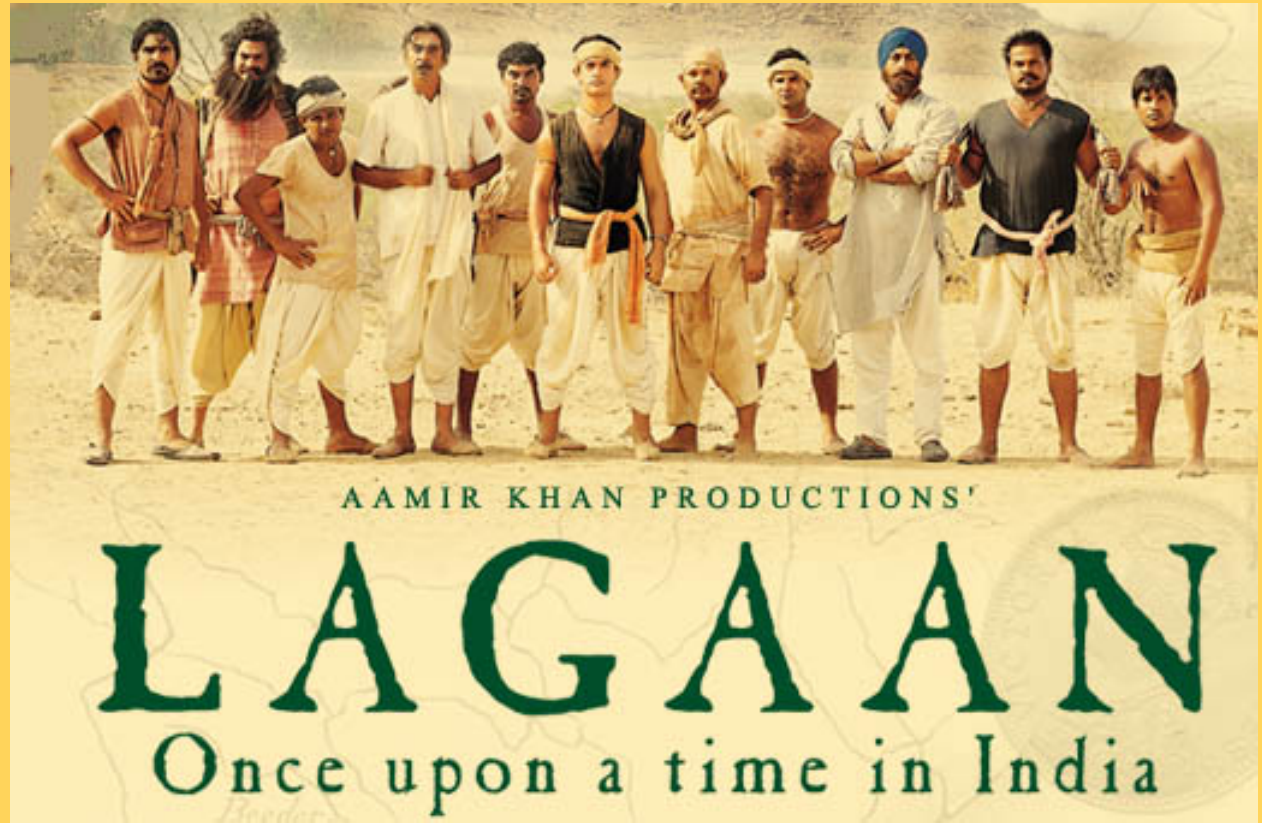


# “Bollywood’s Best Marriage Scenes”





“Cricket is an Indian game accidentally discovered by the English.” - Ashis Nandy, *The Tao of Cricket* (1989)



India defeats England in One Day International,  
September, 2007





(victory celebration,  
Mumbai, Sept. 27, 2007)

