

Notions abordées : « Lieux et formes de pouvoir » & « Espace et échanges »

Intervenant : Interview d'Abhinav par Shelly de Vitto

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The caste system in India

Abhinav: I was born in Delhi, and then I moved to Pondicherry.

In India, the social division was based on duties, and so you had basically four classes: you had the Brahmins, who were the educators, the learned people. You had the warriors. Then you had the business class: and fourthly you had the people who worked more with their hands, the artisans, and what now you know in the West as the Untouchables. So initially, when the idea was conceived, it was an ideal situation for governing a city, where the duties were divided and the people were divided by the duties.

Initially, it wasn't something hereditary: it was your inborn nature, your true nature of who you are. So everyone is not made to be a teacher, to do maths, to do computers; everyone is not made to play music, dance, be artistic. So everyone was, based on their nature, they chose to be and to do what they were. But then, being humans, the system degenerated, and it became hereditary, and so, a priest's son would be a priest again, and so the divisions started taking place, and when the British came in, they took advantage of this division, and that's how they set their foot in; divide and rule.