

The Fashioning of Democracy and the Project of Multitude: A Postcolonial Critique of Resistance through Hardt and Negri

Abstract

The present thesis attempts to explore the notion of 'multitude' as fashioned by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri and seeks to interrogate the possibilities of transformation that the concept throws up in mapping the political cartography of 'democracy' in the contemporary globalized world. Literature survey opens up the territory of Hardt & Negri's theorization of multitude by tracing it back to those inter-related epistemological sites and movements which continue to have a decisive impact on their work. This opens up a new vista wherein it becomes imperative for us to assess the import of the project of multitude especially in the context of contemporary resistance movements in the postcolonial world. In our study, we seek to explore their radical influence, especially in the context of reimagining democracy and its discontents in contemporary India. Resistance movements have several shades in Indian socio-political landscape: starting from the anti-colonial struggles to post-independence socialist campaigns. These social movements have had different imports and imaginations to offer to postcolonial political machinery. In the post-liberalization scenario, there has been a significant shift in the nature of resistance paradigms with caste and land movements becoming major vectors of conflictual registers. However, this thesis intends to locate the contemporary protests on a different scale, especially studying and thinking through the nature of social movements leading to entrenched political formations such as the AAP; and, the campus student struggles since 2016. While critically negotiating with these socio-political movements, the thesis also focuses on how they problematize the postcolonial critique of agency that pervades our discussion of third world ontic space.

Key words: Multitude, Democracy, Postcolonial, Resistance, Student Movements