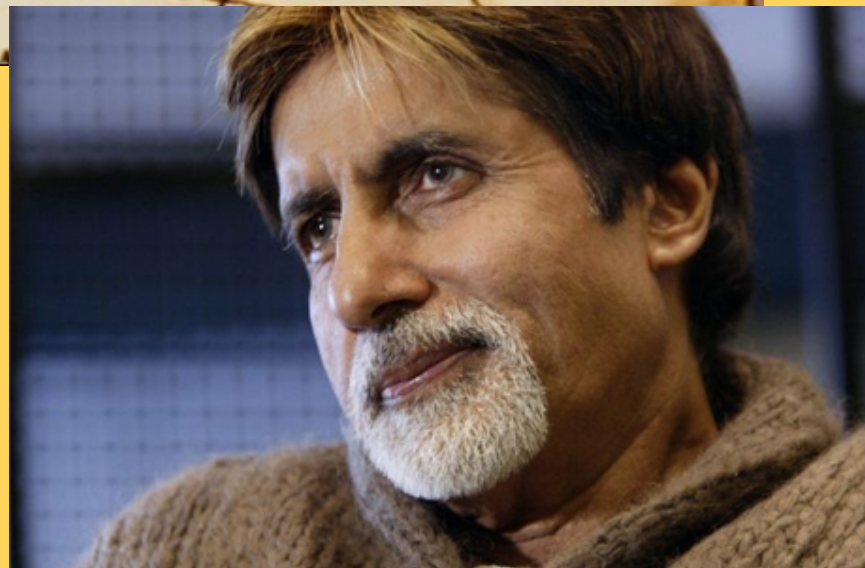


*Dramatis Personae:*





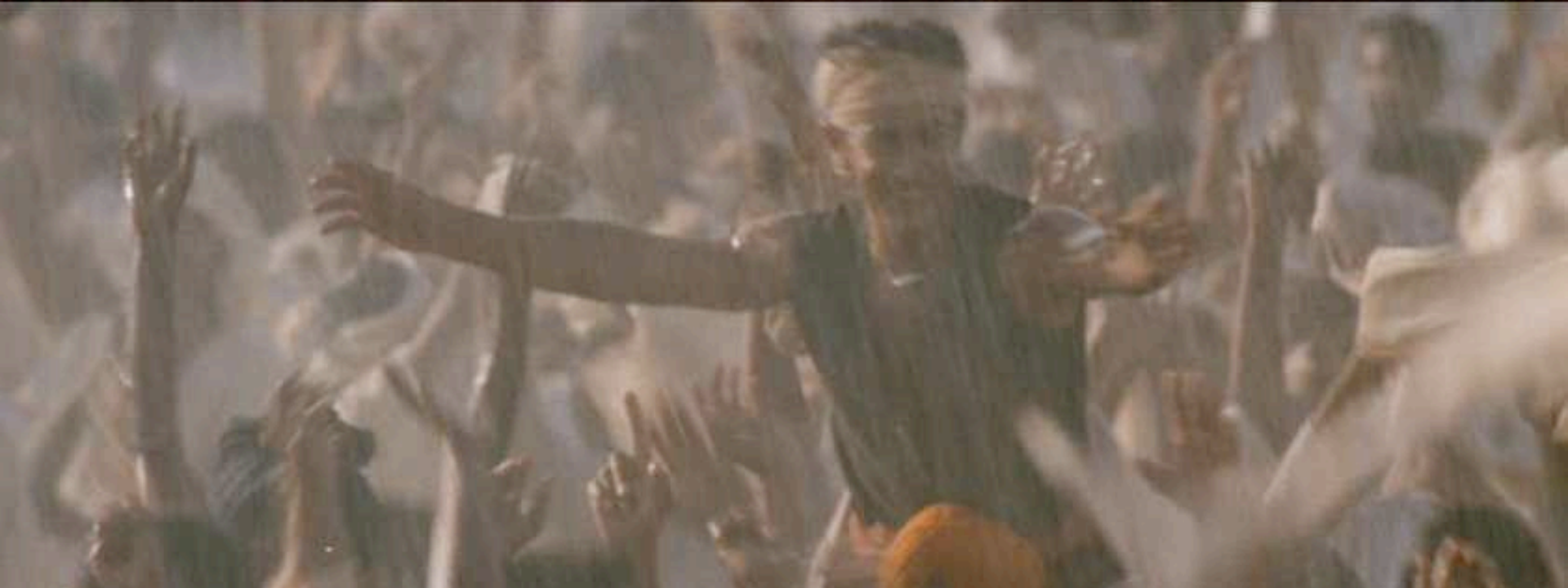
(the Voice: Amitabh Bachchan)





the Mother—a.k.a. Yashoda-mai, *Mai* (Suhasini Mulay)









the Hero (also, the Producer):  
Bhuvan (Aamir Khan)















the Heroine: Gauri (“fair”; Gracy Singh)







the Other Woman: Elizabeth Russell (Rachel Shelley)















the Villain: Capt. Andrew Russell (Paul Blackthorne)







the Champaner Eleven



Lakha

Kachra

Guran

Ishwar

Bhuvan

Bhaga

Arjan

Bhura

Goli

Ismael

Deva Singh



AAMIR KHAN PRODUCTIONS'

