

**Dr. Ambedkar's Perspectives of Social Justice:
The Pathway to Global Peace
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ABSTRACT:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, one of the principal architects of the Indian Constitution, remains a global intellectual whose ideas on social justice, equality, and human dignity transcend time and geography. While he is often remembered for his struggle against caste-based discrimination in India, Ambedkar's vision was broader: he believed that lasting peace, within nations and across the world, could only arise from a foundation of social justice. This article examines Ambedkar's perspectives on social justice and analyses how his principles rooted in democracy, liberty, equality, and fraternity offer pathways to true global peace. The article argues that Ambedkar's philosophy provides not only a framework for addressing internal social inequalities but also a universal ethical model for harmonious global coexistence.

KEYWORDS:

Ambedkar, Social Justice, Global Peace, Equality, Democracy.

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Introduction

The 20th century witnessed numerous movements for freedom, equality, and human rights. Among the most profound voices was that of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, whose life work was dedicated to dismantling deeply entrenched systems of oppression, particularly caste discrimination in India. Although Ambedkar's activism emerged from the specific socio-historical context of India, the philosophical foundation of his thought is universal. He emphasized that social justice is not merely a national obligation but a global necessity for sustainable peace.

In the contemporary world, marked by widening economic disparities, racial discrimination, ethno nationalism, and growing social unrest, Ambedkar's ideas offer crucial insights. His conceptualization of social justice as a prerequisite for human dignity and peaceful coexistence has significant relevance in shaping global peace discourse.

Conceptualizing Social Justice: Ambedkar's Approach

Ambedkar viewed social justice as a moral and political framework where every individual is treated with equal respect and dignity. He rejected notions of justice that ignored systemic inequalities or normalized inherited hierarchies.

Justice as Equality

For Ambedkar, justice meant the elimination of all forms of inequality social, political, and economic. He believed that hierarchical structures, especially caste, were inherently unjust because they restricted human potential and violated basic rights.

Justice as Liberty

He asserted that without liberty, equality becomes meaningless. True liberty meant freedom from discrimination, fear, and imposed social roles. Ambedkar famously argued that social liberty must accompany political liberty for any society to achieve peace and progress.

Thus, Ambedkar's framework for social justice combined these three essential values equality, liberty, and fraternity which he believed must coexist to create a peaceful and just society.

Ambedkar's Critique of Social Hierarchy and Its Relevance to Global Peace

A crucial component of Ambedkar's philosophy was his critique of caste as a system of graded inequality. His analysis, however, extends beyond South Asia and applies to all hierarchical or discriminatory systems worldwide.

Caste as a Symbol of Structural Violence

Ambedkar argued that caste operated through ideological, psychological and social mechanisms that normalized inequality. Such structural violence, he believed, destroyed social cohesion and perpetuated conflict.

Global Hierarchies and Persistent Inequalities

Modern global society continues to face forms of structural injustice racism, classism, patriarchy, and xenophobia. These forms of inequality create divisions that mirror the oppressive dynamics Ambedkar critiqued. His insights highlight that any system that ranks human beings whether by race, religion, gender, or nationality inevitably becomes a threat to peace.

Lessons for the World

Ambedkar's critique teaches that peace is impossible without dismantling social hierarchies. Treating certain communities as inferior seeds resentment and rebellion, and undermines any attempt at international harmony.

Democracy as a Moral Ideal: Ambedkar's Global Vision

Ambedkar saw democracy not merely as a system of governance but as a way of life. He defined it as a social ethic based on mutual respect and responsibility.

Democracy Beyond Elections

Ambedkar argued that democracy cannot survive on political procedures alone. Without social democracy characterized by justice and equality political democracy becomes fragile and susceptible to authoritarianism.

Democracy and Human Rights

Ambedkar's ideas predate and align with modern human rights frameworks. His insistence on constitutional safeguards for marginalized communities parallels global efforts to protect minority rights, promote inclusive governance, and prevent human rights violations.

Democracy as a Foundation for World Peace

Just as democracy promotes internal peace within states, Ambedkar believed that democratic principles must inform global relationships. Nations that respect human rights internally are less likely to engage in external aggression, and more likely to cooperate in building world peace.

