

Book review: Dalit: The Black Untouchables of India by V.T. Rajshekar—structured into:

Dalit: The Black Untouchables of India (originally published as Apartheid in India, revised later by Clarity Press and Gyan Publishing House around 2015) is a compelling exposé by journalist and activist V.T. Rajshekar, founder of Dalit Voice. In just over 100 pages, the book lays bare the enduring

DALIT

THE BLACK UNTOUCHABLES OF INDIA

V.T.RAJSHEKAR



"The outside world hardly knows that in India there is a 3,000 year old problem called Untouchability. And when you come to know the real facts, you will be in tears."

THIRD

Foreword by Y.N.KLY
"Blacks as a Global Community"

Highlights

The book is brief (around 104–114 pages), mostly rhetorical and impassioned, with limited empirical data or sustained scholarly argument.

Its title and framing focus heavily on metaphoric language ("Black Untouchables"), which, while powerful rhetorically, may oversimplify complex histories.

Content

Dalit: The Black Untouchables of India by V.T. Rajshekar—structured into:

Part 1 – Three-Part Book Review

1. Overview & Significance

Dalit: The Black Untouchables of India (originally published as *Apartheid in India*, revised later by Clarity Press and Gyan Publishing House around 2015) is a compelling exposé by journalist and activist V.T. Rajshekar, founder of *Dalit Voice*. In just over 100 pages, the book lays bare the enduring indignities and ostracization faced by India's Dalit community. Rajshekar draws stark parallels with global racial oppression, arguing that Dalit exclusion—marked by being "unseeable", "unapproachable", and even "unthinkable"—remains more entrenched than discrimination elsewhere. He shows how institutional, religious, and social systems reinforce caste-based apartheid in modern India. ([Google Books](#), [CLARITY PRESS, Inc.](#), [dalitvoice.net](#))

2. Strengths & Limitations

Strengths:

Rajshekar's book is concise, direct, and driven by moral urgency. It cuts through the conventional image of a spiritual India to reveal brutal caste dynamics still in effect. ([CLARITY PRESS, Inc.](#), [dalitvoice.net](#))

His vivid, unflinching language alerts readers to how the caste system denies Dalits even basic dignity—describing them as beyond touch or sight. ([EURweb](#), [New York Amsterdam News](#))

Limitations:

The book is brief (around 104–114 pages), mostly rhetorical and impassioned, with limited empirical data or sustained scholarly argument.

Its title and framing focus heavily on metaphoric language ("Black Untouchables"), which, while powerful rhetorically, may oversimplify complex histories.

3. Legacy & Contribution

This work remains influential among social activists and writers confronting caste oppression. It extends the global conversation about Dalit injustice and pushes readers to assert the need for caste-conscious social change. By centering Dalits as forced into invisibility—even being seen as "polluting simply by sight"—Rajshekar demands we question how deeply inequality is embedded in Indian society. ([New York Amsterdam News](#), dalitvoice.net)

Part 2 – Thematic Breakdown with Highlights

The novella-like structure doesn't lend itself to distinct chapters, but here's a thematic breakdown based on its primary arguments:

1.

Caste as Invisibility

Highlights how Dalits are not just excluded but rendered socially invisible—barred from touching, standing near, or even casting a shadow on others. ([New York Amsterdam News](#), [EURweb](#))

2.

Structural Apartheid

Traces religious edicts, media complicity, educational omission, and political silence that preserve caste-based degradation as social norm. ([CLARITY PRESS, Inc.](#), [dalitvoice.net](#))

3.

Comparative Social Dehumanization

Rajshekar compares Dalits to Black communities in apartheid or slave societies, arguing their experience is even more extreme due to rigid ritual exclusion. ([New York Amsterdam News](#), [EURweb](#))

4.

Call to Awareness and Justice

Though not structured with a dedicated conclusion, the book's final passages read as a call to acknowledge ongoing oppression and commit to real equality.