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# Social Stratification Dipankar Gupta

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*Social Stratification  
Dipankar Gupta*

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## KARLEE KEIRA

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*Caste, Class, and Power* Popular  
Prakashan

This important volume provides an alternative perspective on caste. It demonstrates that the traditional view of caste—as a single hierarchy, with Brahmins at the top and the untouchable castes at the bottom—is no longer valid. From politics to gender to economic interaction, the contributors reveal how the erstwhile single, pure hierarchical order is constantly being questioned and weakened. The essays in this volume argue for a different conceptualisation of caste—one that would take into account the need for caste assertion and dignity as well as notions of hierarchy. The contributors show that while pride in one's caste identity is an important feature of the caste order, this is not incompatible with contesting notions of hierarchy. Caste is now better seen in terms, first, of discrete identities and then in terms of multiple and contesting hierarchies. Using contemporary experiences, this exciting volume

reflects on received wisdom concerning theories of caste and provides an entirely fresh perspective.

*Postmodern Social Theory* Harpercollins  
This book is about extending the concerns of anthropology beyond village life, rituals and caste observances to considerations of the nation-state.  
*Caste* Oxford University Press, USA  
Contributed research papers.

**Justice before Reconciliation** Oxford  
University Press, USA

This is a collection of sociological essays on four main themes in Indian culture: caste, caste profiles, class and conflict.  
*Caste in Question* Manohar Publishers  
This well-structured and organized collection of readings examines different facets of religion and religious life in India from ethnographic and historical perspectives. The second edition includes a new Appendix with a comparative regional perspective, and a new Preface.

**Anti-Utopia** Univ of California Press  
*Talking Sociology* is the ninth title in the OUP series of Ramin Jahanbegloo's conversations with prominent intellectuals who have made significant contribution in shaping the modern

Indian thought. The present volume covers the life and works of the influential Indian sociologist and public intellectual, Dipankar Gupta. As a social scientist, Gupta has made remarkable contribution to contemporary social theory by redefining and reconstructing the central concepts of the past masters and taking sociology beyond its disciplinary boundaries by helping several generations of Indians understand contemporary social change and transformation of institutions. He is considered the most insightful analyst of modernity and modernization in India. The conversation in this volume revolves around Gupta's career and contribution to the field, and discusses the key areas of sociology such as the problem of social stratification, citizenship and democracy, and the caste system and ethnic groups in India.

**Social Stratification** Penguin Books India

How may we characterize contemporary society in a world so complex? Can looking at the diverse paths followed by various cultures in the modern world generate useful new social scientific typologies, or must a different set of questions be posed in this era of globalization? What, in short, is the nature of modernity? These are some of the questions addressed by the contributors to *Multiple Modernities*. Following the theme in an earlier work edited by Shmuel Eisenstadt, *Public Spheres and Collective Identities*, this book challenges conventional notions of how the world has changed politically, socially, and economically. The authors consider the meaning of modernity in contexts as different as communist Russia, modern India, the Muslim world, Latin America,

China and East Asia, and the United States. Miscegenation, transnational migration, technological developments, and changing communications have shifted the ground on which theories of society were once built; political system, diaspora groups, religion, and "classical" theories of modernity have to be reconsidered in a new context. Authors and chapters include: S.N. Eisenstadt, "Multiple Modernities"; Björn Wittrock, "Modernity: One, None, or Many? European Origins and Modernity as a Global Condition"; Johann P. Arnason, "Communism and Modernity"; Nilfer Gle, "Snapshots of Islamic Modernities"; Dale F. Eickelman, "Island and the Languages of Modernity"; Sudipta Kaviraj, "Modernity and Politics in India"; Stanley J. Tambiah, "Transnational Movements, Diaspora, and Multiple Modernities"; Tu Weiming, "Implications of the Rise of 'Confucian' East Asia"; Jürgen Heideking, "The Pattern of American Modernity from the Revolution to the Civil War"; and Renato Ortiz, "From Incomplete Modernity to World Modernity." Written in clear and non-technical language for both a scholarly and general audience, this volume confronts the problem of just what constitutes the common core of modernity.

Institutions and Inequalities Routledge Relying on many years of fieldwork and on his involvement with several national level policy making bodies, this book presents a cultural interpretation of how public life and state interventions in India should be viewed. While commending statistical interventions in governmental decision making, it detects a marked deficiency in the understanding of how cultural factors impress upon and condition economic

life. Towards this end, Dipankar Gupta interrogates anti-poverty drives, labour relations, election studies and, in this process, provides a novel and helpful guide towards resolving the vexing relationship between the domains of the public and the private. In all of this, the sociological antenna is constantly at work, beeping helpful signals on how one might untangle knotty issues in public life. More than anything else, this book urges policy makers to be self-consciously intersubjective in their approach and this is where sociology can make its mark. The Appendix provides a medley of situations where cultural sensitivity and the discipline of sociology prove their worth in figuring out fresh ways to resolve outstanding problems in our country. This book is co-published with Aakar Books. Print edition not for sale in South Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan) Caste and Race in India Routledge

This paperback edition of *Anti-Utopia: Essential Writings of André Béteille*, first published in 2005, presents a collection of Béteille's seminal writings on society, research methodology, social stratification, equality, and civil society and its institutions. This OIP edition carries a new Preface by Dipankar Gupta.

