties are either women or religious conservatives that were afraid of losing their values. It was seen as threat that empowers all kinds of immoral behaviour and practices such as prostitution, as well as a menace to the quality of life especially in urban areas.

With the USA joining the First World War, the government created programs in which it could save food, so as to be able to provide it for their allies and soldiers in Europe. The prohibitionists took advantage of it, they supported these programs, and by this they called also for the prohibition of alcohol, which they explained as a waste of wheat, which is mostly needed for feeding people. This cause made people react for the favour of prohibition, and they added that this prohibition is to bring better results in the battlefield, because it puts the army at risk, i.e. drunken soldiers will result failure.

The “Dry” movement (the movement that supported the prohibition) was faced by the “wets” (the contradictors of the act) that did not have an organized movement, and arguments to

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contradict the act, which resulted in the passing of the eighteenth amendment to the United States constitution banning the manufacture, sale, and transportation of any alcoholic beverages in December 1917. The act became officially valid in January 1919, and went into action on January 16, 1920.

Though prohibitionists were too ambitious for the act, they did not predict the results that would come out of it. In addition to this, they failed to advocate its application. No doubt there was a prohibition act, but there was very little enforcement to obey the law, this is what made prohibition among the most important elements that formed the “roar” of the twenties, and this is because America dived in “a time of excitement and risk”<sup>1</sup>

It is important to mention that the act did not include neither the banning of alcohol for medical purposes, nor the industrial alcohol production, the thing that created other more complicated problems. Although the act was an attempt to keep the United States away from alcohol, which was the major cause of violence, domestic abuse, organised crime, and many negative effects on health, historians esteemed that the level of consumption of alcohol even increased, and crime levels became higher, this is because it created a whole new illegal business, which consisted illegal importation and selling of alcohol. Many of the abiding law citizens became involved in bootlegging which was considered as an easier way of becoming rich. It also stimulated the growing of gangsters who were involved in different illegal businesses.

Criminal groups stole alcohol from factories and laboratories, while others imported it from Canada and other countries illegally. Ordinary people were involved in the production of alcoholic beverages in their homes; this was called “Bathtub Gin”.

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<sup>1</sup>“A time of excitement and risk” is a term used by Hal Markovitz in his book *The Roaring Twenties*; this is to indicate that people defied the prohibition law, and took risk in manufacturing, selling, and consuming alcohol.

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Many people were arrested for not respecting the law, and alcohol worth millions of dollars was seized over the years of prohibition. But it turned out that the act was not a concern for the government; police officers were bribed for letting speakeasies work, and the most flagrant violation was that of the president Warren G. Harding. It was known to the public that the president, who should be the model for a law-abiding citizen, was a violator of the prohibition law. This increased people's ridiculing of the act.

Immigrants, who escaped the poverty in European countries and came to the USA to realize the American dream formed most gangs, but they found themselves in poor crowded neighbourhoods, living the same conditions they left back in Europe. This is what led them to illegal business, which would contribute to the betterment of their situation as quickly as possible. During this period immigration was not restricted yet.

The most famous criminal of the era is Al Capone who was the son of an Italian immigrant. He gained a large wealth from illegal business, "In 1927 alone Capone's criminal activities netted him a personal profit of \$60 million through gambling, prostitution, and most of all, smuggling illegal booze." (McNeese90).

Due to the significant amounts of money it brought, illegal alcohol and other practices, created rivalry between different gangs, this rivalry resulted in the fight for power, the thing that always engendered bloodshed caused by gun shots between the rivals. In these cases "police were left to clean up after rival gangs shot one another in alleys, on the streets, and in public joints and garages" (McNeese 90). Such criminals, paid off those in charge for not arresting them, and killed those who would stand on their way.

Besides, The period is famous for the race riots that spread all around the country. Mutual attacks between blacks and whites of different origins; these attacks were encouraged by strikes. In 1919 coal miners and steelworkers joined by Boston police officers led a strike,

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this is what made people and the government think that communism spread from Russia to the United States. Communists encouraged the rise of the working class to start a revolution. This was considered as a dangerous menace to the country's stability and security. During the same year, the country witnessed the biggest race rioting in the city of Chicago causing 38 deaths, and 500 injuries. Unfortunately, many other incidents of the same kind occurred during the same year causing fatalities. This was not all; anarchists were sending mails containing bombs to political and business leaders, most of them were caught before delivery, but due to this Georgia senator lost his hand, and the home of the general attorney was bombarded.

After these incidents country's Attorney General, Alexander Mitchell Palmer, ordered the arrest and expelling of the suspected radicals. The government started arresting any suspected person, and special groups were appointed to do so. Immigrants who were arrested were deported immediately. In 1919 many Russian workers were caught in unions and were deported as well.

In the New Year day of 1920, a large number of raids were conducted, called "palmer raids", arresting thousands of suspected communists. This raid that supposed to seize many bombs, and a large number of guns, ended with seizing only three handguns. These measures explain a great deal of America's fear of immigrants, they became even suspicious of them; this is what is called the "red scare". The "red scare" resulted not only in fear, but also in hatred towards non-Americans, because Americans considered them as a real and animate threat to the peace and harmony of their country.

One of the very famous cases was the arrest of two Italian Immigrants, Nicola Sacco and Bartolommeo Vanzetti; they were accused of robbing and murdering a paymaster in a shoe factory in Massachusetts. This case created a controversial debate, and became even the

concern of people. Whether they really committed the robbery and murder is still an unsettled matter till nowadays. The trial lasted from 1920 till August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1927, and ended by a death sentence with the electric chair for both.

Because of the worry of more anarchy in the country, the government decided to restrict the number of immigrants. After being an easy to reach dreamland to many people for many decades, the United States took serious measures to limit the number of immigrants, and in 1921 the Emergency Immigration Act was passed, limiting the number of immigrants, and their nationalities. The majority are to come from Western and Northern Europe, whereas Asians were forbidden to enter the US ground.

The panic caused by immigrants built a xenophobia, which engendered the reformation of one of the biggest radical and racist groups of history, the Ku Klux Klan. This group that was once formed by southerners fighting against the rights of black people and their freedom, now extended to people of different states fighting all the non-native born, non-white, and non-Protestants. The KKK members were conservatives, and esteemed to keep the American values pure, and get rid of every intruder to their community. They performed a lot of terrorist attacks on immigrants, on non-protestants, on Jews, and on blacks.

The Roaring twenties was also marked by the rise of Afro-Americans to defend their rights. The segregation that was experienced by the blacks, and the racist behaviours of whites towards them was not something new, but their response to such practices was indeed something unprecedented, especially after they moved to the north. A huge mobility of black Americans took place after the end of the First World War; they escaped the harshness of the rural areas, and moved to the urban cities in search of better living circumstances and working opportunities.

By 1920, thousands of Afro-Americans lived in northern urban cities, but unfortunately, their

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situation did not meet their expectations. The huge number of blacks caused a mass population, and only little residences were offered. In addition to that, whites rejected them, and did not allow them to live in their neighbourhoods. This did not stop them, and by 1930, black Americans formed whole neighbourhoods of their own.

When they started to defend their rights, some leaders such as Booker T. Washington, encouraged them to proceed in a peaceful way, and be friendly with the whites, but during the 1920s blacks sought to get their rights by all means.