# LAGAAN



Guran  
(Rajesh Vivek)



Deva Singh  
(Pradeep  
Rawat)



Ismail  
(Raj Zutshi)

Ishwar  
(Vallabh Vyas)

Lakha  
(Yashpal Sharma)



Arjan  
(Akhilendra Mishra)



Goli  
(Daya Shankar  
Pandey)

Bhura  
(Raghuveer  
Yadav)





Kachra  
(Aditya Lakhia)



Raja Puran Singh  
(Kulbhushan Kharbandha)





Some themes:



village as microcosm,  
village as utopia





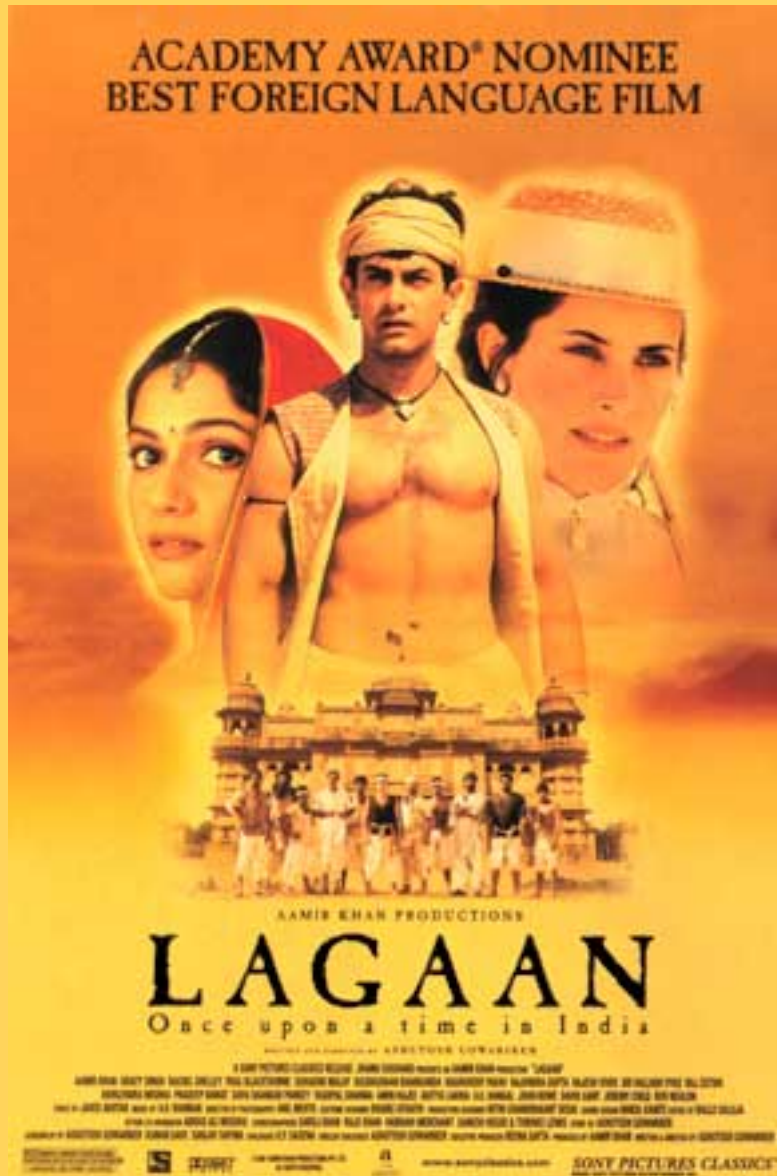


Inter-communal harmony.....



....within an (unproblematic) majority community frame?





“saffronization”

(of politics,  
of popular  
cinema,  
in 1990s)









Critical perspectives:

*Lagaan* as “Gandhian allegory”