Economic Justice and Global Stability

Ambedkar understood that political and social justice are incomplete without economic justice. Inequality in wealth distribution, he observed, leads to societal unrest and conflict.

Ambedkar's Economic Thought

He advocated state intervention to ensure equitable distribution of resources, labor rights, and welfare policies. He argued against unchecked capitalism, which he believed fostered inequality.

Global Economic Inequality as a Threat to Peace

Today, global wealth disparities are at historically high levels.

Poverty, unemployment, and economic exploitation fuel extremism, migration crises, and geopolitical tensions. Ambedkar's call for economic justice is therefore essential for global peace-building efforts.

Sustainable Development and Ambedkar's Ideas

His emphasis on inclusivity aligns with global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to reducing inequality, promoting decent work, and ensuring social protection.

Education: A Tool for Social Transformation and Global Harmony

Ambedkar championed education as the most powerful tool for liberation. He famously declared: "Educate, Agitate, Organize."

Education for Equality

Ambedkar believed that education breaks barriers of ignorance and prejudice. By empowering marginalized communities, education fosters social mobility and equal participation in society.

Education for Peace

Education plays a central role in promoting tolerance, critical thinking, and mutual understanding key factors for peaceful coexistence. Ambedkar's vision supports global peace education initiatives aimed at reducing violence and promoting intercultural dialogue.

Ambedkar's Philosophy of Buddhism and Global Peace

In the later part of his life, Ambedkar embraced Buddhism and reinterpreted it as a path of rationality, social morality, and non-violence.

Buddhism as a Social Philosophy

For Ambedkar, Buddhism promoted equality, compassion, and rational humanism. These principles resonate strongly with global peace movements and philosophies of conflict resolution.

The Navayana Principles and World Peace

Ambedkar's Navayana Buddhism emphasizes:

- human dignity,
- social responsibility,
- rejection of violence and hatred,
- equality of all human beings.

Such values provide a moral basis for global peace and cooperation.

Ambedkar's Ideals in Contemporary Global Conflicts

Ethnic Conflicts

Ambedkar's emphasis on fraternity can reduce ethnic polarization. His principles of justice can guide policies promoting multicultural coexistence.

Refugee and Migration Issues

Economic and social marginalization drive mass migration. Ambedkar's ideas on state responsibility and human rights provide a moral foundation for humane immigration policies.

Technology and Social Inequality

In the digital era, new forms of exclusion emerge. Ambedkar's critique of power structures reminds us that technological progress without social justice deepens global divides, creating instability and mistrust.

Pathway to Global Peace: Applying Ambedkar's Principles

Ambedkar's perspectives lead to several pathways for building global peace:

Institutionalizing Social Justice Globally

International institutions must ensure that policies uphold equality and human rights. Ambedkar's constitutionalism can inspire global governance mechanisms.

Promoting Inclusive Globalization

Economic systems must be equitable. Trade, technology, and global markets should benefit all sections of society, not just a privileged few.

Strengthening Education Systems

Intercultural and peace education, rooted in Ambedkar's emphasis on knowledge, can reduce global intolerance and radicalization.

Building Democratic Cultures

Nations must strive for both political and social democracy. True democracy, as Ambedkar envisioned, is the antidote to authoritarianism and global conflict.

Cultivating Fraternity Across Nations

Fraternity must extend beyond state borders. International cooperation on climate change, poverty, and human rights embodies Ambedkar's ethical vision.

Conclusion

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's perspectives on social justice provide a comprehensive moral and philosophical foundation for establishing global peace. His ideas, though grounded in the Indian context, address universal human concerns inequality, discrimination, violence, and the quest for dignity. By insisting that justice must manifest as liberty, equality, and fraternity, Ambedkar offers humanity a framework for peaceful coexistence at both national and international levels.

In a world grappling with conflicts based on identity, economic inequalities, and political intolerance, Ambedkar's vision is profoundly relevant. Social justice, he believed, was not merely an aspiration but a prerequisite for peace. Applying his principles democratic ethics, economic fairness, education, and human rights can guide the global community toward a future defined not by conflict, but by harmony and shared human dignity. Thus, Ambedkar's philosophy stands as a timeless pathway to global peace, urging nations and individuals alike to adopt justice as the foundation of their social and political life.

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