Along the years they formed different organizations to defend themselves. Among the organizations, we find the national urban league (NUL), which was dedicated to help the blacks to find jobs, but was not successful in achieving its aims. There is also the famous The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or the (NAACP), it was led by white liberals who defended the blacks rights. During the 1920s, Blacks took the lead in this organization, and it became number one in defending civil rights, with James Weldon Johnson as a leader.

While many black leaders called for integration in the white community, a voice rose calling for “Africa for Africans, at home and abroad”, this was the voice of Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican immigrant, who called the Africans to be proud of their nature, saying that “black is beautiful”, and invited them to believe in the uniqueness of blacks. In addition to defending their African origins, Garvey invited Africans to go back to their home countries, and work for the improvement of the African continent. He created the Universal Negro Improvement Association back in 1914. He failed in achieving his goals, and in 1927 he was deported to Jamaica, there he died in 1940.

The call for a proud Black American spread among the black community, and they started to be proud of their origins, of their colour and their nature, and most of all, accept themselves.

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Afro-Americans started also to understand that they were distinct from the whites, and that they have their own capacities. One of the centres that gathered the first black artists who proved themselves talented, and have artistic capacities is Harlem; a district in New York north east of Manhattan. Here the African Americans exploded a new kind of art, the one of their own, and they formed the new movement called “Harlem Renaissance”.

This movement celebrated the African American’s own culture, and invited the black Americans to be proud of themselves, and express themselves as artists. By then Harlem became a place that attracted intellectuals and most of them moved to live there, including writers, poets, musicians...etc. Among the leading figures is Claude McKay, a poet from Jamaican origins; in his works, he depicted the black folk culture, among his works *If We Must Die*, *To The White Friends* (1922), *Home to Harlem* (1928) this last won the Harmon Gold Award. Another famous poet of the Harlem Renaissance is Langston Hughes and his very famous poem *The Weary Blues*, later on a female writer joined them called Zora Neale Hurston, and one of her most important works is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937). This spot in New York attracted black intellectuals, and became the centre of the rising of the African American literature and art.

The Harlem Renaissance brought to the front the unique culture of African Americans, and gave them not only a voice to express themselves, but also a chance to contribute to the formation of a new literature which is part of the American one.

Music was among the most important arts that were developed in Harlem, and resulted the two music genres that defined the Roaring Twenties, Jazz and Blues. These two types were highly appreciated during this period by both blacks and whites. This music is derived from the African American music style, which they brought mainly from Africa. It was performed by both white and black Americans, and was one of the most popular ways of entertainment.

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It was mostly performed in nightclubs where illegal alcohol was consumed. Through this medium the African Americans made their voice heard.

Music was performed with great orchestras, and most of the times were accompanied with dancers with extravagant performances, especially at Broadway. These shows attracted many people, and won the admiration of the audience, this is why many other theatre were opened over the decade in different regions around the country.

A range of other ways of entertainment existed during the Jazz age such as the movies. Movies already existed during the preceding years, but during the 1920s it witnessed a great development that made it the first medium of entertainment, and a great business that earned millions of dollars. Among the very famous actors whose name is still engraved in people's memories till nowadays, an actor that made millions of people over generations laugh without uttering a word is, Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin, known as Charlie Chaplin. It is also during this era that Disney developed one of the greatest film companies "Disney".

In addition to movies, people were very fond of sport, and among the sports that were most appreciated by people are baseball, boxing, and football. These sports created a range of highly loved and followed icons who influenced their followers, and were considered as models to them, one of the most well-known baseball figures of the period is Baby Ruth. Moreover, advertisement was a major contributor to the fame of stars in all fields, through posters, newspapers, radio...etc.

The technological advance, and the globalization resulted a deviation from the traditional American behaviour, and most importantly religion. Religion became a very important issue during the period, and a central subject matter, because with the different radical changes and development that occurred during the era, religion was seen in jeopardy. Many people were driven by modernization and tempted by different distractions like jazz

music, theatre, and movies...etc. this led them to neglect their religion.

Meanwhile Religious conservatives were alarmed to the danger threatening their religious beliefs that might influence Americans. They were against everything that was not driven from Christianity, or anything that is set against its norms. From this a new group of Christian fundamentalists<sup>2</sup> emerged, who are especially from southern states or the Bible belt<sup>3</sup>, they believed literally in the bible for them “fundamentalism preserved authentic Christianity, while others moved away from it” (Carlisle 94). Among the most important things they fought against is Darwin’s theory of evolution or Darwinism (this theory explores the evolution of the species, and according to this theory human beings and animals were derived from the same ancestors).

The theory was scientific, and formed a basis for the criticism of the non-scientific beliefs and teachings of the bible. This theory was taught in public schools and was considered by the fundamentalists as a threat, because it caused the students to lose belief in the Christian faith. One of the leaders of the anti-Darwinian movement was the secretary of state William Jennings Bryan. The movement succeeded in making six states ban the teaching of the theory of evolution, and Tennessee was one of them.

During this period that appeared one of the most famous trials in the history of the United States, a case called “the monkey trial” or “the Scopes trial”, this is the case of John Scopes, a young teacher who was arrested for violating the law that banned the teaching of Darwin’s theory. This trial was the centre of attention for everybody, especially with the media covering of the event. In the defence there was the most famous attorney of the period,

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<sup>2</sup>“A form of Protestant Christianity that upholds belief in the strict and literal interpretation of the Bible, including its narratives, doctrines, prophecies, and moral laws”

“Modern Christian fundamentalism arose from American millenarian sects of the 19th century and has become associated with reaction against social and political liberalism, and with the rejection of the theory of evolution.”  
(*Oxford dictionary*)

<sup>3</sup>“Those areas of the southern and Midwestern US and western Canada where Protestant fundamentalism is widely practiced.”

## *Chapter one The Socio-historical and literary background*

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Clarence Darrow confronting Bryan as an expert in the bible. Darrow questioned Bryan about the authenticity of many excerpts of the bible, but he could not answer. By the end John Scopes founded guilty and was charged to pay a fine of a hundred dollars. This trial is said to be symbolical and aimed only at bringing some media attention, and confirm that the laws that came against the teachings of Darwinism are active.

Even literature was affected by all these aforementioned incidents and the different changes that occurred during the era, after the end of the war, the American society shifted from being conservative to an over liberal society, disillusionment. Loss and emptiness became defining concepts of individuals, they literally wandered in a world they no longer recognize. Thus writers sought to reflect these feelings that represent the heart of the modern world, and this of course by using a literature unlike the preceding traditional one, the modernist literature. Modernist American works generally reflected the extravagance of life in the United States, and criticised the materialism that haunted Americans, and their lost Values. Most American writers of the era were living in Paris; such as John Dos Passos, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, Sylvia beach, Sherwood Anderson, Ernest Hemingway and others. They formed a group of Avant-Garde writers, this group include many writers and artists from different nationalities. The American writers left the United States because of the different restrictions imposed upon them such as prohibition, censorship...etc. so they preferred to leave the country “ to avoid its artistically oppressive environment and to absorb the culture of Europe” (Schwarz 181). But still these elements affected them even in Europe.

Hemingway for instance is one of the prominent writers of the lost generation, and an American expatriate. Thanks to his experience in his life as an ambulance driver, his witnessing of the horrors of war during his work as a reporter, and even his own personal life contributed to great extent to his proficiency in writing. His works are the reflection of the lost generation, their aimlessness, and the effects of war upon them.