**Checkpoint Sociology** University of Chicago Press

The caste system has conventionally been perceived by scholars as a hierarchy based on the binary opposition of purity and pollution. Challenging this position, leading sociologist Dipankar Gupta argues that any notion of a fixed hierarchy is arbitrary and valid only from the perspective of the individual castes. The idea of difference, and not hierarchy, determines the tendency of each caste to keep alive its discrete

nature and this is also seen to be true of the various castes which occupy the same rank in the hierarchy. It is, in fact, the mechanics of power, both economic and political, that set the ground rules for caste behaviour, which also explains how traditionally opposed caste groups find it possible to align in the contemporary political scenario. With the help of empirical evidence from states like Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the author illustrates how any presumed correlations between caste loyalties and voting patterns are in reality quite invalid. Provocative and finely argued, *Interrogating Caste* is a remarkable work that provides fresh insight into caste as a social, political and economic reality.

**Talking Sociology** Orient Blackswan

Ritzer's long-awaited text in *Postmodern Social Theory* is a readable & coherent introduction to the fundamental ideas & most important thinkers in postmodern social theory.

Caste, Hierarchy, and Individualism OUP India

The book explores how Muslims in Mumbai and Ahmedabad coped with the aftermath of the violence directed against them in 1993 and 2002 respectively, and how they responded to the ethnic carnages of which they were the victims, highlighting the importance of the context and the history of the place where such violence occurred. Unlike other studies on ethnic violence which have a short-term focus, in dealing with its immediate aftermath, this book examines what happens to the victims over time and how they negotiate a 'new normal' and get on with their lives. Using empirical material based on field work in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, the book shows that while poverty, education and employment

remain important elements in the recovery process, the most crucial issue is that of justice and the need to reclaim citizenship. A significant section of the book is devoted to the relationship between Muslim faith-based organisations and the victims of ethnic violence.

Class and Power in a Punjabi Village

SAGE Publications Pvt. Limited

A descriptive study of current trends in political sociology in India (from the 1980s) in relation to the ground realities in the social and political arena. This study spans the years beginning from the late 1970s to the early years of the 1990s: from the Emergency and its fallout to the Punjab crisis and the Mandal recommendations. Students and teachers of sociology and political science will benefit from the book which clarifies the relationship between sociology and its sub-disciplines, political sociology.

**Anti-utopia: Anti-utopia** OUP India

These essays engage with themes and arguments from the oeuvre of Andre Beteille, ranging from changing patterns of stratification and policies of protective discrimination to the place of the individual in Indian history and threats to secularism."

*Caste, Its Twentieth Century Avatar*

Oxford University Press

This Comprehensive Study Is Divided Into Five Chapters. The Introduction Looks At The Definition Of Caste, The Evidence In Vedic Texts, And The Class Role Of Caste And The Elite. This Is Followed By A Detailed Chapter On The Historiography Of Caste And Gender Issues. Other Chapters Examine Stratification In Rigvedic Society And Early Buddhism. The Concluding Chapter Provides An Overview Of The Changing Paradigms Of Brahmanical Integration.

**Harmonic and Disharmonic Social Systems**

Oxford in India Readings in So A well-known name in contemporary sociology, Dipankar Gupta's wide range of scholarship and popular columns have justly earned him the reputation of being one of India's leading public intellectuals. Talking Sociology provides a complete panorama of Gupta's life and works and his contribution to Indian sociology. In this book of conversations, he shares insights into the key areas of Indian sociology, such as the problem of social stratification, citizenship and democracy, and the caste system and ethnic groups in India.

**The Caged Phoenix** Stanford University Press

Post-Mandal, the demand for reservations by various groups has become a consistent feature of Indian politics. Yet, the focus remains on caste, with little attention paid to the under-representation of religious minorities in India. The book takes up the case of relative disadvantage and interrogates the multiple and overlapping dimensions of deprivation. Hasan argues that, in view of the comparative evidence available, presently excluded and disadvantaged groups should also qualify for affirmative action. This book will interest students and scholars of Indian politics, sociology, and history.

Caste in Contemporary India Oxford University Press, USA

Louis Dumont, 1911-1999, French anthropologist; contributed articles.

*From Varna to Jati* Routledge

Louis Dumont's modern classic, here presented in an enlarged, revised, and corrected second edition, simultaneously supplies that reader with the most cogent statement on the Indian caste system and its organizing principles and a provocative advance in the comparison

of societies on the basis of their underlying ideologies. Dumont moves gracefully from the ethnographic data to the level of the hierarchical ideology encrusted in ancient religious texts which are revealed as the governing conception of the contemporary caste structure. On yet another plane of analysis, homo hierarchicus is contrasted with his modern Western antithesis, homo aequalis. This edition includes a lengthy new Preface in which Dumont reviews the academic discussion inspired by Homo Hierarchicus and answers his critics. A new Postface, which sketches the theoretical and comparative aspects of the concept of hierarchy, and three significant Appendixes previously omitted from the English translation complete this innovative and influential work.

### **Modernization of Indian Tradition**

Routledge

From Hindu notions of dirt, South Asia's preference for women leaders to

patronage in democratic politics, Dipankar Gupta resolves many of the paradoxes of contemporary India in this book. In the process, he issues a damning indictment of the "westoxicated" elitist Indian middle class, and shows how unmodern the people of this class are in the very areas in which they are considered to be modern. Modernity, argues the author, is not about technology and consumption, as is mistakenly believed in India, but has to do with attitudes, especially those that come into play in our social relations. It is here that the Indian middle class is found severely wanting. Family connections, privileges of caste and status, as well as the willingness to break every law in the book characterize our social relations very deeply. The past clings tenaciously to our present - traditional India thrives in contemporary locales. A brilliant and chilling treatise on the hypocrisy and vanity of the Indian middle class, and its pathetic attempts to cloak its traditional ways in superficial modernity.