

ETHICS OF IDENTITY

WHO ARE WE???

WHAT IS IN THE NAME???

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WHAT CLAIMS IDENTITIES MAKE

Are we occupied by identities?

Identities make ethical claims because—and this is just a fact about the world we human beings have created—we make our lives *as men and as women, as gay and as straight people, as Ghanaians and as Americans, as blacks and as whites*. Immediately, conundrums start to assemble. Do identities represent a curb on autonomy, or do they provide its contours? What claims, if any, can identity groups as such justly make upon the state?(Appiah xiv)

*I am not what I
think I am...*

I am what I am.

I am what I think I am.

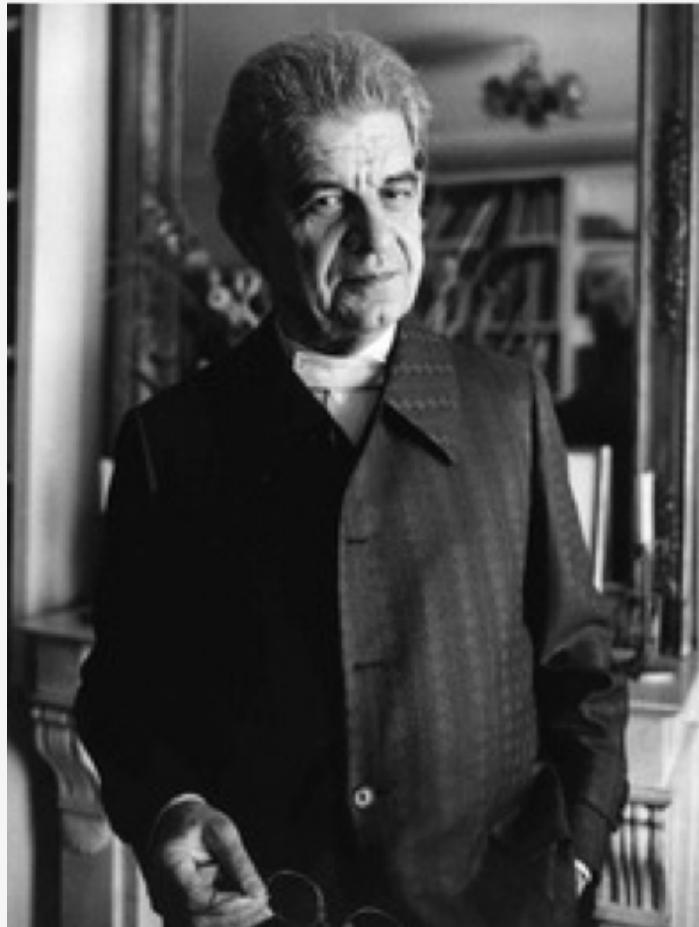
I am what others think I am.

I am what I think what others think I am.

I think therefore I am. (Descartes)

I am where I think not. (Lacan)

Jacques Lacan



"I think where I am not, therefore I am where I do not think. I am not whenever I am the plaything of my thought; I think of what I am where I do not think to think."