## **The Biography of the Author:**

Ernest Miller Hemingway, with which this dissertation is concerned, is an American writer born on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1899, Oak Park, Illinois, Chicago, to Clarence Edmonds Hemingway, a physician from whom he inherited his love for both fishing and hunting, and Grace Hall Hemingway, a highly cultivated mother who had great interest in music.

When he was sixteen, and still a high school student, Hemingway wrote several articles for the school newspaper "*The Trapeze*", in addition to three stories and four poems for the high school literary journal "*The Tabula*". (Oliver 5). When he graduated from High School in the same year, the United States of America joined the First World War, Hemingway refused to go to college, rather he preferred to join the US army, the thing he could not do. He then left for Kansas City to work as a reporter for the daily newspaper "Star" for seven months (Shuman 8). Hemingway admitted that it is during his time in the Kansas City *Star* that he "learned how to write a simple declarative sentence" (qtd. In Reynolds 22), the thing that affected his writing style. In 1918, he and his friend from the newspaper, Theodore Brumback, joined the American Red Cross to work as ambulance drivers in favour of the Italian Army in the North of Italy. Hemingway was wounded after a short time of service, and was transported to an American Red Cross hospital in Milan, where he underwent several surgeries on his legs, and kept for recovery. There, he met with an American Nurse called Agnes Von Kurowsky, whom he fell in love with, but unfortunately could not marry because she left him for another man. This life experience provided him with material for his literary work *A Farewell to Arms*.

After almost seven months in Italy, he went back home in January 1919, where he was honoured for his bravery by the Italian government.

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After spending some time in Michigan, he left for Chicago where he met Hadley Richardson; they got married in 1920; and then they moved to Paris where Hemingway worked as a reporter for the *Toronto Star* in 1921.

In Paris, Hemingway met with a large group of writers and intellectuals including Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, and Sylvia Beach, John Dos Passos, James Joyce...etc. This party would be crucial for his development in writing. After a month and half of his arrival, he published his first article "Swiss Scarce at Swiss Resorts" after a holiday with his wife in Switzerland. He also reported the genoa economic conference in April of 1922, and the Greco-Turkish war in Constantinople in October of the same year.

In 1923, the American writer, poet, and editor Robert McAlmon published Hemingway's first novel *Three Stories and Ten Poems*. During the same year Ernest and Hadley went to Spain for the first time, and there they witnessed for the first bullfighting, and the fiesta of San Fermin, an experience that would prompt Hemingway's imagination for his first novel *The Sun Also Rises*. In 1924, the couple received their first son John Hadley Nicanor Hemingway.

In 1925, Hemingway published his work *In Our Time*, and met with Scott Fitzgerald who would become one of his closest friends, and Pauline Pfeiffer who would become Ernest's second wife. During these years Hemingway moved across Europe, and to the United States, and continued working as a reporter to the *Toronto Star*.

In 1926, Hemingway divorced from Hadley, and published *The Sun Also Rises* on the same year. In 1927 he married Pauline Pfeiffer, in 1928 they received their first son Patrick Hemingway. In the same year his father committed suicide, this incident influenced Ernest so much, and in 1929 he published *A Farewell to Arms* in a book form for the first time, and in 1932 his work *Death in The Afternoon* was published. Hemingway would marry twice after divorcing Pauline.

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In 1935 Ernest Hemingway's *Green Hills of Africa* was published in a book form, two years later he works as a reporter of the Spanish Civil war. His work *For Whom The Bell Tolls* gained a golden medal medal in 1941. Ernest Hemingway continued working as a reporter during the Second World War. In 1950 he published *Across The River and Into the Trees*, and in 1952, he published one of his most important books *The Old Man and The Sea* which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Literature in 1953, and in 1954, he won the Noble Prize in Literature.

Hemingway suffered from a severe depression and insomnia, and attempted twice to commit suicide but he was stopped by Mary, his fourth wife. But in 1961, Ernest Hemingway made an end for his life in Ketchum.

Hemingway's sickness and depression is a culmination of so many years of repression, starting from his young age in Oak Park, to his war wounds, and his failed love stories with different women...etc. All this contributed to the creation of a severe depression that led at last to suicide.

Hemingway's writing reveal much of his inner struggles, he speaks about the death of love, depression, and the real death in almost all his works of fiction. He created a style which unique and attributed only to him. We see that he does not express his ideas explicitly, but he covers them so as to have a double meaning.

Among the most important novels through which Hemingway succeeded to reflect the lost generation is, *The Sun Also Rises*. In this novel he approached different issues that are in common with his own life such as, the war, love, divorce, disillusionment...etc

## **The Synopsis**

*The Sun Also Rises* is a story of a group of the lost generation of the roaring twenties who live mainly in Paris and decided to go on a trip to Pamplona. The novel starts by introducing a character in the novel “Robert Cohn”, a secondary character in the novel, and the friend of the narrator who is the main character. Robert attended Princeton school, where he was a middleweight boxing champion. The fact of his being a Jew made him feel shy and inferior. The narrator described him as a very kind person, and this “made him bitter”. He got married, and had three children, but failed in keeping his marriage, and before leaving his wife, the thing he couldn’t do because he thought it was cruel, she left him and eloped with a miniature painter. Later he owns a magazine that would fail, and leave for Paris with his authoritative girlfriend Frances Clyne. And after publishing a novel that received praise from critics, and this changed him, and changed his feelings towards Frances because many women were interested in him. One day Cohn visits Jake and proposed to him to go to South America with him, but he refuses.

Jake meets with a prostitute called Georgette, and have dinner with her, at the same restaurant he meets with a group of friends, Cohn was among them, they invite him and Georgette to a party in a bar and he accepts. There he meets also with the Lady Brett Ashley, Jake’s love of life, she is the illustration of a typical woman of the Roaring Twenties in her style, behaviour, and personality. She was a member of the voluntary aid detachment at the same hospital where Jake was during the war. She attracts Cohn, but she finishes with leaving the bar with Jake. On their way they had a discussion about their love, and Brett made up her mind that she cannot be with him (probably because he is injured). Jake is in fact a World War One veteran; and works as a journalist in Paris. During their discussion we come to understand that something happened to Jake during the war that makes Brett unable to except being with him, although she loves him.

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They join their friends again, and Brett carries on her party with a fat man called Mippipopolous. Jakes goes back home tired and disillusioned.

The next day Jake had lunch with Cohn, and they spoke about Brett, who by no means gained the appreciation and maybe the love of Cohn. Cohn gets acquainted with the fact that Brett is getting her divorce and going to marry again with a man called Mike Campbell, the thing he did not like at all.

In the afternoon, Jake meets with a friend called Harvey stone, after a while they are joined by Cohn, a person that Harvey doesn't stand and it turns out that these feelings are reciprocal. When Harvey leaves, Frances joins Cohn and Jake, and here Frances talks with Jakes about Cohn's willingness to leave her after almost three years, and he does not want to marry her anymore. He wants to give her money, and send her to her friends in England.

Jake went back home, and Brett and the count Mippipopolous came to his apartment, after a while Brett sent the count to bring Champaign. She had a conversation with Jake, and confirms to him that she cannot be with him, and that she is leaving Paris the next day, to go to San Sebastian. They spend the night in a nightclub with the count.

