Caste in Contemporary India
Instructor: Prof Padmanabh Samarendra

Introductory Terms

Sanskritic Social Order and Beyond: *Varna, Jati, Mlechchha*
Society in Modern Terms: Caste, Untouchables, Dalit, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes

Sociological Theories of Caste

M. N. Srinivas and the Structural-Functional View of Caste
Louis Dumont and the Structural Explanation of Caste
Gerald Berreman and Caste as a Source of Exploitation
Later Contributors – Dipankar Gupta, Declan Quigley, Nicholas Dirks

Caste and the Indian State

The Policy of Reservation for the Scheduled Castes
The Policy of Reservation for the Other Backward Classes

Caste Mobilization in Contemporary India

Caste Mobilization after Independence: Instances from the States
Caste and Indian Democracy
SELECT READINGS


Dumont, Louis, “‘Tribe” and “caste” in India’, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, Vol. 6, 1962, pp. 120-122.


Philip, Jessy K., “‘Though he is a landlord, that Sarpanch is my servant!’: Caste and democracy in a village in South India’, Contemporary South Asia, Vol. 25, No. 3, 2017, pp. 270-284.

Quigley, D., 'Is a theory of caste still possible?', in Mary Searle-Chatterjee and Ursula Sharma, eds., Contextualising Caste, Oxford: Blackwell, 1994

Quigley, D., 'Is caste a pure figment, the invention of Orientalists for their own glorification?', Cambridge Anthropology, Vol. 13, No. 1, 1988, pp. 20-36.


Robb, Peter, ed., The Concept of Race in South Asia, Delhi, 1995.


