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**COMPARISON OF CONDITIONS OF DALITS IN INDIA AND NEGROS WITH REFERENCE TO THE ROOTS BY ALEX
HALEY**

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COMPARISON OF CONDITIONS OF DALITS IN INDIA AND NEGROS WITH REFERENCE
TO THE ROOTS BY ALEX HALEY.

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Abstract: Caste denotes a system of rigid social stratification into ranked groups defined by descent and occupation. Under various caste systems throughout the world, caste divisions also dominate in housing, marriage, and general social interaction - divisions that are reinforced through the threat of social ostracism, economic boycotts, and even physical violence. The outcastes (untouchables in India and Negroes in Africa,) have rights to nothing. Besides the privileges and rights denied the outcastes in both India and Africa, they are in both countries regarded as nonentities, sub-humans and are associated with the notion of bigotry, abomination, evil, malefactors etcetera. India's caste system assigns individuals as certain hierarchical status. Dalits have been oppressed, culturally subjugated and politically marginalized. The word Dalit generally used for the people who were once known as untouchables, belonging to the castes outside the fourfold Varna system. According to Dr. Ambedkar there are mainly two reasons for the origin of untouchability, concept of Buddhism and beef eating. The emergence of Buddhism, attracted broken peoples, who left Hinduism and embraced Buddhism. The Africa and India both have exceptionally diverse populations, endured the deliberate divide-and-rule strategies executed by British colonizers who sought thereby to exacerbate existing differences, and experienced peaceful transfers from colonial rule to independence. Despite these key similarities in certain aspects of their colonial and decolonization experiences, the reality of slavery was much more complex. White masters were certainly invested in the myth of paternalism, which allowed them to justify the enslavement of human beings on the grounds that the relationship of slaves and masters was a reciprocal one—the master took care of his slaves and claimed the fruits of their labor.

Key words: Caste, Dalits, African American literature, Africa, Manusmriti

Introduction: According to Edmund Burke, "In that country the laws of religion, the laws of the land and the laws of honor are all united and consolidated in one, and bind a man eternally to the rules of what is called caste". When thinking of India, it is hard not to think of caste. The mechanism of the caste system is tied to the Hindu theory of soul transmigration in which your rebirth determines your caste. Your rebirth was predetermined by your Karma. Your Karma was in turn determined by, how you lived in your past life? The terrible caste system was invented to protect the white race. You have to marry and labor in the caste in which you born. The lines were clearly drawn and no one was allowed to move from one caste to another by marriage or trade. The poor, the sick, the disabled, the dark skinned etc. are what they are because of their own fault. They deserve their sufferings because they did something bad in previous life and their karma has caught up with them. We should not interfere with their sufferings because if we do, we will doom them to experience it in next life. Thus, the kindest thing to do is to let them alone so they get their suffering over and hopefully has a better rebirth the next time around.

The caste system in India

The social inequalities of Hinduism led millions of lower caste Indians to abandon Hinduism for Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism or Christianity because those religions did not lock them into rigid caste system. Caste has become a central symbol for India. Caste defines the core of Indian tradition. And it is seen today as the major threat to Indian Modernity. The Indian caste system differs from the Osu caste system in Nigeria in terms of the hierarchical structures. In its hierarchical representations Indian caste system has four groups - the Brahmin, the Kshatriya, the Vaishya, the Sudra who belong to the upper castes. There