Although race as a biological concept has no validity, racism persists. In spite of the fact that caste is a social construct, caste discrimination continues. To understand the reason for this one must trace the career of these concepts. The biological category of race subsequently came to have linguistic/philological, ethnological/cultural and political/national connotations giving birth to Nazism and fascism. Similarly, caste carried a racial connotation in that its social construction can be traced to the Hindu Doctrine of Creation as  

Varna implied colour. Further, both orientalist scholars and Hindu nationalists used caste and race, race and nation and even religion and race interchangeably. The divide between the fair-skinned upper caste Aryan Hindus and the dark-skinned lower caste Dravidian Hindus also implied racial differences. Therefore, the mechanical insistence on semantic purity of race and caste would adversely affect one's comprehension of the nature of empirical reality.
tendency to equate caste and race in a neat and tidy vein is not sustainable, it is more difficult to eradicate caste discrimination not only because the two share several common characteristics, but also because caste discrimination is sanctioned by religion. Finally, it is important to remember that perceptions people hold about social reality are equally important as social fact, in suc

**We recommend**

**Orientalism and the Modern Myth of "Hinduism"**
Richard King et al., *Numen*

**The Politics of Race, Nationhood and Hindu Nationalism**

**Elements of a Historical-Materialist Theory of Racism**
David Camfield, *Hist Mater*

**Is There No Such Thing as Non-White Racism?**
Anita Kalunta-Crumpton, *Comp Sociol*

**Racism and the Logic of Capital: A Fanonian Reconsideration**
Peter Hudis et al., *Hist Mater*

**Portuguese Settlement of the Chaul/Korlai area and the Formation of Korlai Creole Portuguese**
J. Clancy Clements, *J Lang Contact*

**Social Determinants of Racial Disparities in CKD**
Jenna M. Norton et al., *J Am Soc Nephrol*

**From Heathen to Sub-Human: A Genealogy of the Influence of the Decline of Religion on the Rise of Modern Racism**
Oludamini Ogunnaike, *Open Theology*

**Resisting Reality: Social Construction and Social Critique**
Federica Gregoratto, *Journal of Social Ontology*

**Religion and Race: Editorial for the Open Theology Special Issue on Religion and Racism**
Daniel White Hodge, *Open Theology*
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