*Cultural Identities (Yash Chopra's *Dharmaputra* – 1961)*



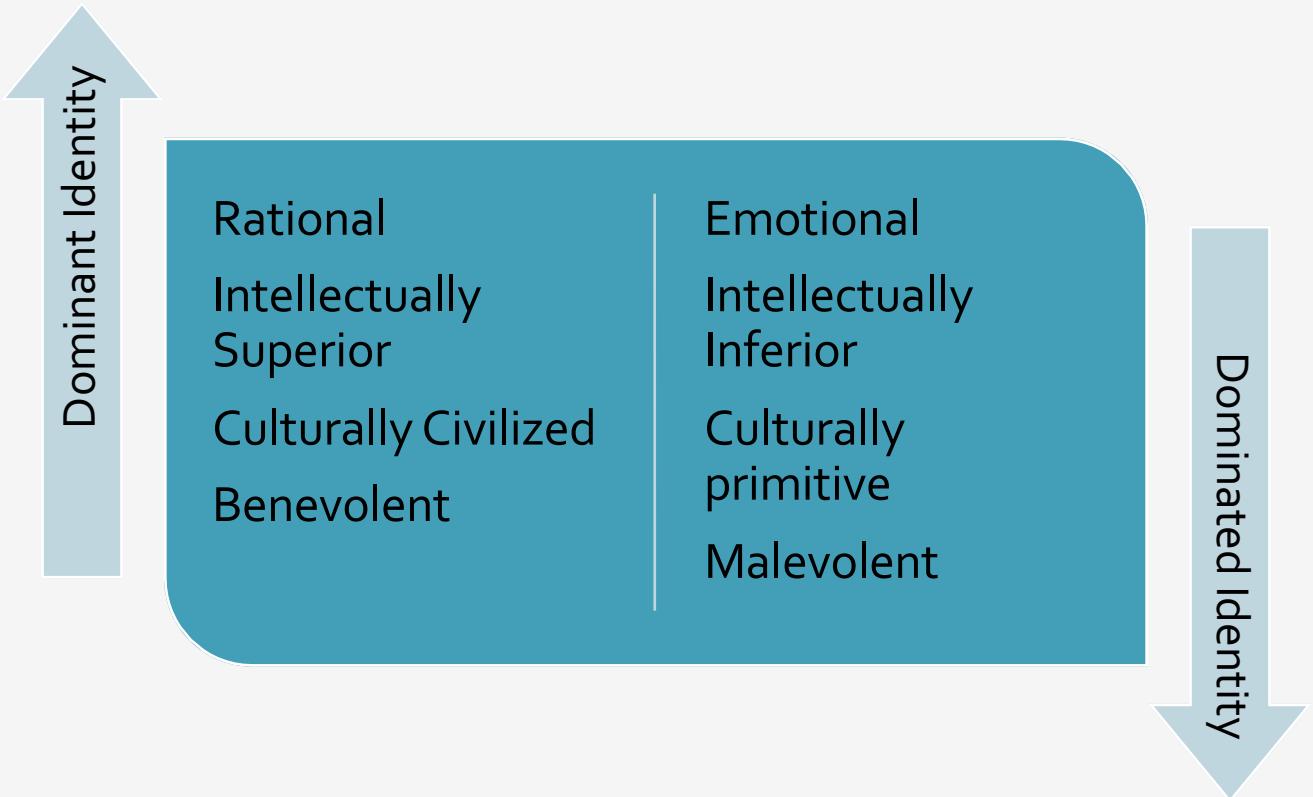
*Cultural
Identities:
Manmohan
Desai's Amar,
Akbar,
Anthony - 1977*



Identity (Cultural Identities)

- Cultural identities are not inherent (Not genetic) but acquired.
 - They are subject to power play and historical changes.
 - Cultural identities are dynamic.
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- We are occupied by gods. The mistake we make is to identify with them (Jung).

Self and the Other



Edward Said's Orientalism (1978)



*E.M.
Forster's
and David
Lean's A
Passage to
India*



The forms of Human Division

- Religion
- Caste
- Gender
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Regional Affiliations
- Nationality

