Identity Caste Politics and Democracy

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Abstract

Historically it has been very hard to change the structure of caste politics in India. More recently however, there has been a flux in caste politics, mainly caused by economic liberalization in India. This upsurge in lower-caste empowerment was accompanied in some regions by a spike in the level of corruption. This was partly due to lower caste perceiving development programs and rule of law as tools used by the upper caste to subjugate lower castes. More contemporary India, however, has seen the influence of caste start to decline. This is partly due to the spread of education to all castes which has had a democratizing effect on the political system. However, this "equalizing" of the playing field has not been without controversy. The Mandal commission and its quotas system has been a particularly sensitive issue. Caste in Indian society refers to a social group where membership decided by birth.

Keywords: caste politics, political power, political mobilization, Indian society.

 References


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