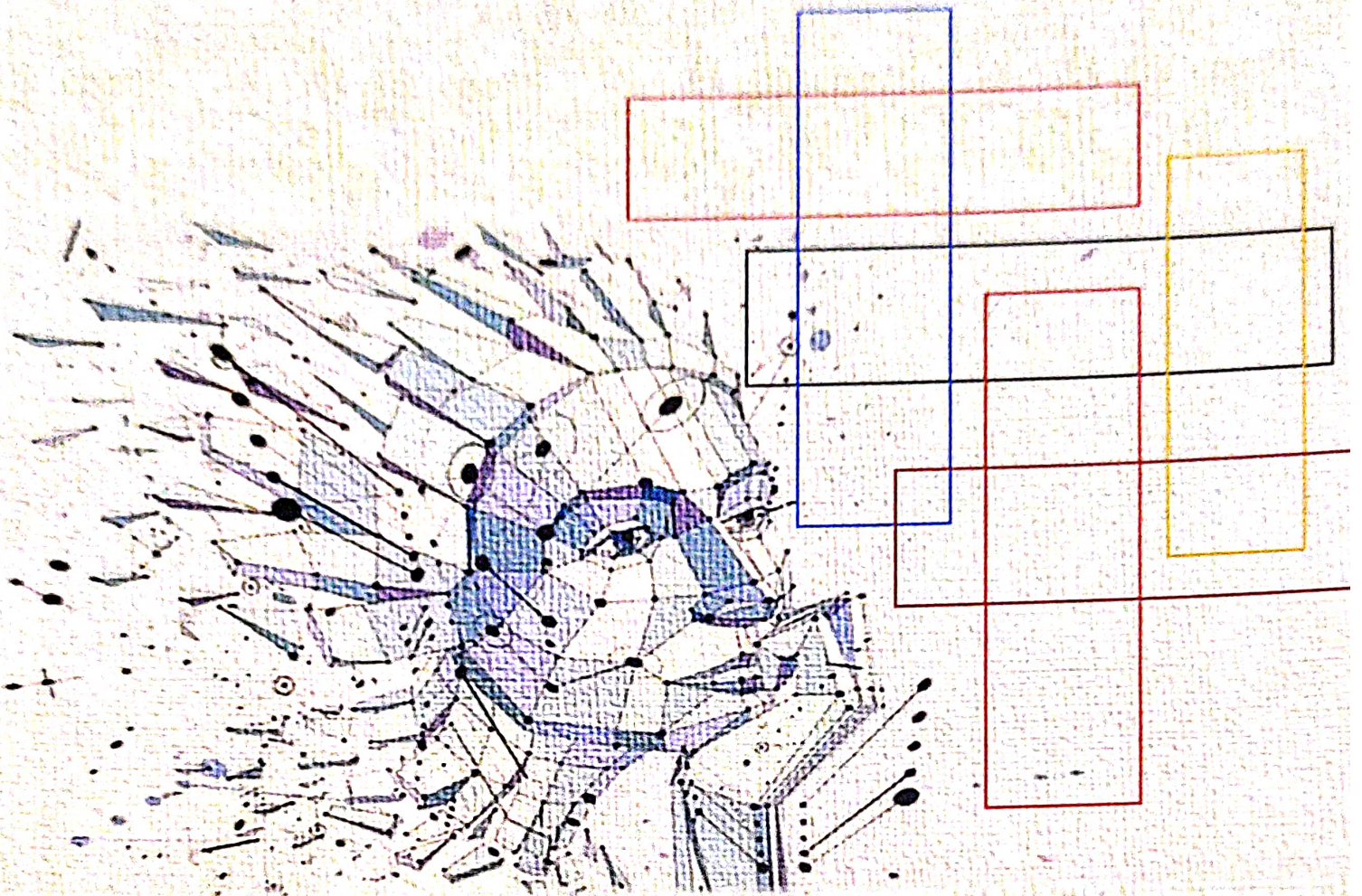


Inter-relating Culture, Society and Politics Across Eras



Editors

Soumitra Roy and Jaydeb Sarkhel



Bharata Vidya Charcha Kendra, Burdwan

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ISBN : 978-93-85454-43-1

First Published : October 2021

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Burdwan

Published by
Ebong Prantik

Chandiberia, Saradapally, Kestopur, Kolkata - 700 102
Phone : 9163931465

Cover Design : Dr. Deepashree Mondal

Printed by :
Ananya Printing Works
287, Baikunthapur Road,
Sonarpur, Kolkata - 700150

Price : 350/-

Contents

- Soumitra Roy and Jaydeb Sarkhel—*Introduction* 7
- Dr. Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyay—*Society, Culture and Politics in Colonial and Post-Colonial India* 13
- Dr. Sudhi Mandloi—*Dalit Panther Movement: Dalit Activism in the Twentieth Century in Maharashtra* 21
- Dr. Surajit Rauth—*Kumbhakar: The History of the Origin of a Traditional Caste of West Bengal* 34
- Ishita Halder Samadder—*A Close Review of Caste-ridden Indian Society and the Various Movements : from the Colonial and Post-Colonial Perspective* 42
- Dr. Rangana Dey—*Important Rural Festivals of Rarh Bengal: Myth and Truth* 54
- Pranabesh Talukdar—*Refugees and The United Central Refugee Council (UCRC) Movement in West Bengal* 63
- Srabani Ghosal (Gangopadhyay)—*Gender in Colonial and Post-Colonial India - Movement for Women Emancipation* 71
- Dr. Amitava Nayek—*Journey of Indian Agriculture from Pre-colonial to Post-colonial Period: Under Historical Lens* 80
- Avijit Das & Dr. Shrikrishna Rai—*Cultural Globalization* 95
- Sutirtha Pal and Samir Kumar Pal—*Impact of Education on Post Colonial Indian Culture* 103
- Dr. Rohidas Mondal—*Caste, Protest and Reservation in India: The Contribution of B. R. Ambedkar to the Backward Hindus* 110
- Debjita Guha—*Role of Musical Pieces in Bhabani Bhattacharya's Music for Mohini: A Thematic Analysis* 119

Caste, Protest and Reservation in India: The Contribution of B. R. Ambedkar to the Backward Hindus

Dr. Rohidas Mondal

I

With rapid spread of education, modernization and urbanization, it is expected that the importance of reservation on the basis of caste should diminish in our times. But it was again boosted up after the publication of Mandal Commission Report in 1990 on the question of caste reservation. Therefore, it is still justified to study the history of reservation on the basis of caste and explore the castes and anti-caste movement to understand the relevance of reservation in present times. A simple descriptive and analytical method is applied for writing this paper. Literature review, field survey report, census report and oral sources are the main sources of this paper. Beside these, biography and autobiography have been used as sources of information. Some journals, seminar proceedings have also been consulted to build up the paper.

The reservation since Vedic times had been for privileged castes. The opportunities of education, worshiping, sharing wealth and politics were reserved for these castes. The underprivileged castes had been out of reservation. They had no rights to take a single percentage of these opportunities. It was full reservation for privileged castes. This reservation had been prescribed in scriptures denying proportion of population. It was for a particular section of people who occupied all the opportunities by social laws and reservation.

This reservation was not constituted by constitution assembly but prescribed in the scriptures which were treated as constitution in the pre-colonial Hindu society. The Sudras were deprived of all the social, economic, political and educational rights according to order of scripture. Caste, creed and religion are the creation of human beings according to liberal thoughts. But according to scriptures it is the creation of God. But there was no caste at the beginning of human civilization.