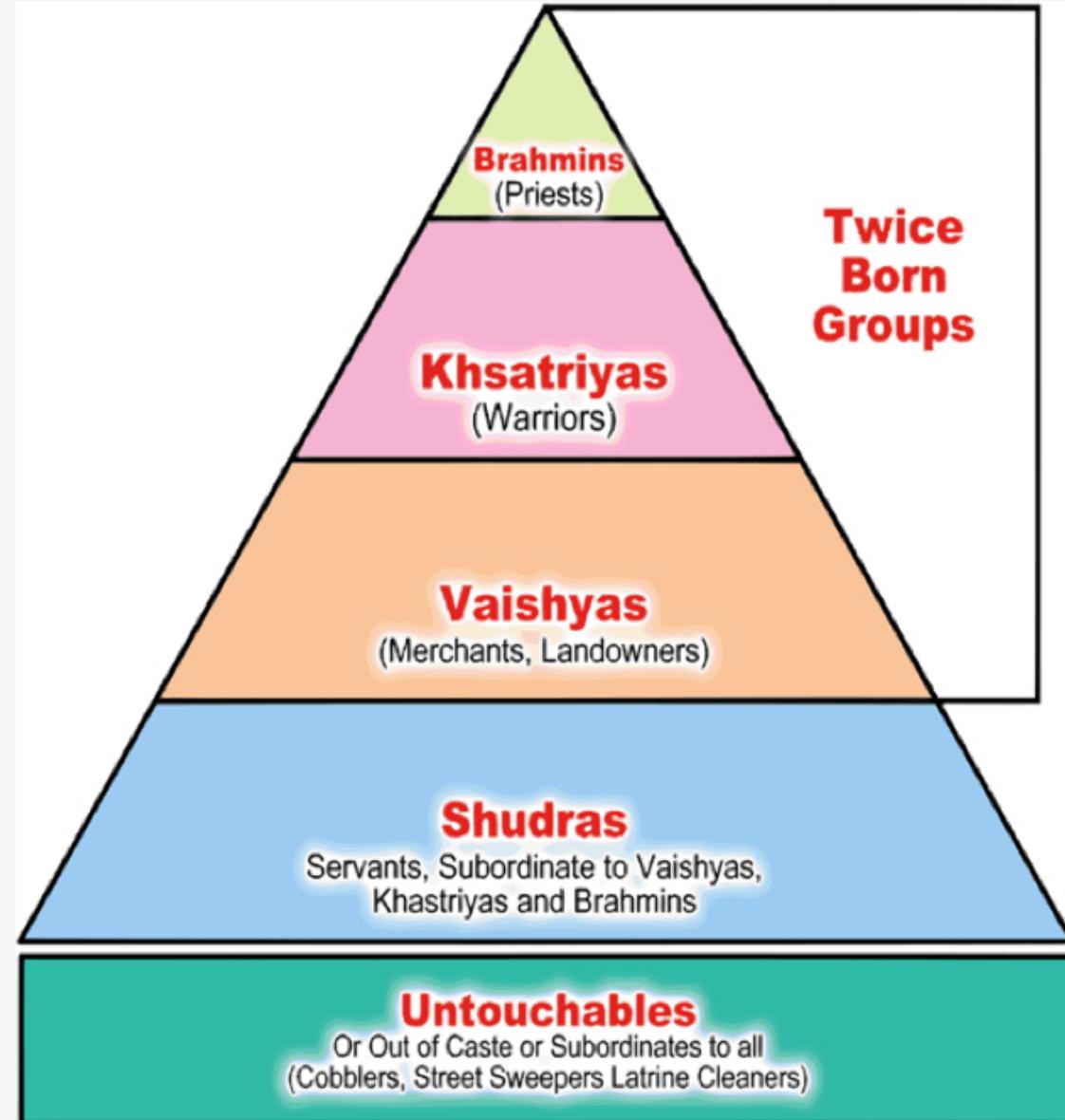
Gender (Racism and Sexism)

The concepts of beautiful and ugly, handsome and coward, manly and womanly are social constructs.



Caste

*(Caste is not in my DNA
but in what I do...)*



Race

(Skin colour has nothing to do with ones intellectual, behavioral characteristics)



Ethnicity and the Holocaust



Regional Affiliations

- People belonging to certain places have certain behavioral characteristics

Nationality

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

Stereotypes /Prejudices

- Blacks are inherently inferior, criminal, emotional, untrustworthy
- Caste determines a persons moral, intellectual and behavioral characteristics
- People coming from a particular region are untrustworthy
- Sardar Jokes/Jokes on blond women
- Women lack rationality/emotional/gullible

Thank you