Jake stays in Paris and practices his usual life, while Brett left for Sebastian, and Cohn also is somewhere out of Paris. He planned a fishing trip to Spain with his friend Bill Gorton, a war veteran and a writer, and after fishing they join the Fiesta in Pamplona. Brett came back to Paris and met with Jake and Bill, and her fiancé is going to be there in hours. They spend sometime together and then leave.

In the morning, Jake writes to Cohn and make plans to meet him in Spain. On the same day, Brett and Mike decide to join them in their trip. When Mike leaves, Brett confesses to Jake that she was with Cohn in San Sebastian.

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On due date, Bill and Jake took the train, and went to Bayonne where they meet Cohn. All together they travel to Spain. They stop in Pamplona, where they are supposed to meet Brett and Mike, but they did not come because they stopped at San Sebastian. So they decided to go to Burguete to fish, but Cohn prefers to wait for the couple. Jake and Bill stayed five days at Burguete, and there they meet with a “pleasant” Englishman named Harris.

Jake receives a letter from Michael where he apologizes for the delay they made, and that they will be at Hotel Montoya in Pamplona on Tuesday. When hearing the news, they go back to Pamplona on Wednesday, the same day they received the letter.

There, Jake spoke with his friend Montoya about the bullfights, who is a great fan of this activity. After, they joined their friends Mike, Cohn, and Brett. They had many conversations about different themes, mainly war. After finishing they went to see the bulls, they were brought and made ready for the fighting during the fiesta. Brett liked it so much, and this went against the expectations of Jake. The two coming days were calm, preparing for the fiesta. The fiesta “exploded” on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, these days were full of activity and movement, the spread of alcohol all around the place, there were music, dancing...etc. The group participated a great deal in all these celebrations, they danced, drank a lot of alcohol, they attended the bullfighting. Cohn was a centre of mockery to his friends, because he was always following Brett.

During the Bullfights, Pedro Romero was the best, he was loved by everybody especially Brett who asks Jake to introduce him to her, he accepts, and Brett fall in love with him, and leaves Mike. Cohn becomes very angry when hearing the news, and knocks Jake, Mike, and even Romero, but later he asks for pardon.

Brett and Romero leave for Madrid after the last bullfighting. Mike, Bill, and Jake bought tickets to go back each in his direction. Jake was heading for San Sebastian to get some rest,

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but he receives a telegram from Brett begging him to come to Madrid. When Jake arrives, Brett informs him that she left Romero, they go out, and on their way back home, she tells him that they could enjoy this trip more if they were alone, and Jake responds “Yes, isn’t it pretty to think so?”

### **Conclusion**

The decade of the Roaring Twenties brought with it much change that affected mostly the young generation. Ernest Hemingway is for instance one of these youngsters that the period influenced so much, and being a writer helped him to reflect his feelings and the situation of his generation through his works. In *The Sun Also Rises* is a novel which pictures the loss and the disillusionment of the lost generation, Hemingway shows as one of the many characteristics of the 1920s which is social instability.

## ***Chapter Two***

***Depicting the Aspects of social instability in The Sun  
Also Rises***

## **Introduction**

This chapter explores the aspects of social instability. It starts by a definition of the term social instability, it then moves to scrutinize the novel first, by analysing the lives and moral state of the characters, then by exploring some of the themes and carries on with examining the author's style.

## **Depicting the Aspects of Social Instability in *The Sun Also Rise***

*The Sun Also Rises* is Hemingway's first novel, and is the first work that made him gain a prestigious fame among writers worldwide, not only because it is a reflection of the roaring twenties and a vision of an era given by an eye witness, but also a prototype of the modernist novel, full of new techniques and a new style of writing.

The amount of carelessness and loss that is found in every detail in the novel drew my attention, a disillusionment within the characters; their speech, their different and changing states of being, their behaviours, in the themes offered by the writer, and in the language of the writer himself. All these elements can be covered under the term "Social Instability".

So as to better explain the theme of this research, I divide this chapter into three elements, first: the analysis of the characters, second: some of the themes offered by the author, and third: the analysis of the author's language, style and techniques. By this, I intend to bring forward the social instability that lay within the novel.

To start with, it is crucial to define a very important term that makes up the core of this paper which is “Social Instability”.

According to the Cambridge dictionary, social is an adjective describing something of or relating to society and its organization, and instability is the lack of stability or the state of being unstable.

By combining the two terms it forms the following meaning: the lack of stability in the way society is organised, or in other words it is the disequilibrium in the social state of individuals or the whole society. By looking back at the different events that occurred during the roaring twenties, we have more understanding of the ways that led to this instability such as, the trauma of the First World War, the disillusionment, and the sudden shift in all aspects of life, either in the USA or Europe, this caused an imbalance which affected all the aspects of life of the individuals of the era. These elements are well explained in Ernest Hemingway’s novel *The Sun Also Rises*.

## **Part One**

### **1-Analyses of the Main Characters**

#### **A-Jacob Barnes**

He is the novel’s narrator and main character called Jake. Jake is an American expatriate who “lost touch with the soil” (100), he lives in Paris where he works as a Journalist.

Jake participated in the Great War where he met with Brett Ashley who was working as a nurse and fell in love with her. Unfortunately he was injured, and the injury caused him to be impotent. His impotence consumed his life. He is emotionally devastated and feels lost, he believes that his life has no meaning, when Cohn asked him “don’t you ever get the feeling that all your life is going by and you’re not taking advantage of it? Do you realize you’ve lived nearly half the time you have to live already?” Jake answers “[y]es every once in a while” (9). Through this answer we directly understand that Jake is not living but rather surviving, he sees his life passing by and time running without being able to do anything.

The war seems haunting his life, leaving unfinished emotional effects reinforced and always revived by his eternal physical disability. By this, he lost the love of his life who did not accept him as an impotent person though she loves him, this resulted in his disillusionment.

Charles M. Oliver explains this in his book *Critical Companion to Ernest Hemingway* as follows:

Jake’s sexual “problems” can be attributed at least in part to what is now referred to as “post-traumatic stress disorder”, a psychological reaction to his wounds that might be blamed as much as the actual wound itself for his inability to fulfil his sexual role.” (350)

It is obvious then that the psychological effects of the war upon Jake’s loss can never be underestimated, because they are not at all less important than his physical injury.

The fact of being impotent caused him to lose control of his own life, he does not know how to manage it, in addition to this, he seems losing interest in living, because he does not know the way life is lived, he says “ I did not care what was all about” speaking about the world, “all I wanted to know was how to live in it”, and even the past form of the verb “wanted” signifies much, because it means that he used to look for a way to live, he “wanted” to find a way to embrace life, and now in the present he has no more want of this. Neil Heims in the book *Critical Insights: Ernest Hemingway* describes Jake as “a man haunted by a shadow of life” (158).

Jake feels insecure in his life, he confesses to Cohn that he is “through worrying” he seems worried about everything but death “it’s one thing I don’t worry about” (10).

This is a very important element that make up the lost generation, Jake among them, he worries about life, but not about death, this alone is sufficient to explain to what extent he is tired of his situation as an unstable, lost, and disillusioned individual. His incapacity of being with Brett and building a family, and being socially stable resulted scare of living, this is because he sees his future as mysterious, unrevealed and unclear due to his state of being, he simply sees himself going nowhere.

