

Caste, Class, and Power in Aravind Adiga's 'The White Tiger'

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Abstract: *In Aravind Adiga's novel "The White Tiger," the narrative unfolds against the backdrop of India's complex social structure, delving into themes of caste, class, and power dynamics. Through the lens of the protagonist, Balram Halwai, Adiga explores the intersections of caste and class oppression, offering a searing critique of the entrenched inequalities that permeate Indian society. Balram's journey from a low-caste, impoverished village to the corridors of wealth and privilege in Delhi provides a compelling narrative arc through which Adiga examines the brutal realities of social mobility and the sacrifices required to attain upward mobility. Against the backdrop of a rapidly modernizing India, Balram's narrative exposes the mechanisms of exploitation and corruption that perpetuate the caste-based hierarchy, shedding light on the systemic injustices that marginalize the underprivileged while perpetuating the power of the elite. Through sharp wit and biting satire, Adiga challenges conventional notions of success and morality, offering a provocative commentary on the price of ambition and the compromises one must make to break free from the shackles of caste and class oppression.*

Keywords: Social Stratification, India's Caste System, Economic Disparity, Power Dynamics, Servitude, Social Mobility, Corruption Exploitation, Marginalization, Ambition and Survival

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