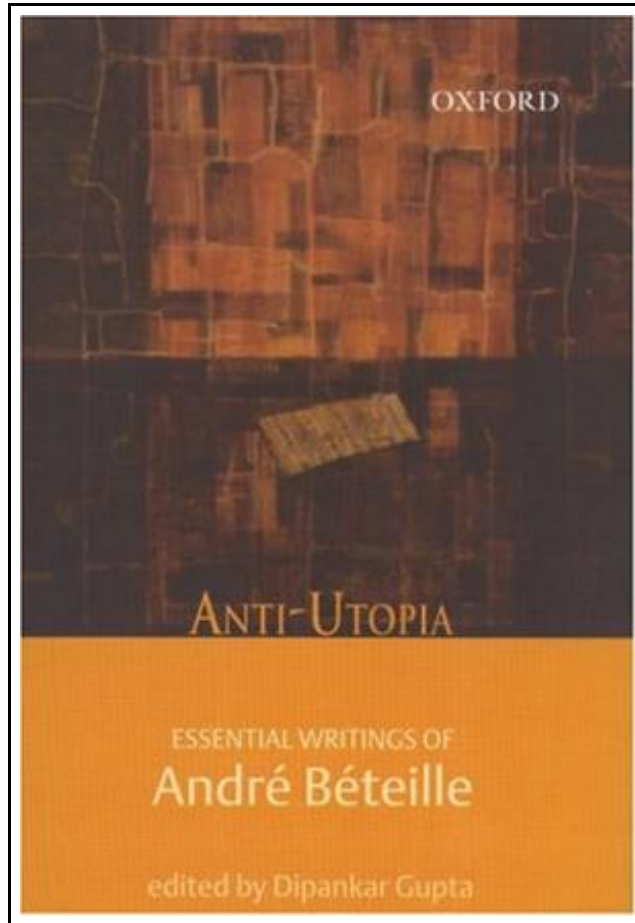


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Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 2005. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. In a career spanning over four decades known for its robustness and versatility, Andre Beteille's contribution and influence on the way sociology is researched, studied, and taught in India has been immense. Beteille's works are characterized by a singular openness to diverse theoretical influences. While drawing upon universal theories and concepts, Beteille's is always rooted in the context of empirical realities. He believes that the search for exotica in Indian society has led to an intellectual overemphasis on caste and a subsequent neglect of class. Characteristically, his own study of the caste system reflects his commitment to the comparative method and not to Indology or the book view. Bringing together the essence of Beteille's ideas and writing, this collection of 19 essays has been specially selected and introduced by Dipankar Gupta. The book is divided into five sections, each of which is devoted to Professor Beteille's varied intellectual interests. The essays range from the significance of the comparative method, to ideas of equality and inequality, and finally to issues regarding civil society and institutional well-being. In each instance, Beteille's characteristic signature of blending theory to Indian reality is clearly evident. It is because of his erudition that he is, unarguably, one of the most quoted scholars on India. This collection is also evidence that Beteille's political positions are the result of deep intellectual scrutiny--which is why utopian visions are unappealing to him. His ability to utilize his academic prowess to comment on popular contemporary issues makes Beteille a happy anti-utopian, for he envisions progress and is ever hopeful. In an exclusive interview for the book, Beteille talks at length of his life and career. From his Indo-French background in a small West...

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