
Post Hindu India By Kancha Ilaiah

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By
Kancha
Ilaiah* 2024-04-19

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*Buddha's
Challenge to
Brahminism*
Popular
Prakashan

In the present socio-political scenario of India, Dalits have emerged as a major force in the

electoral arena and politically mobilising them has almost become a compulsion for all political parties. Fascinating Hindutva: Saffron Politics and Dalit Mobilisation is a deconstruction of the fascinating tactics used by the Hindutva forces to politically mobilise Dalits. Based on original empirical data from extensive field work in UP and Bihar, the

book documents how the Hindutva forces are adept at digging out the myths, memories and legends of Dalit castes that are popular at the local level and reinterpreting them in a Hinduised way. They project the heroes of these myths and popular folk narratives either as brave Indian warriors who protected the Hindu religion and culture from the Muslim invaders of

the medieval period, or as reincarnations of Lord Rama, so as to link the myths of these Dalit castes with the unified Hindu meta-narrative. The author has also tried to deconstruct the making of the 'popular' in the North Indian rural society and investigate the communal elements induced in it. Interestingly, the author argues that this reinterpretation of the past serves as a powerful cultural

capital for the Dalit communities, who use it, on the one hand, to seek acceptance from the upper caste Hindus by glorifying their caste position and, on the other, to subvert the dominance of the upper castes. The book will interest a wide readership including students, academicians and researchers in the fields of History, Political Science, Anthropology and South Asian Studies, as well as political activists. *From a Shepherd Boy to an Intellectual* Pearson Education India In two volumes, the SAGE Handbook of Social Anthropology provides the definitive overview of contemporary research in the discipline. It explains the what, where, and how of current and anticipated work in Social Anthropology. With 80 authors, contributing more than 60 chapters, this is the most comprehensive and up-to-date statement of research in Social Anthropology available and the essential point of departure for future projects. The Handbook is divided into four sections: -Part I: Interfaces examines Social Anthropology's disciplinary connections, from Art and Literature to Politics and Economics,

from Linguistics to Biomedicine, from History to Media Studies. -Part II: Places examines place, region, culture, and history, from regional, area studies to a globalized world -Part III: Methods examines issues of method; from archives to war zones, from development projects to art objects, and from ethics to comparison - Part IV: Futures anticipates anthropologies to come: in the Brain Sciences; in post-Development; in the Body and Health; and in new Technologies and Materialities Edited by the leading figures in social anthropology, the Handbook includes a substantive introduction by Richard Fardon, a think piece by Jean and John Comaroff, and a concluding last word on futures by Marilyn Strathern. The authors - each at the leading edge of the discipline - contribute in-depth chapters on both the foundational ideas and the latest research. Comprehensive and detailed, this magisterial Handbook overviews the last 25 years of the social anthropological imagination. It will speak to scholars in Social Anthropology and its many related disciplines. *My Memoirs* SAGE Publications India Hinduism is

one of the world's oldest and greatest religious traditions. In captivating prose, Shashi Tharoor untangles its origins, its key philosophical concepts and texts. He explores everyday Hindu beliefs and practices, from worship to pilgrimage to caste, and touchingly reflects on his personal beliefs and relationship with the religion. Not one to shy from controversy, Tharoor is unsparing in

his criticism of 'Hindutva', an extremist, nationalist Hinduism endorsed by India's current government. He argues urgently and persuasively that it is precisely because of Hinduism's rich diversity that India has survived and thrived as a plural, secular nation. If narrow fundamentalism wins out, Indian democracy itself is in peril. *A Discourse in Dalit-Bahujan, Socio-Spiritual and Scientific*

Revolution
Popular Prakashan
An engrossing and definitive narrative account of history and myth that offers a new way of understanding one of the world's oldest major religions, The Hindus elucidates the relationship between recorded history and imaginary worlds. Hinduism does not lend itself easily to a strictly chronological account: many of its central texts

cannot be reliably dated even within a century; its central tenets karma, dharma, to name just two arise at particular moments in Indian history and differ in each era, between genders, and caste to caste; and what is shared among Hindus is overwhelmingly outnumbered by the things that are unique to one group or another. Yet the greatness of Hinduism - its vitality, its earthiness, its

vividness - lies precisely in many of those idiosyncratic qualities that continue to inspire debate today. Wendy Doniger is one of the foremost scholars of Hinduism in the world. With her inimitable insight and expertise Doniger illuminates those moments within the tradition that resist forces that would standardize or establish a canon. Without reversing or misrepresenti