Another proof of his social instability and disillusionment is when he accompanied the prostitute Georgette one night, only because “it would be nice to eat with someone” (14), even more than this, he introduces her to his friends as being his fiancée, and when he met Brett at the bar and she asked him why he brought her, he answered simply by “bored”, as if all this was a kind of joke, or a pass time. As though he wanted some distraction from his own problems.

Furthermore, Jake tries to escape from the bitter reality of his unstable life through different means. First, through leaving his home country the USA, and living in Paris, though he knows well that “going to another country doesn’t make any difference.” Of course because he “tried all that” (10). After coming to Paris and going to Spain in the summertime, he tried to escape from reality he finally got to know that “you can’t get away from yourself by moving from one place to another.” (10).

Jake also sought refuge in alcohol, which is a constant companion to him and his friends, at home, at work, or during their days and nights out. Alcohol is always present everywhere in large quantities and they consume a lot of it, they think that it will make them feel better. Gertrude Stein makes a comment about this to Ernest Hemingway “All of you young people who served in the war” she said, “are a lost generation.... You have no respect for anything. You drink yourselves to death.” (qtd. in Oliver 349). Furthermore, even Jake’s spirituality is not stable, he says openly that he is a catholic, but admits that he is a “rotten catholic”. All this by no means reflects Jake’s moral, emotional, and social instability.

### **B- Brett Ashley**

Brett is a British woman, she is the female protagonist, and acquired her title “lady Ashley” from her husband from whom she is getting divorce. Brett contributed to the war, where she worked as a nurse and met Jake with whom she fell in love.

Lady Ashley is first introduced to us in a bal musette with a group of homosexuals, and she was dressed like a flapper. Jake described her as a stunning woman. Though she is beautiful and seems having fun and very happy, we become aware of her misery

on her first private conversation with Jake where she tells him that she has “been so miserable” (21). He is the only one to whom she reveals her feelings of insecurity and distress, he is always there for her like a guardian angel. Brett suffers so much because she cannot be with Jake despite the fact that she is the one who left him because he is sexually impotent. She is engaged to Mike Campbell and going to marry him after getting divorce. Brett before him was married to a British aristocrat as I already mentioned and has had a child with him, their matrimonial life was unstable as he was torturing her, and menacing to kill her. With him she lived a real horror, this is why she left him and her child.

During the course of her life, she gets involved in many relations with different men, she is in fact not a faithful woman and this is another reason that made her quit Jake “I’d just *tromper* you with everybody” (48). James Nagel view Brett as a “representation of a sexually liberated freethinking woman” and “an embodiment of what became known as the “new woman”” (92), and this is what she really is. She cannot bear the domestic life, and the responsibilities it results, she rather prefer to be single and free but unfortunately unstable. It is true that the “new woman” of the Roaring Twenties is seeking to build her personal life and her own career independently away from men, a thing that was unusual, Wendy Wagner explained this

In short, the new woman rebelled against patriarchal marriage and, protesting against a social order that was rooted in female biology, she refused to play the role of the ethereal other. Since her demands for personal fulfillment suggested a need for new emotional arrangements, they were seen as threatening the social order. (68)

But Brett wants to be free not the positive kind of freedom that may allow her to build a professional career for instance, but the kind of freedom that will allow her to have relations with many male partners, constantly drink alcohol...etc. without any restrictions. This reflects the state of confusion in which she is living, this is what led to her instability, emotional, moral, and social, “in the ultimate sense of the word, Brett is lost.” (Alridge 125)

On their gatherings Brett is the only woman, and the centre of interest, everybody is attracted to her, first Cohn with whom she goes on sojourn to San Sebastian after only a couple days of meeting him to come back then to welcome her fiancée.

She allowed herself to be treated as an object especially by Mike, who on several occasions called her “a thing”, “isn’t she a lovely piece?” (69), and he repeats this many times.

In Spain We see Brett very enthusiastic towards the crowdie fiesta, and more passionate for the bullfights where she meets a young bullfighter called Pedro Romero and falls in love with him from first sight, and by the end of the fiesta they go together to Madrid. After a short time, she wrote to Mike asking him to come and take her, when he arrived they had a conversation where many things are revealed. For the first time we see Brett so vulnerable that she quitted her beloved young matador. Romero was ashamed of her because she was one of the daring new women that shocked the society with both her look and behaviour, in addition to this he was asking her to grow her hair the thing that she would never do. By this Brett proved that she would never bear the domestic life even if with a man she loves so much, she rejected his offer for

marriage because of the simple fact that it would draw limits to her and restrictions “He wanted to make it sure I could never go away from him. After I’d gotten more womanly, of course.” (212). Through this we understand that Brett does not look for stability, but rather she prefers to be single or with Mike “he’s my sort of thing” (213) because he gives her freedom and free her from responsibility. Watkins Fulton said that “Brett is one of Hemingway’s richest female characters; her personality gradually emerges as an intriguing mix of femininity and masculinity, strength and vulnerability, morality and dissolution” (Fulton 61).

### **C- Robert Cohn**

The novel starts by introducing Robert Cohn who is a middle weight box champion, who did choose to box only to reduce his feeling of “inferiority and shyness” (3), at school because of the fact that he is a Jew, he a friendly person who reads too much. He did not make up his wealth by himself, but it was a heritage from his father, and then from his mother. At Princeton, he was a very sympathetic person but this “made him bitter” (4)

Cohn got married a marriage that did not last for more than five years, and it resulted in three children. He was not happy with his wife, so he decided to leave her, but she left him before he does. He then became in a relation with a “very forceful” (4) woman who would not give him a chance to rule his own life, she builds around him restrictions that he accepts blindly. Contrary to what Jake described, Cohn (as having confidence, which he dislikes), Cohn seems very weak, indecisive and let people intervene in his life.

He is lost and not controlling his own life, when for example Frances decided that they should move to Paris he did not object to her decision though he does not “care for Paris” (10), and when he wanted to go to South America he needed to take Jake with him, like a child who needs to be accompanied, and most importantly he could not start his trip, though he is so enthusiastic about it “all my life I’ve wanted to go on a trip like that”, and possess all means to start “you can go anywhere you want. You’ve got plenty of money.” But he simply “can’t get started” (8-9).

He is a person who read too much as Jake described him, and it is clear that he is influenced by things he read and the direction of his dream trip is the evidence, because it is the setting of one of the books he read, the romantic novel of W. H. Hudson *The Purple Land*. Jackson Benson describes him as Don Quixote (Benson 51), because he still believe in romance and chivalric deeds especially with Brett, he stuck to her as if he is a hero protecting his beloved, unconscious that these things belong to the past and no more exist. Cohn is a pathetic character who is not welcome in the group; he is an outcast that doesn’t want to leave the group even if he knows that he is unwanted. He is very reluctant in everything he does. When Cohn falls in love with Brett and spends with her some days in San Sebastian, he could not accept the fact that she was not in love with him, and still want to meet her in Pamplona even if she was to be accompanied by her fiancé Mike. During all the period of their staying he is constantly following Brett everywhere, and this irritated her and angered Mike, who on several times asked him to go away because he is not wanted.

