



Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India

By Nicholas B. Dirks

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks

When thinking of India, it is hard not to think of caste. In academic and common parlance alike, caste has become a central symbol for India, marking it as fundamentally different from other places while expressing its essence. Nicholas Dirks argues that caste is, in fact, neither an unchanged survival of ancient India nor a single system that reflects a core cultural value. Rather than a basic expression of Indian tradition, caste is a modern phenomenon--the product of a concrete historical encounter between India and British colonial rule. Dirks does not contend that caste was invented by the British. But under British domination caste did become a single term capable of naming and above all subsuming India's diverse forms of social identity and organization.

Dirks traces the career of caste from the medieval kingdoms of southern India to the textual traces of early colonial archives; from the commentaries of an eighteenth-century Jesuit to the enumerative obsessions of the late-nineteenth-century census; from the ethnographic writings of colonial administrators to those of twentieth-century Indian scholars seeking to rescue ethnography from its colonial legacy. The book also surveys the rise of caste politics in the twentieth century, focusing in particular on the emergence of caste-based movements that have threatened nationalist consensus.

Castes of Mind is an ambitious book, written by an accomplished scholar with a rare mastery of centuries of Indian history and anthropology. It uses the idea of caste as the basis for a magisterial history of modern India. And in making a powerful case that the colonial past continues to haunt the Indian present, it makes an important contribution to current postcolonial theory and scholarship on contemporary Indian politics.

 [Download Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Mode ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Mo ...pdf](#)

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India

By *Nicholas B. Dirks*

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks

When thinking of India, it is hard not to think of caste. In academic and common parlance alike, caste has become a central symbol for India, marking it as fundamentally different from other places while expressing its essence. Nicholas Dirks argues that caste is, in fact, neither an unchanged survival of ancient India nor a single system that reflects a core cultural value. Rather than a basic expression of Indian tradition, caste is a modern phenomenon--the product of a concrete historical encounter between India and British colonial rule. Dirks does not contend that caste was invented by the British. But under British domination caste did become a single term capable of naming and above all subsuming India's diverse forms of social identity and organization.

Dirks traces the career of caste from the medieval kingdoms of southern India to the textual traces of early colonial archives; from the commentaries of an eighteenth-century Jesuit to the enumerative obsessions of the late-nineteenth-century census; from the ethnographic writings of colonial administrators to those of twentieth-century Indian scholars seeking to rescue ethnography from its colonial legacy. The book also surveys the rise of caste politics in the twentieth century, focusing in particular on the emergence of caste-based movements that have threatened nationalist consensus.

Castes of Mind is an ambitious book, written by an accomplished scholar with a rare mastery of centuries of Indian history and anthropology. It uses the idea of caste as the basis for a magisterial history of modern India. And in making a powerful case that the colonial past continues to haunt the Indian present, it makes an important contribution to current postcolonial theory and scholarship on contemporary Indian politics.

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #996382 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-10-09
- Released on: 2011-10-09
- Format: Kindle eBook



[Download Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Mode ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Mo ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India* By Nicholas B. Dirks

Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Is India's caste system the remnant of ancient India's social practices or the result of the historical relationship between India and British colonial rule? Dirks (history and anthropology, Columbia Univ.) elects to support the latter view. Adhering to the school of Orientalist thought promulgated by Edward Said and Bernard Cohn, Dirks argues that British colonial control of India for 200 years pivoted on its manipulation of the caste system. He hypothesizes that caste was used to organize India's diverse social groups for the benefit of British control. His thesis embraces substantial and powerfully argued evidence. It suffers, however, from its restricted focus to mainly southern India and its near polemic and obsessive assertions. Authors with differing views on India's ethnology suffer near-peremptory dismissal. Nevertheless, this groundbreaking work of interpretation demands a careful scholarly reading and response. John F. Riddick, Central Michigan Univ. Lib., Mt. Pleasant

Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From the Inside Flap

"Massively documented and brilliantly argued, *Castes of Mind* is a study in true contrapuntal interpretation. Nicholas Dirks is a subtle unraveler of the dense, many-layered fabric of India's colonial and modern history as they converge in the idea and practice of caste. Even for the nonspecialist, the results of this gripping book are remarkable to behold. No one before Dirks has examined the ways in which caste gathers from as well as ignores the complex realities and hierarchies of Indian society. Neither reductive nor schematic, the notion of caste that emerges here is genuinely original."--Edward W. Said

From the Back Cover

"Massively documented and brilliantly argued, *Castes of Mind* is a study in true contrapuntal interpretation. Nicholas Dirks is a subtle unraveler of the dense, many-layered fabric of India's colonial and modern history as they converge in the idea and practice of caste. Even for the nonspecialist, the results of this gripping book are remarkable to behold. No one before Dirks has examined the ways in which caste gathers from as well as ignores the complex realities and hierarchies of Indian society. Neither reductive nor schematic, the notion of caste that emerges here is genuinely original."--Edward W. Said

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carrie Rivas:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with education books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. Often the *Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India* is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Wilma Blue:

This Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India is great e-book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This book reveal it details accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no book that offer you world with ten or fifteen small right but this guide already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt this?

Debra Sims:

Is it you actually who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India can be the solution, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

Bella Singer:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from it. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is prepared or printed or outlined from each source this filled update of news. In this particular modern era like now, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just searching for the Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India when you needed it?

Download and Read Online Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks #QN4WO63BLK1

Read Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks for online ebook

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks books to read online.

Online Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks ebook PDF download

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks Doc

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks MobiPocket

Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks EPub

QN4WO63BLK1: Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India By Nicholas B. Dirks