



## **THE ROLE OF “TO HAVE OR HAVE NOT” IN HEMINGWAY’S LITERARY LEGACY**

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***ABSRTACT:*** *This article looks into why Ernest Hemingway’s book To Have and Have Not matters when talking about all his work. People usually think of Hemingway as writing about war, what it means to be a man, and big questions about life. But this book stands out because it talks straight about issues like how unfair society was, money problems, and how things weren’t always black and white during the Great Depression. This study says To Have and Have Not was a turning point for Hemingway. It shows how he started using his books to talk about what was wrong with society and politics. We will see this by looking at the way he wrote, how the characters change, and what the book focuses on.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Ernest Hemingway was a big deal in the 20th century. Lots of folks think he’s one of the most important writers ever because he had his own unique style. He wrote in a way that was short and simple, but also showed that he understood what people were really like inside. He was good at getting across how complicated people are.

Hemingway mostly wrote about how war messed people up, how life was during and after World War II, and trying to figure out who you are while still doing what’s right. His books often deal with stuff like what’s important in life, war, love, death, and being brave.



The book *To Have and Have Not* is special in Hemingway's career. It really shows what he thought about politics and society. It's about how people struggled during the Great Depression in America, worrying about money, feeling lost spiritually, and dealing with a whole bunch of social problems. The book paints a clear if grim of picture of this.

This article explores how *To Have and Have Not* is different from Hemingway's usual stuff, but also how it still feels like him. We're trying to figure out how this book changed the way people saw him as a writer.

### **METHODS**

This research uses a way of looking at literature that involves reading closely and thinking about the context. *To Have and Have Not* is looked at not just as a story, but as something that was influenced by what was going on in America in the 1930s, politically and economically. The main thing is to look at how Hemingway uses language, how the characters change, how the story is told, and what the themes are. We're paying attention to how all these things talk about bigger issues in society.

Besides looking at the text itself, the study also uses information about Hemingway's life and what he believed during that time between the wars. It also looks at what other experts have said about him. To see how things changed, we will compare this book to his earlier works, like *A Farewell to Arms* and *The Sun Also Rises*. This helps us see where *To Have and Have Not* fits into Hemingway's development as a writer.

We're also using ideas from political science and history to understand what was happening underneath the surface during the Great Depression. This helps us get a deeper understanding of the book. Using all these methods lets us see how the novel played a part in changing how people saw Hemingway, beyond just being a war writer.

### **RESULTS**

Exploring *To Have and Have Not* shows that it was a big shift for Hemingway. It changed what he focused on and how he dealt with social and political issues. People often think of Hemingway as writing about being brave,



toughing things out, and facing life's big questions, especially when it comes to war. But this book is something else. It's more about criticizing society, based on the unfairness of different classes and the economic mess of the Great Depression.

One of the most interesting things we found is how Hemingway uses Harry Morgan to show how things aren't always morally clear. Morgan isn't a hero like the characters in his earlier books. He's a guy who's struggling and does illegal stuff because he has to, not because he's a bad person. This shows that Hemingway was starting to think about how things like poverty, class problems, and feeling let down can change how people act and make them question what's right. The story, set in Key West and Havana, shows how much structural inequality can cost people.

Another important thing is how Hemingway played around with the way he told the story. Instead of telling it in a straight line, from one point of view, he switches between first-person and third-person. This reflects how messed up society was at the time. It was a time when it was hard to tell what was right and wrong, and you needed to see things from different angles to really get how much people were suffering and how unfair things were. Through this way of telling the story, Hemingway gets across how confused people were in a society that was falling apart, as well as the thoughts of one person.

Also, the book is much more critical of rich people than his earlier books. The yacht owners and rich tourists seem distant and don't care about the suffering of people like Morgan. By showing how worried they are about unimportant things compared to the desperation of the working class, Hemingway criticizes the excesses of capitalism and makes readers think about what it really means to be successful, have dignity, and survive.

Finally, this book shows that Hemingway could write about politics. To Have and Have Not makes you wonder whether the American Dream is really possible and whether the systems that support it are fair. It suggests that being morally upright is a luxury only people who don't have to worry about money can afford. This idea is key to both the book and Hemingway's work as a whole.





## **DISCUSSION**

Looking at *To Have and Have Not* shows that Hemingway changed the way he wrote. It makes people rethink the idea that he only wrote about war and facing big questions about life. This book shows that he was becoming more aware of what was wrong with society and the economic realities. The shift from focusing on internal, psychological struggles to external, systemic pressures marks a turning point in Hemingway's career. It means we can't fully understand his work without considering this socio-political side.

Harry Morgan's moral ambiguity shows that Hemingway was becoming more skeptical of traditional heroes. Hemingway presents a character whose actions are driven by the need to survive in tough economic times, rather than being someone who is always honest or has high ideals. This complexity shows a deeper understanding of how people are shaped by their social circumstances, rather than just having fixed personal qualities. Morgan's choices show how external factors can limit what people can do and make readers feel for his moral compromises. This kind of character development enriches Hemingway's writing and establishes him as a more socially conscious author than people usually give him credit for.

The book's political importance is boosted by its critical look at wealth and class inequality. Hemingway subtly criticizes the economic systems that keep inequality going by portraying rich characters as uncaring. Historical accounts of the Depression era, when there was a lot of poverty alongside flashy displays of wealth, support this theme. *To Have and Have Not* connects a personal story with a broader economic critique in this way, making it both a piece of literature and a social commentary.

Importantly, the novel's subtle questioning of the American Dream shows that Hemingway had mixed feelings about the common beliefs of the time. The dream of moving up in the world and being successful is shown to be only available to a privileged few, while most people struggle in a world of moral and material uncertainty. This critique makes Hemingway's legacy more complicated, painting him not just as someone who told stories of individual heroism but as someone who



saw the failures of society. It asks people today to look at his works from a socio-political point of view, appreciating how his stories deal with lasting questions of fairness, survival, and identity.

### **CONCLUSION**

To Have and Have Not occupies a vital position in Ernest Hemingway's literary legacy by expanding the thematic and stylistic boundaries of his work. The book looks at things like unfairness in society, money problems, and when right and wrong get messy, which shows a side of Hemingway people don't always see. By talking about politics and what's wrong with society along with his normal way of writing, Hemingway makes his stories about people and staying alive even better. So, this book makes us think that Hemingway isn't just about war or writing as little as possible. He was also a smart writer who cared about society, and that's why his books are still great to read and talk about now.

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