ng the historical hierarchies, she reveals how Sanskrit and vernacular sources are rich in knowledge of and compassion toward women and lower castes; how they debate tensions surrounding religion, violence, and tolerance; and how animals are the key to important shifts in attitudes toward different social classes. The Hindus brings a fascinating

multiplicity of actors and stories to the stage to show how brilliant and creative thinkers - many of them far removed from Brahmin authors of Sanskrit texts - have kept Hinduism alive in ways that other scholars have not fully explored. In this unique and authoritative account, debates about Hindu traditions become platforms from which to consider the ironies, and overlooked epiphanies, of

history.
Methods and Perspectives in the Sociology of India SAGE Publications India
 Kanha Ilaiah, the author of the best selling book *Why I am Not a Hindu*, pens a thought-provoking critique of Brahmanism and the caste system in India, while anticipating the death of Hinduism as a direct consequence of, what he says is, its anti-scientific and anti-nationalistic stand. This

work challenges Hinduism's interpretation of history, with a virulent attack on caste politics, and also takes a refreshing look at the necessity of encouraging indigenous scientific thought for the sake of national progress. It establishes Hinduism as a `backward` religion that suppresses the latent scientific and productive potential of the Dalit-Bahujan communities. The author

says this oppressive system of spiritual fascism is detrimental to both the future of religion and the nation-state. He thus criticizes the idea of spiritual justice or varnadharma, used to justify the caste system, as rooted in spiritual inequality. On a micro-analytical level, it is based on a thorough study of the productive knowledge systems of the Dalit-Bahujan

communities of Andhra Pradesh, and provides a detailed day-to-day analysis of the scientific technological processes and events at work in the life of a member of these communities. On a macro level, it shows how Hinduism fails to negotiate between faith and reason, unlike other major religions of the world. Kancha Ilaiah critiques the intellectual imagination of the dominant communities

and inspires the marginalized. In the process of doing so he crafts a work of immense socio-political interest which appeals to academics, and also to all those who are concerned about contemporary India's polity and social fabric.

Diaspora and Belief

India Viking
 'Caste is Race in Ancient Times, Race is Caste in Modern Times, Untouchability is an Aryan Construct. They said God has not

created Untouchables. ' Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd goes on to say, 'Many people from the Brahmin-Baniya castes have written about their own greatness in their autobiographies, in English and in the regional languages. But I have not seen even a single autobiography of a person born and brought up in the shepherd community'. He adds that it is in writing about themselves

that people gain a sense of self-respect. Shepherd's evocative memoirs reveal the struggle for education and dignity that a great majority of Indians undergo. As a little boy herding sheep and goats, he and his brother were the first to go to school. The author writes of his long and often interrupted journey to becoming a writer and an intellectual, without support and having to

overcome adversities.

Ancient Hindu Science SAGE Publications Pvt. Limited
In this provocative and scholarly book, Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd propounds a view of Gautama Buddha as India's first social revolutionary. Buddha did his best to give the principles of tribal democracy and egalitarianism a sanctuary in his own sangha. In so doing, he

foreshadowed modern India's experiment with parliamentary democracy. Critical of the caste system, Buddha inducted low caste members into the sangha and made them his trusted advisers. He gave women an honoured place in the sangha. Dissent was indeed permitted, and even Buddha was not above the law. Pre-dating Socrates and Plato by some

years, Buddha also foreshadowed key elements of their philosophy. **Buddha's Challenge to Brahminism** Culture, Place, and Nature Post-Hindu IndiaA Discourse in Dalit-Bahujan, Socio-Spiritual and Scientific RevolutionSAGE Publications India *A Sudra Critique of Hindutva Philosophy, Culture and Political Economy* SAGE Publishing India In this provocative

and scholarly book, Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd propounds a view of Gautama Buddha as India's first social revolutionary. Buddha did his best to give the principles of tribal democracy and egalitarianism a sanctuary in his own sangha. In so doing, he foreshadowed modern India's experiment with parliamentary democracy. Critical of the caste system,

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An Alternative History

University Press of America In The Burgeoning Study Of Globalization The Study Of Religion Has Been Sorely Neglected. Yet Despite The Inroads Of Modernization, The Societies Of South, Southeast And East Asia Remain Deeply Permeated By Religion. Issues Of Identity, Cultural Politics And Citizenship Are All Fundamentally Influenced By Religious Affiliation. This Volume

