

Ethnics of Identity

What is in the Name???

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Identity

Origin:

late 16th century (in the sense 'quality of being identical'): from late Latin *identitas*, from Latin *idem* 'same'.

Definition:

1. The fact of being who or what a person or thing is

e.g. Mahesh, Michel, Nushrat

2. The characteristics determining who or what a person or thing is

Casanova, Superman,

Religious Divide



Religious Divide



Religious Divide



Religious Divide



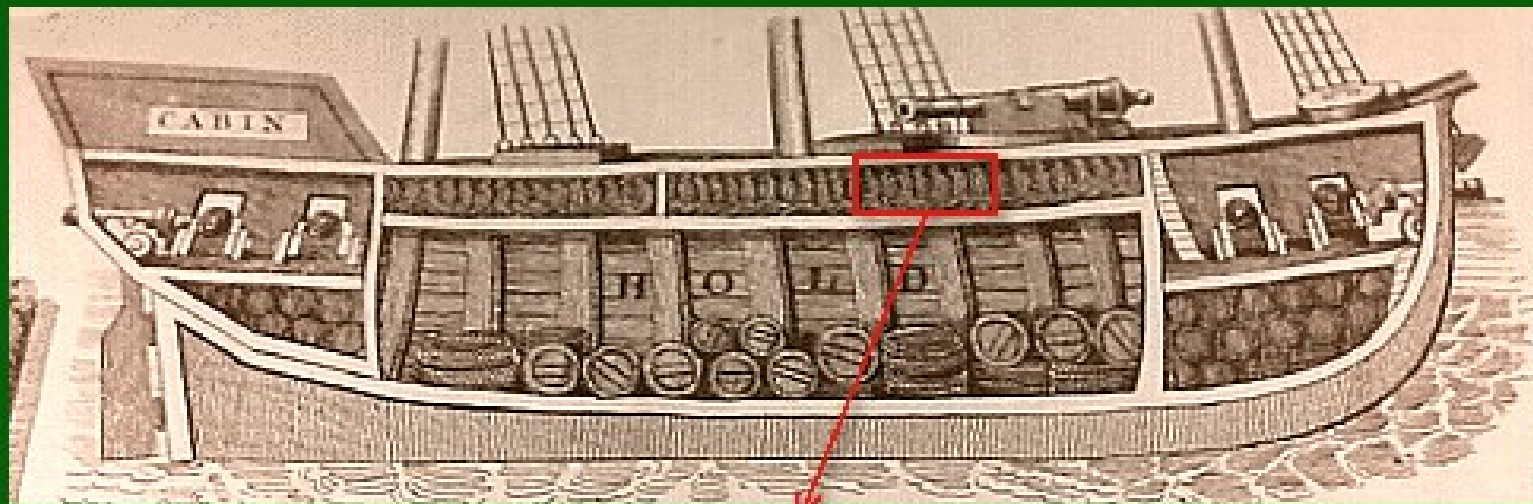
Midnight's Children

Amina Sinai: "Thank God, it's not a Muslim name."

Aadam Azia: "This Godse is nothing to be grateful for."

Amina: "Why not, after all? By being Godse he has saved our lives."

Race and Racism



Transatlantic Slave Trade

The Atlantic Slave Trade

The Middle Passage:



Ethnicity and the Holocaust

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas



Gender

Patriarchal Society:

Gender Discrimination

Female infanticide

Caste

Hierarchal Structuring

Kachra: a blend of caste and ~~gender~~ discrimination
disability

Regional Identities

Based on a person's regional belonging

Hasty generalizations based on singular incidents

Nationality/ National Identity

Does national belonging encourages one to suppress other nationalities for the good of one's own people???

Representation/ Prejudices/ Stereotypes

1. Blacks are inherently inferior, criminal, emotional, untrustworthy
2. Caste determines a person's moral, intellectual and behavioral characteristics
3. People coming from a particular region are untrustworthy
4. Sardar Jokes/Jokes on blond women
5. Women lack rationality/emotional/gullible

Identity

Being

- Human
- Gender (Biological Sex)

Becoming (Cultural Identity)

- Subject to culture, history, geography, power, education etc.

Identity

“Roots”

- Ancestry
- History
- Culture
- Language
- Religion
- Metaphysical Concept of time and space

“Routes”

- Cross cultural movement – spatial, virtual and metaphorical
- Creation of a “translated being”

Identity (Amartya Sen)

- Multiple Identities
- The Violence of Illusion
- *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny* (2006)

Fundamentalism

A usually religious movement or point of view characterized by a return to fundamental principles, by rigid adherence to those principles, and often by intolerance of other views and opposition to secularism.

Sudhir Kakar (*Colours of Violence: Cultural Identities, Religion, and Conflict*)

- Analysis of a Maulavi's speech
- Analysis of Ritambhara's speech

“Ram's birthplace is not a quarrel about a small piece of land. It is a question of national integrity. The Hindu is not fighting for a temple of brick and stone. He is fighting for the preservation of a civilization, for his Indianess, for national consciousness, for the recognition of his true nature. We shall build this temple!”

Sudhir Kakar (*Colours of Violence: Cultural Identities, Religion, and Conflict*)

- Analysis of Ritambhara's speech
- “Our civilization has never been one of destruction. Intellectuals and scholars of the world, wherever you may find ruins, wherever you come upon broken monuments, you will find the signature of Islam. Wherever you find creation, you discover the signature of Hindu. We have never believed in breaking but in constructing.”