We see that Cohn also like the other characters is not stable, he deludes himself many times that he is in love but he finally discovers that he does not. His is in constant

neurosis concerning his career as a writer, his life, and the fact that he is a Jew made him behave in such a way that everybody dislike him and annoyed at his presence, Neil Heims went further by describing Cohn as:

Jake's dark shadow and his unwanted double, the secret self he has disciplined himself not to reveal. He is Jake as a failure, as an outcast, and stripped of the grace and irony that protect the integrity of his sensibility despite his sexual incapacity. Cohn is the man Jake does not want to be who does what Jake wishes to do and cannot do. Cohn does what Jake is too disciplined to do and would not. From the opening sentence, Cohn haunts the book. Like a foul specter he disturbs everyone else's experience. (158-159).

#### **D- Michael Campbell**

He is a Scottish War veteran, and the fiancé of Brett Ashley, he is ridiculed by Brett since his first appearance, she introduces him to Bill as a "drunkard" (69), and she describes this as "disgraceful" (71). Mike does not work, he is rather bankrupt and many people owe him money. His financial instability creates a kind of pressure on him and he manifests this tension in drinking a lot of alcohol. Mike talk more freely when he is drunk, like when he asks Jake if he and Brett could join him in his trip to Spain, he remarks that he is a "little tight" and says, "I wouldn't ask you like this if I weren't." (71)

Mike suffers much because of Brett's infidelity and is tortured by her public betrayal while he is loyal to her. He gives her total freedom, but all he receives is deception. In addition to this, Robert's constant chasing of Brett makes him very angry, this is what pushes him to berate him publically, asks him to go away because

he is not wanted around. This is why he takes refuge in alcohol, so as to take things easily, and have enough audacity to speak out his grief and sorrow. Wolfgang Rudat thinks that, “Hemingway makes it clear that Mike’s deterioration, psychological as well as physical, has something to do with Brett.” (Rudat 305)

### **E-Bill Gorton**

Bill is also an American war veteran, but not an expatriate; he is Jake’s best friend. He is the only one who does not have an affair with Brett. Bill works in many ways as a therapy for Jake, first because Jake opens up to him about his love to Brett, and about his impotence, and then because he is his companion to such a peaceful place as the Irati River. Where they have conversations about nature and religion, they even call each other brother. Even during the fiesta in Pamplona, his presence is healthful because he is the only one who does not involve himself in problems.

Bill loves so much to drink Alcohol, and mocks the expatriates who in his opinion “lost touch with the soil”, they became drunkards, obsessed with sex, and spend their time in cafés (100). Contrary to him who still lives in New York, and during his conversations with Jake he refers to the Anti-saloon league, to Henry Ford, to president Calvin Coolidge...etc. He satirizes religion, especially on their way to Burguete where the priests have the privilege to eat in the first class, a thing that angered him so much.

As it can be perceived, all the aforementioned “characters have in common a sense of loss – of purpose, of meaning, of permanence and connection- that was widely experienced in the West in the years between the World Wars” (Bloom, *Ernest Hemingway’s The Sun Also Rises* 20). Their experiences in the war and the shift that occurred after it ended made them lose their destinations, they keep moving from one place to another; from a café to another,

from one nightclub to another, from one country to another, even from one person to another. Even Cohn who exemplifies in this those who did not fight or contribute in the war go through the very same situation, days and nights of drinking and dancing, yet no one of them succeeds in reaching happiness or self-satisfaction. Fulton thinks,

In this story that he considered [Hemingway] a tragedy, everyone celebrates but no one finds true happiness. Through the seemingly pointless pursuit of pleasure, each character searches for meaning in a post-war world that denies the possibility of any sort of meaning” (61).

Through the analysis of the characters who embodies the lost generation, we see a clear disequilibrium in their moral state, the thing that is manifested in their lives. They all share a sense of loss and disillusionment, which made them socially unstable.

## **Part Two**

### **Themes**

#### **A- The Depiction of Gender**

*The Sun Also Rises* is Ernest Hemingway’s most striking novel; it has a different way of depicting men and women “this role reversal reflects the changing definition of gender in the jazz age” (Martin 75) which was affected by the changes that occurred during the period, changes in the behaviours of individuals, on their moral values and on the way they see life in the modern years of the 1920s.

First, we see Cohn an unconfident man, who feels inferior due to his Jewishness. He got married with “the first girl who was nice to him” (4), he lived an unhappy life with

his wife and was indecisive whether to leave her or not because he thought it was too cruel to deprive her of himself". When he finally made up his mind to leave her, she simply escaped with another man. After this failed experience, Cohn "had been taken in hand" by another woman who was "very forceful" and sought to take advantage of his money. She decided that both of them should leave the United States and reside in Paris, and so they did. Frances is the one who took control of their life when this is generally a mission attributed to men, or at least a partial job divided between the companions.

After two years of careless and exploitative attitude of Frances towards Cohn, the lady decided that he must marry her. On one of the astonishing scenes at the beginning of the novel when Jake, Cohn and Frances were having dinner, Jake proposes to them to go to Strasbourg, and once he mentions that he knows a girl who would show them the region, he is kicked under the table by Cohn, for the reason that there is a girl that might get involved in their trip, the thing that would anger Frances, and that she would never accept another woman around Cohn. This reveals the amount of unnecessary limits and restrictions Frances put on Cohn, and how much Cohn was afraid of her reaction.

When Cohn decides to leave Frances because he discovers that he could not marry her, he cries and begs her to leave him, which is not a manly behaviour, and before she does, she makes sure she takes a good amount of money and delivers a long speech in the presence of Jake. After a while, Robert Cohn falls in love with Brett and they take some days off alone in San Sebastian, and after a short time Brett leaves him because he is so pathetic.

Moreover Jake is also in love with Brett, but she rejects him because of his impotence, she also betrays her fiancé Mike on several occasions even though he is very committed to their relationship. As I previously said Brett is a portrait of the new woman, she likes to party and drink, she surprisingly loves bullfighting though it is full of cruel scenes where innocent animals are killed.

Wendy Martin puts it in other words, “In *The Sun Also Rises*, men cry and women swear” she gave the example of Brett Ashley who “aggressively expresses her sexual desires, while her lovers wait to be chosen; she likes action – noisy public gatherings, large parties, the blood and gore of the bullfight– whereas the men appreciate the pleasure of sipping brandy in quiet café.” (Martin Wendy 75).

We see also betraying women, starting from Cohn’s first wife who left him, and then to Brett who is disloyal to her fiancé, and Georgette who throws her self on Jake and on every other man. This moral decay is to be found almost everywhere in the novel, shocking behaviour, loss of values, and the trespassing of the traditional conservative American ethics.

Even Hemingway’s mother disapproved of this, after reading the novel, Grace Hall Hemingway commented on it saying, “Why does he want to write about such vulgar people and such messy subjects? With the whole world full of beauty, why does he have to pick out thoughts and words from the gutter? ... I can’t stand filth!” (qtd.inBenson 20).

This response of Hemingway's mother explain a lot about the conservative values of their community, especially in Oak Park, a country side where values were still highly spread, and people were committed to ethics and most of all religion.

## **B- Religion**

Religion was a centre of debate during the roaring twenties because of the war and the disasters it brought, and then due to the globalization the Americans attained which drew them into new habits, and dictated to them a new lifestyle, what made them detached from their traditional values and religious standards, this resulted the raise of fundamentalists who tried in a radical way to preserve their religion.

Hemingway himself was brought up in a religious conservative community, in Oak Park. In his work *The Sun Also Rises*, he explored the theme of religion, sometimes explicitly, and other times implicitly i.e. we find that his novel is full of either direct references or allusions to religion since the very beginning.