Explores The Relationship Between Globalization And Religion In Contemporary Post-Colonial Asia - A Situation In Which New Found Political And Cultural Autonomy, Far From Leading To The Widespread Secularization Predicted By Many A Generation Ago, Has Stimulated The Flourishing Of Both Traditional And New Forms Of Religious Expression. This Study

Examines The Interplay Between History, The Contemporary Consumer Capitalism And Its Attendant Forms Of Popular Culture That Are Making Inroads All Over Asia, And The Deeply Held Religious Beliefs And Institutional Memberships On Which Many National, Regional And Local Identities Still Fundamentally Depend And Which Set Up The Complex Social, Cultural And	Personal Negotiations And Revisionings That Arise When Tradition Meets Globalization. In A World Of Increasing Religious Polarization Signaled By The Putative Clash Of Civilizations , The Exploration Of These Dynamics Is Empirically And Politically Important And Also Holds Many Implications For The Field Of Cultural Studies As A Whole, East And West.	<i>The Shudras</i> Penguin Random House India Private Limited The Shudras echoes Dr Ambedkar's question in Who Were the Shudras? that he asked in 1946. More than 70 years later, Kancha Ilaiah and his team of authors revisit this issue to give Shudras a voice again' -CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT The Shudras: Vision for a New Path weaves together multiple dimensions of the
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predicament of India's productive castes-in the spiritual, social, political, economic, philosophical and historical spheres. It reformulates their current position as well as future pathways. It strives to provoke Shudras-including regional political party leaders-all over India to realize their unique historical role in fighting unequal caste structures. And it gives a call to resist

Hindutva, in which they have no liberated, equal space with the Dwija castes. At a juncture when the Shudra castes are regionalized and the Dwijas have become 'national', the fifth volume of the Rethinking India series, in collaboration with the Samruddha Bharat Foundation, seeks to bring home the real picture of their marginalized status in all key structures of the nation. It posits that the emancipation

and progress of the Shudras are vital to sustain Ambedkar's constitutional democracy and move towards socio-spiritual equality. Castes of Mind SAGE Publications India "Observance of what people in present-day India eat and do not eat, the styles and contexts within which they do so, and the disparities between rhetoric and everyday action prompt vital questions concerning

what it is to be Indian in the early twenty-first century. The current "beef situation" exposes, like no other issue, the central fault lines that run across contemporary Indian society. Sacred Cows and Chicken Manchurian explores contemporary cattle slaughter and beef-eating in India and considers what has led to the apparent turn away from the hitherto secularist approach of post-

independence India. The book draws on ethnographic research in both rural and urban South India with domestic cattle owners, brokers, butchers, and meat eaters. It brings nuance to existing accounts by journalists, historians, and others by charting how ordinary people navigate the current febrile political climate in their everyday lives. In doing so, it avoids an overly simplistic binary

opposition between those who oppose the slaughter of cattle and those who view beef consumption as a fundamental right. Locating debates and actions concerning beef eating in relation to caste and community, the book offers a fine-grained exploration of the current situation as it is experienced on the ground, comprehensively locating it within the wider anthropology of food and

eating in the region"--
THE UNTOUCHABLES Springer
 One of twentieth-century India's great polymaths, statesmen, and militant philosophers of equality, B. R. Ambedkar spent his life battling Untouchability and instigating the end of the caste system. In his 1948 book *The Untouchables*, he sought to trace the origin of the Dalit caste. *Beef, Brahmins, and Broken Men* is

an annotated selection from this work, just as relevant now, when the oppression of and discrimination against Dalits remains pervasive. Ambedkar offers a deductive, and at times a speculative, history to propose a genealogy of Untouchability. He contends that modern-day Dalits are descendants of those Buddhists who were fenced out of caste society and rendered Untouchable by a resurgent

Brahminism since the fourth century BCE. The Brahmins, whose Vedic cult originally involved the sacrifice of cows, adapted Buddhist ahimsa and vegetarianism to stigmatize outcaste Buddhists who were consumers of beef. The outcastes were soon relegated to the lowliest of occupations and prohibited from participation in civic life. To unearth this lost history, Ambedkar undertakes a

