

Early Twentieth-Century Fiction
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Office hours: Monday 2 p.m., or by appointment

April 26, 2021. Anand (1).

reminders

- ▶ paper 2 due Sunday, May 9, 5 p.m.
 - ▶ cite specific evidence!
 - ▶ motive
 - ▶ argument
- ▶ course evaluation survey open
 - ▶ sirs.ctaar.rutgers.edu/blue
 - ▶ I wish I could influence you by giving you sugary snacks

Tagore's modernity: review

- ▶ the supernatural is linked to the past
- ▶ skepticism as modern structure of feeling
 - ▶ Weber on rationalization: “the disenchantment of the world”
 - ▶ bureaucrats, trains, empires....
- ▶ but the story rests on: uncertainty
- ▶ the past: not even past (cf. Faulkner)

globalizing English: a political context

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1857 Sepoy Rebellion (“Mutiny”) and direct rule

1885 First meeting of Indian National Congress

1895 Tagore, “The Hungry Stones”

1905 Partition of Bengal

1919 Rowlatt Acts; Amritsar massacre

1920 Gandhi’s first non-cooperation movement

1932 Yeravda Pact between Gandhi and Ambedkar

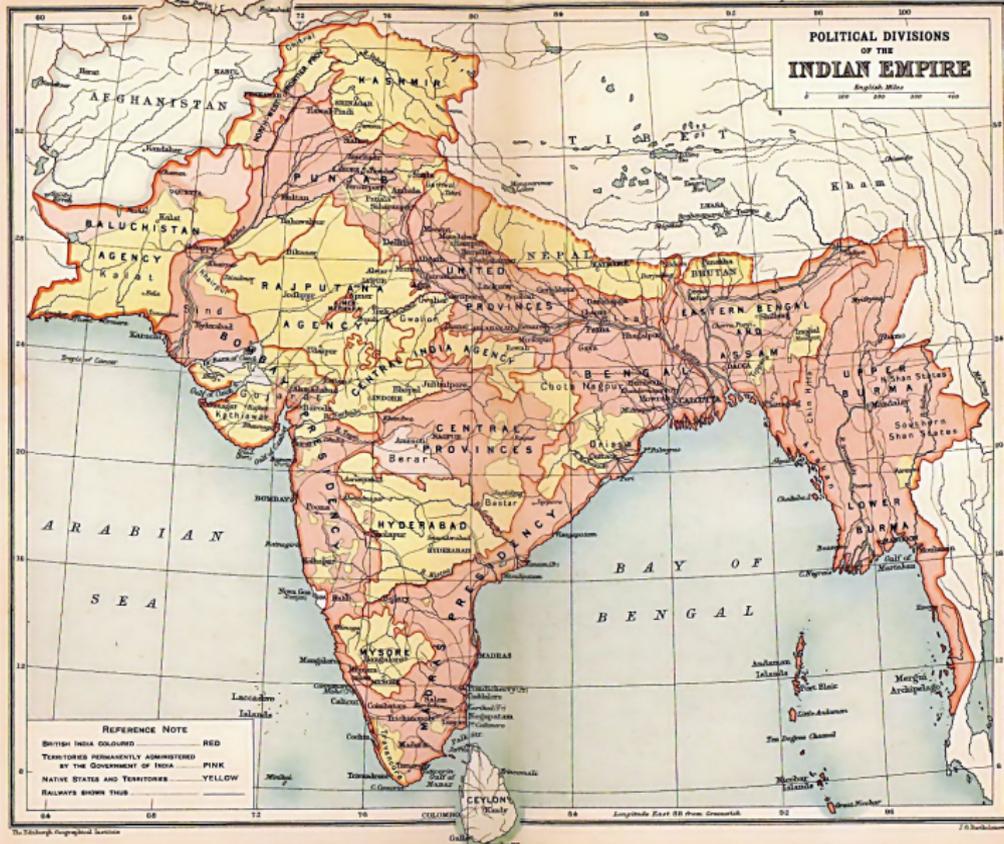
1935 Government of India Act

1935 Popular Front program of the 3rd International

1935 Anand, *Untouchable*

1942 Quit India movement

1947 Independence and Partition



“small lives, humble distress”