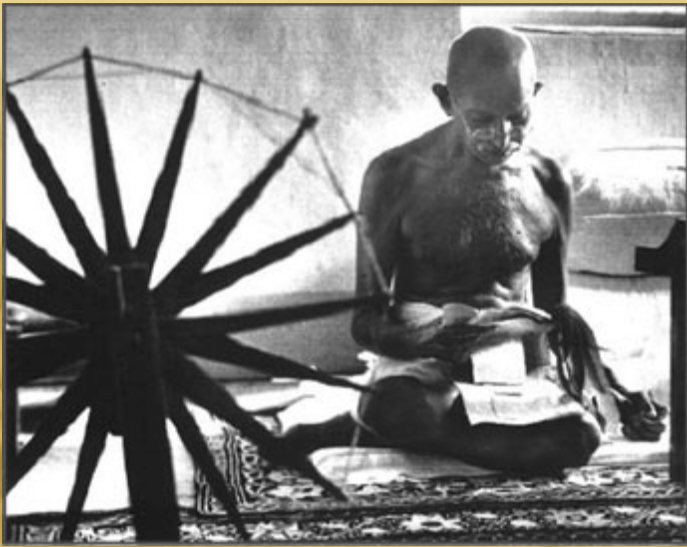


non-violent resistance



power of mass, non-violent struggle





sustainable, non-industrial village as national ideal



uplift of *harijans* (“untouchables,” Dalits)



Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar

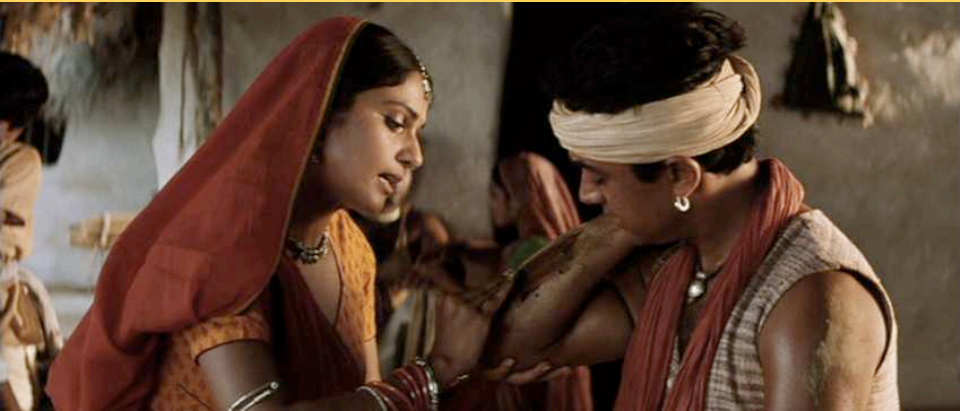


*Lagaan* as historically misleading:



Rajas as exploitative, British collaborators

marginalizes, tokenizes, and denies agency to



women



religious  
minorities



Dalits



stress on “national unity” promotes militant nationalism, and conceals class divides



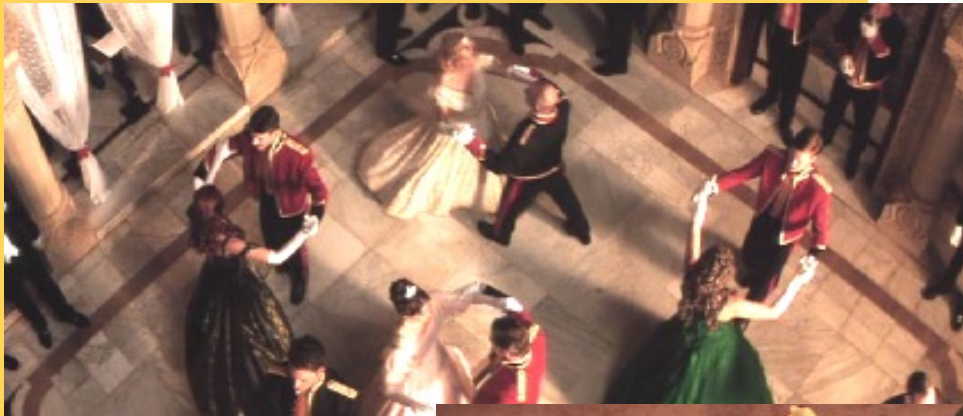
“subaltern” hero?







Music: A. R. Rahman







Songs:

*Ghanan ghanan* (“monsoon clouds”); seasonal folk

*Mitwa* (“listen, O friend!”); *sant bhajan*

*Radha kaise na jale* (“Why shouldn’t Radha be jealous?”)

devotional *bhakti bhajan*

*O rey chori* (“O sweetheart”)/*Waltz for a romance*;

bi-lingual lovesong

*Chale chalo* (“move forward!”); work song

*O paalanhaare* (“O sustainer”) *bhakti bhajan*



Lyrics: Javed Akhtar  
(cf. “Salim-Javed”)



## Sports and the Nation: *Chak de India!* (2007)

