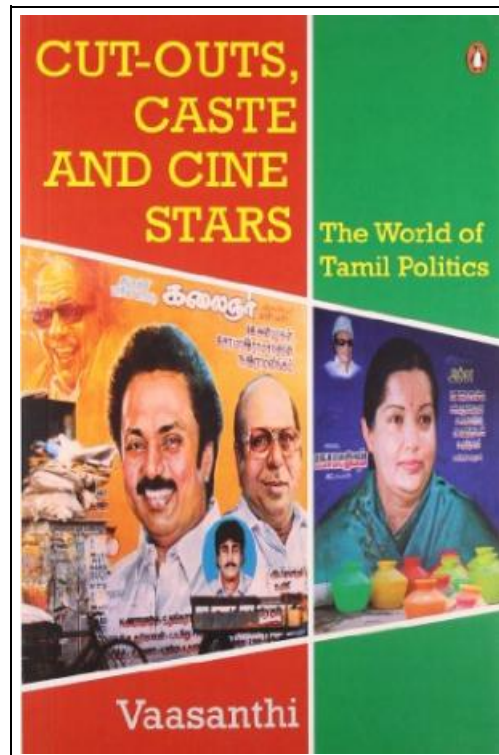


## Cut-Outs, Caste and Cine-Stars: The World of Tamil Politics



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### ***Reviews***

*This type of publication is almost everything and helped me looking forward and much more. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. You wont really feel monotony at whenever you want of your own time (that's what catalogs are for relating to if you ask me).*

***(Prof. Buddy Leuschke)***

## CUT-OUTS, CASTE AND CINE-STARS: THE WORLD OF TAMIL POLITICS



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Penguin, New Delhi, India, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Tamil Nadu is a state very different from the rest of India, both culturally and historically. It has retained a fundamentally separate identity for itself in language and caste structure, and this is most evident in its politics. Cut-outs, Caste and Cine Stars: The Word of Tamil Politics tells a political story that has all the elements of a blockbuster film, where ironies and larger-than-life characters abound: Periyar, a Kannada-speaker, who introduced the notions of Tamil self-respect and regional pride, yet dismissed Tamil as a barbaric language; the matinee idol MGR, a Malayalee born in Sri Lanka, who became Tamil Nadus most popular mass leader; the Dravidian movement which, by its own ideology, should have helped the Dalits but has instead supported only the upwardly mobile middle groups; and parties that rose to power by propagating anti-Hindi and anti-Brahmin sentiments but have now allied themselves with the BJP. It is fitting that this reel-like scenario is presently dominated by the electoral politics of Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa, one a scriptwriter and the other a former actress. Through all this, the author discusses the successes and pitfalls of politics in the state, from the free-meal scheme for students and the elevation of leaders to a divine status to the anti-conversion law and the rising importance of the Dravidian parties in national politics. Well-known writer and journalist Vaasanthi has observed the dramatis personae in this epic drama at close quarters for a decade, and Cut-outs, Caste and Cine Stars offers an objective and insightful view of a political world that is both fascinating and perplexing. Printed Pages: 296. Size: 13 Cms x 20 Cms.



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