

Drawing Parallels Between Indian Dalits And American Blacks: A Comparative Study On Similarities And Differences.

Running Article: Drawing Parallels Between Indian

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Introduction

Dalits, formerly known as "Untouchables," are a historically marginalized and disadvantaged group in India. They fall outside the traditional caste system and have been subjected to social, economic, and political discrimination for centuries. The term "Dalit" means "oppressed" or "broken" and is used to reflect the struggles and injustices faced by this community. Dalits can belong to various regional, religious, and linguistic backgrounds in India. They are not a single homogeneous group but rather a diverse community with a shared experience of discrimination and exclusion. Indian Dalits and American Blacks are two marginalized groups that have faced a long history of oppression and discrimination. While they come from different cultures and continents, there are many similarities between the two groups. This paper will explore 10 of the most significant similarities between Indian Dalits and American Blacks. Indian Dalits and American Blacks share many similarities in terms of their social status, economic opportunities, and historical experiences of discrimination. Both groups have faced centuries of oppression and violence, and they continue to be disproportionately marginalized in their respective societies.

One of the most striking similarities between Indian Dalits and American Blacks is their shared experience of caste discrimination. In India, Dalits are at the bottom of the Hindu caste system, and they are often subjected to segregation, violence, and abuse. In the United States, Black people have also faced a long history of discrimination, including slavery, segregation, and Jim Crow laws.

On the other hand, "Black American" refers to individuals in the United States who have African ancestry, either through descendants of enslaved Africans brought to the Americas during the transatlantic slave trade or through more recent immigration from Africa or the African diaspora. Black Americans constitute a significant and diverse racial and ethnic group within the United States, with a rich history and a wide range of cultural, regional, and social backgrounds. Comparison of the experiences of Indian Dalits and African Americans is a complex and nuanced topic, as it involves a vast array of historical, social, economic, and political factors. However, some of the dissimilarities noted below.

Key words: Dalit, Black, Race, Caste, Discrimination.

Discussion:

A comparative study of Dalit and African American experiences can offer valuable insights into the social, economic, and political challenges faced by historically marginalized communities in India and the United States. While the two groups have distinct historical and cultural contexts, there are some common themes and issues that can be explored in such a study. Here are some similarities:

1. History of Oppression

Both Indian Dalits and American Blacks have a long history of oppression. In India, Dalits were formerly known as "untouchables" and were relegated to the bottom of the caste system. They were denied basic human rights and were subjected to discrimination in all aspects of life. In America, Blacks were enslaved for centuries and continued to face discrimination after the Civil War. They were denied the right to vote, own property, or attend white schools.

2. Discrimination

Both Indian Dalits and American Blacks continue to face discrimination today. In India, Dalits are often denied access to education, employment, and housing. They are also subjected to violence and harassment. In America, Blacks are more likely to be unemployed, live in poverty, and be incarcerated than whites. They are also more likely to be victims of police brutality.

3. Poverty

Indian Dalits and American Blacks are disproportionately poor. In India, Dalits are more likely to live in poverty than any other group. In America, Blacks are more likely to live in poverty than whites.

4. Mass Incarceration

Indian Dalits and American Blacks are disproportionately incarcerated. In India, Dalits are more likely to be arrested and convicted of crimes than any other group. In America, Blacks are more likely to be incarcerated than whites.

5. Police Brutality

Indian Dalits and American Blacks are more likely to be victims of police brutality. In India, Dalits are often beaten, tortured, and killed by police officers. In America, Blacks are more likely to be killed by police officers than whites.

6. Lack of Access to Education

Indian Dalits and American Blacks are more likely to lack access to education. In India, Dalits are often denied access to schools or forced to attend segregated schools. In America, Blacks are more likely to attend underfunded schools in poor neighbourhoods.

7. Lack of Access to Employment

Indian Dalits and American Blacks are more likely to lack access to employment. In India, Dalits are often denied jobs or forced to work in low-paying, degrading jobs. In America, Blacks are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed than whites.

8. Lack of Access to Housing

Indian Dalits and American Blacks are more likely to lack access to housing. In India, Dalits are often denied housing or forced to live in segregated communities. In America, Blacks are more likely to live in segregated neighbourhoods and are more likely to be homeless than whites.

9. Health Disparities

Indian Dalits and American Blacks experience significant health disparities. In India, Dalits are more likely to suffer from malnutrition, infectious diseases, and chronic diseases than any other group. In America, Blacks are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer than whites.

10. Cultural Resilience

Despite the many challenges they face, Indian Dalits and American Blacks have developed a strong sense of cultural resilience. They have created their own unique cultures and traditions that have helped them to survive and thrive in the face of oppression.

Dalits and Blacks in the United States have faced many similar forms of discrimination and oppression throughout their histories. Both groups have been marginalized and denied basic human rights, and both have fought for equality and justice.

