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Title of Book: *The Political Thinking of B. R. Ambedkar: An Analytical Analysis*

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891-1956), 'a symbol of revolt' (as mentioned by Jawaharlal Nehru), was one of the front-ranking nation-builders of modern India. He is popularly known as the 'pioneer' who initiated the 'liberation movement' of roughly sixty-five million untouchables of India. Yet, Dr. Ambedkar, notwithstanding all handicaps of birth, has made, by pursuit of knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, politics and law, an indelible imprint on the body politic of the country. The present study is a humble attempt to make a comprehensive and objective analysis of the various strands of the political ideas of Ambedkar while keeping in mind the gaps and lapses in the existing literature on Ambedkar. Keeping in mind the broad objectives, the chapters of the study have explored the various aspects and issues pertaining to Ambedkar's political thinking. This research based book, therefore, besides reflecting the theoretical issues that are implicated in the writings of Ambedkar, also attempts to capture the position of Ambedkar on the social, political and economic issues whose relevance is actually felt even today.

Political Thinking of B.R. Ambedkar



Ishita Aditya

Dr. Ishita Aditya entered the portal of prestigious Bejoy narayan Mahavidyalaya (College), University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India in 2001. Presently, she is serving as an Associate Professor in Political Science and obtained M.A(Political Science), M.Phil & Ph.D. She published 34 articles in international journals and attended many conferences.

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CHAPTER-I INTRODUCTION

I

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891-1956), 'a symbol of revolt' (as called by Jawaharlal Nehru), was one of the front-ranking nation-builders of modern India. He is popularly considered as the 'pioneer' who initiated the 'liberation movement' of roughly sixty-five million untouchables of India of his time. For, Ambedkar, notwithstanding his birth in a lower caste, the *Mahar* community of Maharashtra, has made an indelible imprint on the body politic of the country. A glance at his profuse writings would evidently show that despite his preoccupations with the problems of the *dalits*, Ambedkar had, in his own way, made significant contribution to the contemporary political ideas.

In course of his public life spanning over three decades, Ambedkar was fully convinced that politics should be an instrument to fight for justice and freedom for all sections of Indian people. Hence, he untiringly worked towards the goal of attainment of justice for all, especially the untouchables in an 'unjust society', mainly through political means. In the course of these activities, Ambedkar's experiences led him to develop his own ideas about society and politics of the contemporary India. Viewed from the subject of political science, those ideas obviously merit attention. But, the scholars who have worked on different aspect of Ambedkar's ideas fail to give due importance to his political thinking. Under the circumstance, it seems to be worthwhile to analyze the political ideas of Ambedkar focusing on certain central issues with which he got preoccupied. The present study intends to examine the various aspects of Ambedkar's political thinking.

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