<p>forensic examination of a wide range of Brahminic literature. Heavily annotated with an emphasis on putting Ambedkar and recent scholarship into conversation, Beef, Brahmins, and Broken Men assumes urgency as India witnesses unprecedented violence against Dalits and Muslims in the name of cow protection.</p> <p><u>A Discourse in Dalit-Bahujan,</u></p>	<p><u>Socio-Spiritual and Scientific Revolution</u> Oxford University Press, USA</p> <p>In this explosive book, Suraj Yengde, a first-generation Dalit scholar educated across continents, challenges deep-seated beliefs about caste and unpacks its many layers. He describes his gut-wrenching experiences of growing up in a Dalit basti, the multiple humiliations suffered by Dalits on a</p>	<p>daily basis, and their incredible resilience enabled by love and humour. As he brings to light the immovable glass ceiling that exists for Dalits even in politics, bureaucracy and judiciary, Yengde provides an unflinchingly honest account of divisions within the Dalit community itself-from their internal caste divisions to the conduct of elite Dalits and their tokenized</p>
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forms of modern-day untouchability -all operating under the inescapable influences of Brahminical doctrines. This path-breaking book reveals how caste crushes human creativity and is disturbingly similar to other forms of oppression, such as race, class and gender. At once a reflection on inequality and a call to arms, *Caste Matters* argues that until Dalits lay claim to power and Brahmins join hands

against Brahminism to effect real transformation, caste will continue to matter. Post-Hindu India SAGE An interdisciplinary collection of essays, *Reworking Postcolonialism* explores questions of work, precarity, migration, minority and indigenous rights in relation to contemporary globalization. It brings together political, economic and literary approaches to

texts and events from across the postcolonial world.

God as Political Philosopher

Morgan & Claypool Publishers This witty, tongue-in-cheek novel that laughs at the foibles and hypocrisies of Brahmins and upper castes across India begins with a crime. Pariah, a dalit, is beaten to death for the crime of thinking about God, which might well lead to

thoughts of equality ... Six men representing the remarkable Brahmins of India celebrate his death, Veda Shastry of Tamil Nadu (where the purest examples of exalted brahminhood are to be found) is the rightful leader. Namboodri of Kerala is a from a caste that created the most perfect system of discrimination that the world has seen; Krishnamurthy of Karnataka

and Appa Rao of Andhra Pradesh are slightly moderate; Tilak of Maharashtra dreams of increasing discrimination while Banerjee of Bengal believes he is above caste. As the men take their leave of Shastry, the authors gaze follows them ironically. Lastly, comes Isaiah, an American black, who knows all about race, and journeys to India to find out about the non-violence movement

that had inspired Martin Luther King, Jr and discovers much else besides. *An Annotated Critical Selection from The Untouchables* Sage Publications Pvt. Limited In The Weapon of the Other: Dalitbahujan Writings and the Remaking of Indian Nationalist Thought, contends the projection of Hindu religious texts as sources of Indian nationalist thought since

colonial times while the Buddhist scriptures, the Bible and the Quran, whose readers were far more numerous, are relegated to the periphery of discussions about nationalism. He explores Indian nationalism from a different perspective, and discusses the political core of liberatory ideas as well as modern thinker-activists. *Beef, Brahmins, and Broken Men* SAGE

Publishing India This book is entirely different from books that have been written on Indian civil societal relations, spiritual character, political economy, philosophical foundations, scientific roots, cultural essence, and historicity. It takes a journey from tribals upwards and looks at the pyramid of the communities in an inverse order. This book is an excise in new

methodology, pedagogy, analysis, and synthesization of knowledge. Every chapter in this book reads like a new innovation in Indian social anthropology. It draws a different map for the future of this nation and its intellectual history. *Sacred Cows and Chicken Manchurian* SAGE Publications India Ambedkar was a prolific student, earning doctorates in economics from both

Columbia University and the London School of Economics, and gained a reputation as a scholar for his research in law, economics and political science. In his early career he was an economist, professor, and lawyer. His later life was marked by his political activities; he became involved in campaigning and negotiations for India's independence, publishing journals, advocating

political rights and social freedom for Dalits, and contributing significantly to the establishment of the state of India. In 1956 he converted to Buddhism, initiating mass conversions of Dalits. The Story of a Dalit in the RSS Post-Hindu IndiaA Discourse in Dalit-Bahujan, Socio-Spiritual and Scientific Revolution Sociological Traditions book looks at the sociology of India from two perspectives: first,

understanding the cultural traditions of India with special reference to religious and ethical values; and second, exploring the growth of the sociological traditions of India. Divided in two parts, the book goes beyond mere description of the main religious traditions and looks at the ethical values that are embedded in the religio-secular traditions of India. It also projects the sociological traditions of

India as a historical process, a process of growth of sociological knowledge. The basic premise of the

discussion is not one dominant cultural tradition but the plurality that characterizes

the cultural, religious and value traditions of India, and pluralism that characterizes the sociology of India.