Historical Similarities

- Both Dalits and Blacks were brought to their respective countries as slaves.
- Both groups were subjected to dehumanizing treatment and violence.
- Both groups were denied basic human rights, such as education, employment, and housing.
- Both groups have been subjected to segregation and discrimination in all aspects of life.

Contemporary Similarities

- Both Dalits and Blacks continue to face discrimination and oppression in the 21st century.
- Both groups are disproportionately represented in poverty, crime, and the prison system.
- Both groups are more likely to be victims of police brutality and other forms of violence.
- Both groups are underrepresented in positions of power and influence.

Similarities in the Fight for Equality and Justice

- Both Dalits and Blacks have a long history of fighting for equality and justice.
- Both groups have used a variety of strategies, including nonviolent protest, civil disobedience, and legal challenges.
- Both groups have made significant progress, but they continue to face many challenges.

Specific Examples of Similarities

- Caste-based violence in India and police brutality in the United States: Both Dalits and Blacks are disproportionately victims of violence. In India, Dalits are often targeted by upper-caste Hindus, while Blacks in the United States are often targeted by police officers.
- Discrimination in education and employment: Both Dalits and Blacks face discrimination in education and employment. In India, Dalits are often denied admission to schools and universities, and they are also more likely to be unemployed or underemployed. In the United States, Blacks are also more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, and they are also more likely to be segregated in schools and workplaces.
- Mass incarceration: Both Dalits and Blacks are disproportionately represented in the prison system. In India, Dalits are more likely to be arrested and convicted of crimes, and they are also more likely to be sentenced to harsher

punishments. In the United States, Blacks are also more likely to be arrested and convicted of crimes, and they are also more likely to be sentenced to harsher punishments.

Differences

It is important to note that there are also some important differences between Indian Dalits and American Blacks. For example, the caste system in India is a complex and deeply rooted social system that has no direct equivalent in the United States. Additionally, the experiences of Indian Dalits and American Blacks vary depending on their specific circumstances and location.

Despite their differences, Indian Dalits and American Blacks share a common bond of struggle and resilience. They have both overcome tremendous adversity to build strong communities

One of the biggest dissimilarities is the religious context of caste discrimination in India. Caste discrimination is based on the Hindu caste system, which is a religious hierarchy that has been in place for centuries. American Blacks, on the other hand, have faced discrimination based on their race, not their religion.

Another dissimilarity is the role of slavery in the history of American Blacks. Slavery was a central part of the American experience for over 200 years, and it had a devastating impact on Black people. Indian Dalits have also faced a long history of oppression, but they were never enslaved in the same way that American Blacks were.

Finally, there are some important cultural differences between Indian Dalits and American Blacks. Indian Dalits are a diverse group of people who speak many different languages and practice different religions. American Blacks, on the other hand, have a shared cultural heritage that is rooted in the African diaspora.

Here is a more detailed comparison of the dissimilarities between Indian Dalits and American Blacks:

Religious context

- Caste discrimination in India is based on the Hindu caste system, which is a religious hierarchy.
- Discrimination against American Blacks is based on race, not religion.

History of slavery

- American Blacks have faced a long history of slavery, while Indian Dalits have not.

Cultural differences

- Indian Dalits are a diverse group of people who speak many different languages and practice different religions.
- American Blacks have a shared cultural heritage that is rooted in the African diaspora.

It is important to note that these are just some of the dissimilarities between Indian Dalits and American Blacks. There are many other ways in which the two groups differ, and it is important to be respectful of the unique experiences of each group.

Conclusion:

Indian Dalits and American Blacks are two marginalized groups that have faced a long history of oppression and discrimination. While they come from different cultures and continents, there are many similarities between the two groups. This essay has explored 10 of the most significant similarities between Indian Dalits and American Blacks. Dalits and Blacks have faced many similar forms of discrimination and oppression throughout their histories. Both groups have been marginalized and denied basic human rights, and both have fought for equality and justice. Despite the many challenges they face, both Dalits and Blacks have made significant progress. They continue to be a powerful force for change in their respective societies.

Additional Thoughts

In addition to the similarities listed above, there are also some important differences between Dalits and Blacks. For example, the caste system in India is a much more rigid and hierarchical system than the racial hierarchy in the United States. This means that it is much more difficult for Dalits to escape their caste status and achieve social mobility.

Another important difference is that the United States has a long history of slavery, while India does not. This has had a profound impact on the experiences of Blacks in the United States. For example, the legacy of slavery has contributed to the high rates of poverty, crime, and incarceration among Blacks.

Despite these differences, Dalits and Blacks continue to share many common experiences. They are both marginalized groups that have faced discrimination and oppression throughout their histories. Both groups have also fought for equality and justice, and they continue to be a powerful force for change in their respective societies.

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