The title itself is drawn from the second epigraph of the novel which signifies quite a lot about the vanity of life, the latter is in fact extracted from Ecclesiastes:

One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth forever... The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to the place where he arose... The wind goeth towards the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits... All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from where the rivers come, thither they return again.

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This extract in fact reflect so much the mentality of the lost generation, it explains that life is pointless, because simply people died and were replaced by others, and it is the same for them, they will die with no hope to come back and they will be replaced by others, and life goes on, this is why we see a sense of carelessness within the characters (as a reflection of the lost generation of the Roaring Twenties). They consider their lives as worthless and having no meaning, this is why they do things without assuming responsibilities or even take risks without having any idea about the consequences of their decisions, like Brett who engages to Mike and is not committed to their relationship, or flee with a young Spanish matador whom she barely knows, he tries to manipulate her, and by the end she left him.

When the story starts, the first religion he refers to is Judaism, as the religion of Cohn, the first character we are introduced to, but not a simple reference but as a source of inferiority and shame to him. Throughout the novel we see that he is rejected, condemned, and criticized because he is a Jew, though he is kind and friendly no one can stand him. This anti-Semitic point of view is to be found throughout the novel within all the characters, as an integral part of the story itself. The term “Jew” is used always in negative contexts, and Cohn is the illustration of everything bad. He lacks manhood because he is over emotional and he shows always his sufferings to people, and does not have the ability to hold them in, in addition to this he lives with chivalric values that no more exist.

Judaism is an important subject matter in the novel but is not the only one around which the novel evolves. Catholicism is also very important; it is the religion of Jake Barnes, though he is a “rotten Catholic”, we see that he gives much important to his spirituality. As many critics observed, the trip to Spain especially in the summertime is not at all an innocent reference in the novel because it is a direction of pilgrims; Stoneback argues that

[T]he fundamental structure of *The Sun Also Rises* is pilgrimage, that the movement of the novel from Paris to Bayonne to Roncevaux to Pamplona follows the route to Santiago de Compostela, and that Jake Barnes, who designs the journey, is the conscious pilgrim of the piece (08).

On their way to Spain they meet pilgrims and Bill criticizes them “Goddam puritans” (75) because they make of their religion a reason to be a priority in everything, even in eating.

They criticize their hypocrisy in that they represent fake values disguised under the cover of religion, Jake apparently does not belong to them because he is a catholic but does not eat with them. Even if Jake does not react against the criticism of Bill and accepts it, he does not give up his religion, he goes and prays in one of the churches in Spain, and says openly that he is a Catholic.

Even Brett Ashley who is the example of moral decadence and the absence of the least faith, wants to pray for the man she loves, but she expresses her disbelief in God, and describes herself as a person not made for religion and prayers, she affirms that prayer does not do anything for her (181). It is clear that the loss of religious values is a direct contributor to the sense of loss and instability of the characters. These lost religious values, made them lose hope in everything.

### **C- Disillusionment**

If religion is a cover for the fake values of fundamentalists, disillusionment is a characteristic attributed to the all the lost generation, it suits all the characters of the novel, the environment and all the period of the roaring twenties. This feeling spreads to influence people’s moral state and their lives private, personal, or social. It is considered as a legacy of

the First World War and Hemingway succeeded in reflecting disillusionment of his generation successfully through his first novel *The Sun Also Rises*.

We see Cohn who wanders in a city he does not appreciate, and cannot start the trip of his dreams because Jake refuses to accompany him. He is shocked because his first wife left him, and depressed because Brett is not in love with him. Even Jake is disillusioned, because of his impotence an injury caused by the war. Moreover, Jake is disillusioned also because he is always in contact with the woman he loves, but he cannot be with her.

Furthermore, Brett is one of the most disillusioned characters in the novel, her disillusionment is manifested in her love of partying, drinking alcohol, and most of all moving from one relationship to another. Her incapacity to take control over her life made her lost and not able to situate herself. She keeps hurting her fiancé, Mike, a person who is very committed to their relationship. This made him lose control of himself and drink a lot of alcohol, and bankrupt.

The lives of the characters treat their life as a kind of a game that has no value, the idea of “life is lived only once” emerged, making people do anything for the sake of pleasing themselves, or just try something new and this is one of the major reasons that made them disillusioned, and instable.

## **D- Materialism**

Besides disillusionment, Money is a very important element in the life of people; it is one of the key elements towards prosperity. The 1920s was a decade of economic flourishing in the United States, especially that the credit was available the thing that encouraged consumption. The American expatriates in Paris reflected this sense of development in their lives and works and Hemingway is one of them.

## Chapter Two *The Aspects of social instability in The Sun Also Rises*

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In *The Sun Also Rises* Ernest Hemingway refers explicitly to material or money, especially that “while *The Sun Also Rises* was written and published, the dollar value in France made it possible to live quite well in France on limited budgets.” (Wendy Martin 55). Money is a major concern for almost all the characters, Wendy Martin observed saying, “Hemingway gives considerable attention to financial matters in *The Sun Also Rises*” (53). Jake for instance works as a journalist and he is very committed to his work, both as a refuge from people, as well as a source of economic stability. He always refers to the cost of things, and pays his share. On the other, hand Cohn becomes an editor of a magazine thanks to his money, and a woman fell in love with him also thanks to his money, this reflects how only money can make a person important.

Wendy Martin makes a very important observation saying that “in this novel money and morality are closely intertwined” (72), this is why When Cohn decides to quit the woman with whom he lived for a long time, and promised to marry, paid her as a return for her staying with him, and more, as a thanks for leaving him. Jake also accompanies a prostitute and before leaving her, he left a sum of money for her. Moreover the count Mippipopolous asked Brett to go on a trip with him, and proposed to give her one thousand dollars in return, or In other words, he asks to rent her in exchange of an amount of money. But this time a new facet of Brett is revealed because she refuses to accompany him, and by this she showed some dignity. On the other hand, she is jobless and financially dependent on others, either on her fiancée Mike, or on her friends, this dependence is in fact one of the reasons of her loss and instability, because if a person cannot own his money, he can obviously never be independent, stable and most of all secure. An evidence of this is when Brett quitted her beloved Romero, she immediately contacted Jake, of course to lift up her moral condition, but we cannot deny that he also paid her everything, and after all that she confesses that she would go back to Mike, this is why “economic independence and psychological freedom are correlated”

(Martin Wendy 73). Even the concierge in Jake's residence changed her opinion about Brett and described her as "très, très gentille" and "of a very good family" (46) after disapproving of her because she visited Jake on a very late hour, this is because she handed her an amount of money, by this she literally bought her respect.

Furthermore, Harvey Stone, one of Jake's friends, is a gambler, and when he meets Jake, he is in a miserable situation because he does not have money, he has not eaten for two days, he describes how hard this situation is and says to Jake, "when I'm like this I just want to be alone, I want to stay in my own room. I'm like a cat." (37) This simply because he cannot handle his expenses. "The characters in *The Sun Also Rises* might all be seen to be morally measurable on the basis of whether they are wise enough to get their money's worth" (Aldridge, 124), they spend huge amounts of money on drinking a lot of alcohol, the count for instance confesses that he gets more value of his money in old brandy than in any other antiquities (54), he loves to spend his money on wine and partying.

