

# CASTE AND THE PROBLEM OF SOCIAL REFORM IN INDIAN EQUALITY LAW

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## ABSTRACT

*This Note explores the forms of social theory that shape the Indian Supreme Court's development of a regime of equality law to abolish the caste system. In particular, it focuses on the doctrine in cases where a person's relationship to the caste system, whether by conversion or marriage, is substantially altered. The Note suggests that problems raised by this doctrine underlie a conception of the relationship between legal reform and communal affiliation that is at the center of the logic of Indian equality law. Finally, the Note considers the possible implications of this approach for American equal protection law and theory.*