

An illustration at the top of the cover shows three hands pointing downwards towards a small, dark, segmented figure that resembles a caterpillar or a small insect. The background is a solid blue color.

Atrocities on **Dalits** in Contemporary India

Editors

Ramesh Jare
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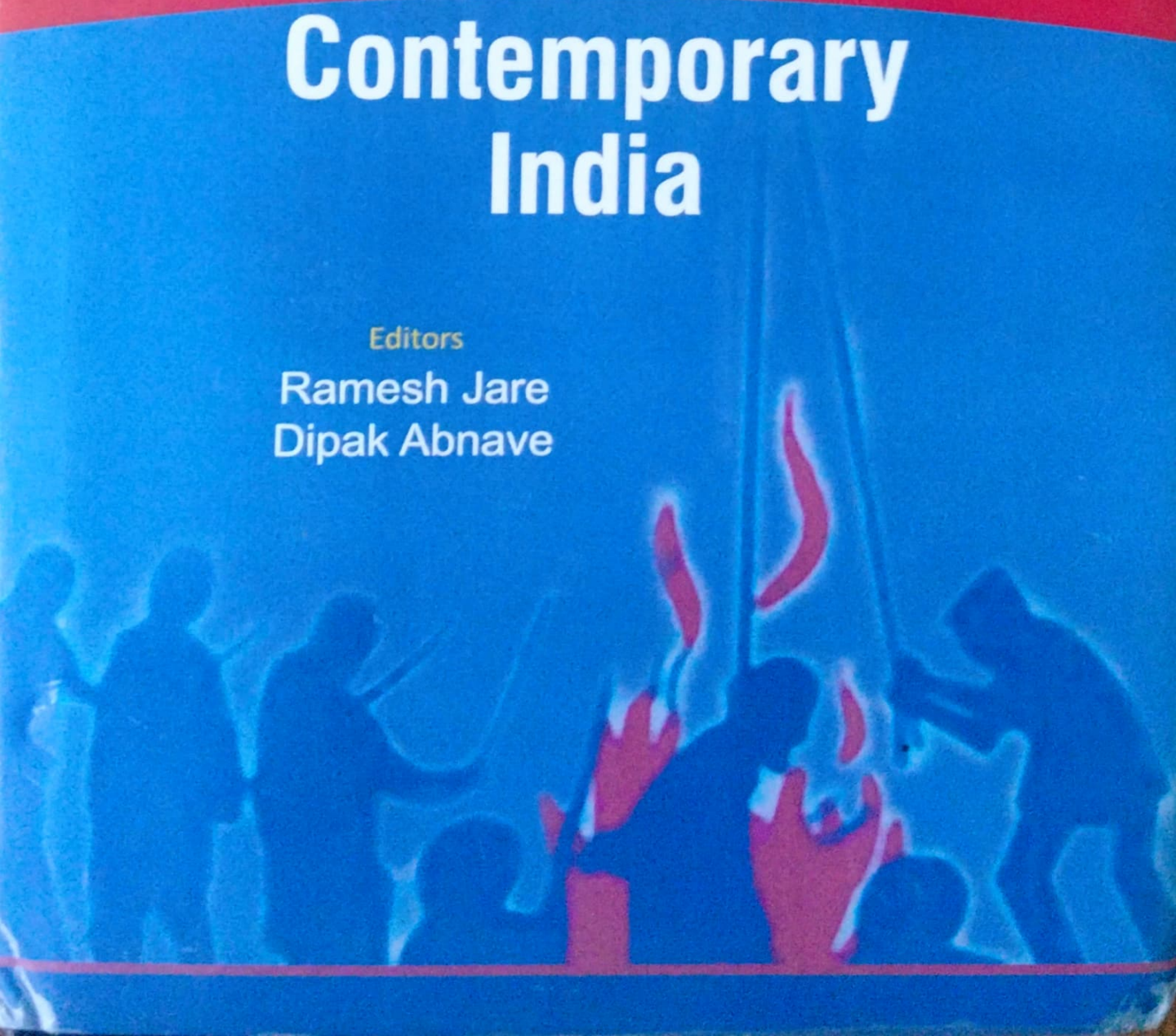
An illustration at the bottom of the cover shows a crowd of people in silhouette. Several individuals have their hands raised in the air, some holding flags. The background is a solid blue color.

Illustration of a crowd of people, some holding flags, rendered in blue and red tones.

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Atrocities against Dalit Women

■ Praveen Ghodeswar*

Abstract

Since ancient times, women are considered to be the symbol of power in Hinduism; women are worshiped as 'Goddess' in the Hindu religion, whereas on the other hand they are considered as weaker sections of the society. This reflects the Indian mentality and hypocrisy. The society looks at the women as a weak element in society. The women are always expected to play a secondary role when dwelling in the society. That is why women are often considered ignored-neglected-low and are treated insultingly. The worst case is that of Indian *Dalit* women. They are the neglected among the neglected community. The place of *Dalit* women is very different from other women. *Untouchability* and casteism do not exist in Indian society by law, but the reality is not so. *Untouchability* is the practice of denying humanity and self-esteem to a large group in society. *Untouchability* is an inauspicious tradition of asserting her existence of a mass community and a refusal of their human rights and fundamental rights. Indian society is a dominant male society; therefore men are not exceptions to this. Because of this, *Dalit* women are the victims of dual exploitation. They have to bear the torture by both the male groups that of upper-caste as well as the *Dalit* men. The poverty, secondary place in society, physical weakness and financial dependence, these are the reasons behind *Dalit* women's multifaceted struggle. She has to fight back at home as well as outside. This article discusses the unjust assaults and atrocities the *Dalit* women face because of the social status due to caste, and the male-dominated society.

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