## **Part Three**

### **Exploring the Author's Style**

Every literary movement has its own literary style and techniques that characterize it, and the latter are measured by the period and the social context. Ernest Hemingway is a modernist writer and is considered as a major contributor to the development of this movement through his startling literary works, among them *The Sun Also Rises*. In this novel, the author uses a wide range of techniques that work as a bridge towards a better understanding of the story, and the different themes that lie within. *The sun Also Rises* is a novel that reflects the roaring twenties even through its writing style.

## *Chapter Two The Aspects of social instability in The Sun Also Rises*

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The first mind-capturing thing for any reader to perceive is the use of an easy and plain language that extends even to the use of familiar expressions and slang words, this is not only used to attract readers or to make it easier to understand, but this language is a fact that is attributed to the generation of the 1920's, a moral decay, and a low education level, and as we see in this novel the author reflects these things even in the diction. This use of language has in fact a double effect upon the reading of the novel because it carries two meanings, the one which is direct and reflect only the words on pages, and another deeper meaning that lurks between the lines, Jeffery Hart describes the novel as “a tricky affair, full of traps for the unwary, full, indeed, of a special kind of malice” (557). This malice leads us to one of the defining characteristics of Hemingway's style, which is “the Iceberg technique” also known as “the theory of omission” or “minimalism”. This technique consists in saying a little yet meaning a lot, as in the novel, the author uses a minimalist style, he says not many things, but this economy of words reflects in itself a big deal. The writer says 1/8 of the story and leaves 7/8 hidden,so as to achieve this aim, he uses a set of other techniques such as symbolism.

Symbolism is of a big importance in the novel, the author uses a set of symbolic images so as to reflect the psychological state of the characters. Jacob's impotence for instance is one of the many examples, it symbolises the incapacity of all the lost generation embodied in the characters of the novel, their incapacity to cope with the shift that occurred after the war, and their incapacity to guide their lives to the right way, especially that both of them are results of the war.

So as to achieve the objective of minimalism the author also uses Irony which is according to Jackson Benson, “The root cause for much of the confusion and misjudgement is Hemingway's use of irony, which has been much more extensive and complex than most readers at first recognized—and more than some, filled with personal antagonism, were willing to recognize.” (187)

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William Dow thinks that irony is “indissociable from the problems of individual nature, self-knowledge, and self-expression” (180), this is embodied mainly in the character Bill Gorton who invites Jake to be ironical, which is one of the reasons that might make of him a good writer, but at last he could not. The scene in itself is ironical, Jake cannot be ironical because he is no more living in the United States, the thing that makes him be free in speaking without coding his speech, whereas Bill who still lives in The United States is ironical by excellence. This reflects the incapacity of the Americans to express themselves freely, due to the restrictions and censorship of art during the 1920’s in America, and this is in fact one of the reasons that led many artists to leave their country.

So as to achieve the highest level of effect upon the reader and reflect the instability of the characters, the author also uses a very important element which is short refracted sentences. For the shortness of the sentences is used to build a rhythm within the events of the novel, it helps to keep the story in motion, as it can also reflect a sense of absurdity in speech, in that people are tired, lost and do not want to disturb themselves, this is what makes them speak rapidly and deliberately without giving much importance to what they say.

Wonderful nigger. Looked like Tiger Flower, only four times as big. All of a sudden everybody started to throw things. Not me. Nigger’d just knocked local boy down. Nigger put up his glove. Wanted to make a speech. Then local white boy hit him. Then knocked white boy cold. Then everybody commented to throw chairs. Nigger went home with us in our car. Couldn’t get his clothes. Wore my coat. (62)

The refraction is used to reflect the loss of the whereabouts of the characters, their spiritual, and psychological tiredness, their indifference towards everything, even when Brett was asked by the Count why she does not finish her sentences, she simply answers: “Leave ’em for you

to finish. Let anyone finish them as they like” (51). She does definitely not care about what is understood from what she says, this is a common characteristic with irony, and Dow thinks that “Gorton is the novel’s best illustration that the ironic speaker is freed from responsibility for the hearer’s conclusion” (178). Furthermore, the instability can be understood also from the use of juxtaposition, at the beginning of the novel Cohn’s wife leaves him and escaped with another man, and this was described as a “healthful shock” (4), this is because Cohn wanted to quit her, but he did not want her to quit him, such mixed up feelings and thoughts are described by Juxtaposition. Another example is at the end of the fiesta which is described by Bill as “a wonderful nightmare”. The characters cannot even describe their own feelings, John Aldridge thinks that:

Hemingway managed through his complex artistry to use words in such a way that we are indeed allowed to see past them and to glimpse the outlines of the mysterious and probably tragic advantage that the words were not quite able to conceal.” (129)

By this we are inclined to the fact that the techniques and the style of the author are crucial for the understanding of the story, because it provides us with half of the understanding. All the different techniques used in *The Sun Also Rises* reflect by no means the sense of loss of destination, of hope and of any reason to live correctly.

Through the different techniques that Ernest Hemingway uses in *The Sun Also Rises*, he invites us to be active readers and to contribute to the creation of different readings for his work by deciphering the coded language, provided that we keep an eye for the heart of the story and not divert from it.

## **Conclusion**

Through the analysis of the main characters, some of the themes and some of the techniques used by the Ernest Hemingway in *The Sun Also Rises*, we come to know that social instability reign in the lives of the characters who are themselves an embodiment of the lost generation.

## *General Conclusion*

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Through the Novel *the Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway draws the image of the roaring twenties so as to be felt even by the coming generations. The author succeeds by excellence in bringing forward the problems of the lost generation, so when we look at the different events that occurred this period, from the war to the early and middle 1920s, we feel that the novel mirrors these historical events and the atmosphere prevailing at that time.

The theme of social instability is not explicit in the novel, it needs the analyses of different features. As I did all along this paper, we needed first to explore The United States during the Roaring Twenties because it is the home country of the writer, and because it is the one that affected him. As I previously mentioned, the American expatriates took their ideas and ideals from the United States to Paris. And the legacy of the War upon their country gave them material to write works such as *The Sun Also Rises*.

Throughout this study, we become acquainted with the different events that occur during the 1920s, and we understand more how the shift in all aspects of life in The United States made the generation that lived during this era shocked and lost. They could not live their own lives peacefully and wholesomely. As the members of the lost generation, the characters of *The Sun Also Rises* wander in the world without purpose or aim, they find themselves living in a world different from the one in which they are raised.

Besides the analysis of the characters, their aimlessness, lost values, emptiness, and the absence of familial entourage, the different themes triggered our reflection on the sense of social instability that impregnates the novel.

Ernest Hemingway makes this point clearer through his style. The language used by the characters is as staggering and as meaningless as their juxtaposed unclear thoughts. Moreover, they do not give sound, reliable, satisfactory point of view which again enhance their loss and

instability. This is what makes the novel unique: a combination of queer, unstable characters speaking in an unreliable language in a style reflecting both their mental states and that of a whole...lost generation.

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## Abstract

This Paper explores the aspects of social instability in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. The novel is a reflection of the lost generation, it depicts the characters as lost, disillusioned, and unstable. This study aims at detecting the aspects of social instability that lie within this novel. To achieve this purpose, we define first the term social instability, and then we carry on by analysing the main characters, some of the themes, and the author's style. By examining all these elements we are introduced to a new feature of *The Sun Also Rises* which is the aspects of social instability.

**Keywords:** Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, Social instability, Moral decay, disillusionment, loss.