- ▶ like Tagore:
 - ▶ colonial modernity seen from the edge
 - ▶ ordinary existence is where meaning lies
- ▶ unlike Tagore:
 - ▶ the colonial situation is in the foreground
 - ▶ caste is a main theme
- ▶ Anand's outraged commitment vs. Tagore's melancholic contemplation

periphery again

A brook ran near the lane, once with crystal-clear water, now soiled by the dirt and filth of the public latrines situated about it, the odour of the hides and skins of dead carcasses left to dry on its banks, the dung of donkeys, sheep, horses, cows and buffaloes heaped up to be made into fuel cakes. (3)

He jumped aside, dragging his boots in the dust, where, thanks to the inefficiency of the Municipal Committee, the pavement should have been but was not. (32)

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Before us the thick dark current runs.

comparative peripheries

- ▶ the periphery (the South in Faulkner, Toomer, Hurston)
 - ▶ bad infrastructure
 - ▶ power elsewhere; law replaced by force; rigid social hierarchies
 - ▶ overflow, grotesquerie, life with the dead
- ▶ the colony (Anand...and?)
 - ▶ “civilization” belied by visible coercion (military)
 - ▶ color lines (town/cantonment)
 - ▶ “colonial mimicry” (Homi Bhabha)
 - ▶ uneven development (modernization, but spotty)
 - ▶ multilingualism, stratified

expatriates

Dublin, 1904.

Trieste, 1914.

(Joyce, *Portrait*)

Trieste—Zürich—Paris

1914—1921

(Joyce, *Ulysses*)

Simla—s.s. *Viceroy of India*—Bloomsbury

September—October 1933

(Anand, *Untouchable*)

whose words?

- ▶ Describe some aspects of the novel's relationship to Standard English in its narrative language. Compare this to Bakha's relationship to Standard English. Generalize later. Find specific examples first.

audiences

“Bhangi! (Sweeper) Bhangi!” (69)

(10n)

He remembered so well the Tommies' familiar abuse of the natives: 'Kala admi zamin par hagne wala' (black man, you who relieve yourself on the ground). (12)

'You are becoming a gentreman, ohe Bakhya! Where did you get that uniform?' (10)

mediators

1925 Anand arrives in London to do a Ph.D. at UCL

1929–30 works at Woolfs' Hogarth press 1929–1930

1934-35 manuscript of *Untouchable* rejected by 19 presses (feces)

1935 with E.M. Forster's help, published by Wishart (left-wing house)

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It is to the directness of his attack that Mr. Anand's success is probably due. (Forster, afterword, 141)

Indians, like most Orientals, are refreshingly frank; they have none of our complexes about functioning. (142)

By caste he is a Kshatriya, and he might have been expected to inherit the pollution-complex....He has just the right mixture of insight and detachment. (143)

language and affiliation

Gandhi: Why don't you write in your language?

K. C. Azad: I have no language. My mother tongue is Punjabi. But the Sarkar [government] has appointed English and Urdu as court languages!...Few of us write in Punjabi. The only novel writer is Nanak Singh. There are no publishers in Punjabi or Urdu....In English—my novel may get published in London...

Gandhi: Acha! Write in any language that comes to hand. But say what Harijans say!

Anand, *Little Plays of Mahatma Gandhi* (New Delhi, Arnold, 1991), 23; qtd. in Snehal Shingavi, *The Mahatma Misunderstood: The Politics and Forms of Literary Nationalism in India* (London: Anthem, 2014), 35.

“say what Harijans say”

He felt that the poet [Iqbal] would have been answering the most intimate questions in his (Bakha's) soul, if he had not used such big words. (137)

For, although he didn't know it, to him work was a sort of intoxication which gave him a glowing health and plenty of easy sleep. (11)

How a round base can be adjusted on a round top, how a sphere can rest on a sphere is a problem which may be of interest to those who think like Euclid or Archimedes. It never occurred to Sohini to ask herself anything like this. (15)

next

- ▶ finish *Untouchable*
- ▶ Forster's afterword
- ▶ Anand, "Genesis"