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Race, Religion, and Caste: Anthropological and Sociological Perspectives

Author: [T. K. Oommen](#)

Source: [Comparative Sociology](#), Volume 1, Issue 2, pages 115 – 126

Publication Year : 2002

DOI: [10.1163/156913302100418457](#)

ISSN: 1569-1322 **E-ISSN:** 1569-1330

Document Type: Research Article

Subjects: [Social Sciences](#)



For content published from 1960-2001, see [International Journal of Comparative Sociology](#).

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Although race as a biological concept has no validity, racism persists. In spite of the fact that caste is a social construct, it continues. To understand the reason for this one must trace the career of these concepts. The biological category of race has linguistic/philological, ethnological/cultural and political/national connotations giving birth to Nazism and fascism. The racial connotation in that its social construction can be traced to the Hindu Doctrine of Creation as *Varna* implied colour. The term and Hindu nationalists used caste and race, race and nation and even religion and race interchangeably. The division between upper caste Aryan Hindus and the dark-skinned lower caste Dravidian Hindus also implied racial differences. The confusion on semantic purity of race and caste would adversely affect one's comprehension of the nature of empirical reality.

tendency to equate caste and race in a neat and tidy vein is not sustainable, it is more difficult to eradicate caste c
racism not only because the two share several common characteristics, but also because caste discrimination is san
important to remember that perceptions people hold about social reality are equally important as social fact, in suc

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