

Socialists of Caltech Discussion Group Series -- August/Sept 2020

## ***Annihilation of Caste* by B.R. Ambedkar**

Weekly, Mondays from 6 to 7:30 pm

Text: *Annihilation of Caste* by B.R. Ambedkar, Third Edition, annotated edition (Verso, 2014). ([epub](#) & [pdf](#) versions available here. Epub recommended to quickly be able to click from main text to annotations and back).

Submit discussion questions [here!](#)

Date	Reading
8/10	<p><b>Week 1: Caste Here and Now</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landmark U.S. civil rights case against caste discrimination: <a href="#">“California accuses Cisco of job discrimination based on Indian employee’s caste”</a> (June 30, 2020, <i>Reuters</i>)</li><li>• <a href="#">Caste in the United States</a> (report summary)</li><li>• End #CasteInTech and #CasteInTheUS <a href="#">petition</a></li></ul> <p><i>Recommended supplementary readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">“The Cisco Case Could Expose Rampant Prejudice Against Dalits in Silicon Valley”</a> (Anahita Mukherji, July 8, 2020, <i>The Wire</i>)</li><li>• <a href="#">The Specter of Caste in Silicon Valley</a> (Yashica Dutt, July 14, 2020, <i>NYT</i>)</li><li>• Reading the “Caste in the United States” report in full, though for the purposes of today’s discussion, reading the report summary and skimming the report to look at key figures and main findings is sufficient</li></ul>
8/17	<p><b>Week 2: <i>Annihilation of Caste</i> -- Context and Necessity of an Undelivered Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preface to the Second Edition</li><li>• Preface to the Third Edition</li><li>• Prologue</li><li>• An Undelivered Speech: 1.1 to 4.5</li></ul>
8/24	<p><b>Week 3: <i>Annihilation of Caste</i> -- “This wretched caste system”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sections 5.1 to 17.7</li></ul>
8/31	<p><b>Week 4: <i>Annihilation of Caste</i> -- “How to abolish caste?”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sections 18.1 to 26.4</li></ul>

9/7	<b>No meeting, Labor Day</b>
9/14	<b>Week 5: “The Doctor and the Saint” by Arundhati Roy</b> <i>Optional supplementary readings:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ambedkar-Gandhi Debate (final section of Verso’s annotated edition of <i>Annihilation of Caste</i>)</li></ul>
9/21	<b>Concluding Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Summaries, last thoughts, possible next steps</li></ul>