







It can be tempting for dominant caste communities to think, feel, teach, and learn that the caste system was an ancient practice, or, at worst, one that occasionally emerges in the Indian landscape in rural areas that have not caught up to modernity. But that would be a fiction belied by statistics and evidence in lived experience. Dominant castes who saturate academia have also peddled the prominent postcolonial theorization that caste was an invention of British colonialism, but that is not the case. Colonial laws simultaneously opened land markets and education to Dalit Bahujan and embedded caste into capitalist systems of accumulation by dispossession. The caste system was thus consolidated by British colonial capitalism but also preceded and outlasted it, if not gaining an entrenched modern reality in contemporary Indian society and state.

Mohandas Gandhi led a mostly dominant caste Indian nationalist movement and gave Dalits the patronising

The postcolonial Indian state may have legally abolished untouchability, but, caste apartheid is a part of everyday, institutional, rural, and urban reality in India. According to the Indian Human Rights Commission Report on Caste Atrocities, cited in Dalit feminist organizer and theorist Thenmozhi Soundararajan's book *The Trauma of Caste*, in India, which remains the epicentre of caste apartheid, "every hour two Dalits are assaulted; every day three Dalit women are raped, two Dalits are murdered, and two Dalit homes are torched. A crime against a Dalit happens every eighteen minutes" (Soundararajan 2022, p. 16; see also,



liberation to move us toward an overhauling of society to co-create liberatory futures beyond systems of exclusion and violence" (p. 217). Ultimately, Dalit Bahujan feminists have shown that caste constitutes the deep structure of modern capitalism and colonialities across the planet and conceptions of decolonization, abolition, and liberation have a world to win in this recognition.





[How prejudice rooted in an ancient social system has migrated from India to Canada](#)

['We are zero': Immigrant says she can't escape sting of India's caste system, even in Canada | National Post](#)

[Indian caste system in Canada called 'a disease' worse than racism](#)

[Gurpreet Singh: Canada needs to stand up for Dalits | Georgia Straight Vancouver's News & Entertainment Weekly](#)