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The Courage to Lead of Gandhi

Emilio Iodice
Loyola University, EFIODICE@YAHOO.COM

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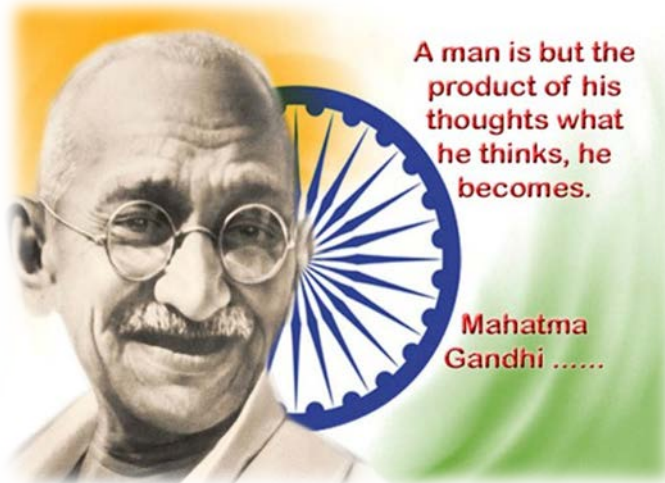
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The Courage to Lead of Gandhi

— Emilio Iodici, Rome, Italy



“I believe that Gandhi's views were the most enlightened of all the political men in our time. We should strive to do things in his spirit: not to use violence in fighting for our cause, but by non-participation in anything you believe is evil.”

— Albert Einstein

Courtesy Mahatma Gandhi Images, <http://www.happyfriendship-day.com/mahatma-gandhi-images-photos-pictures-hd-wallpapers-2016-free-download/>

“Gandhi resisted evil with as much vigor and power as the violent resister, but he resisted with love instead of hate. True pacifism is not unrealistic submission to evil power. It is rather a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love... If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought, and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our own risk.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Not since Buddha has India so revered any man. Not since St. Francis of Assisi has any life known to history been so marked by gentleness, disinterestedness, simplicity of soul and forgiveness of enemies. We have the astonishing phenomenon of a revolution led by a saint.”

— Will Durant, historian

“Today, when world peace is threatened with atomic and nuclear weapons capable of annihilating the human race, Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of love and truth and of respect for others' rights have become even more meaningful than at any other time.”

— Haile Selassie I, former Emperor of Ethiopia

The Man Who Defied the Crown

He challenged the world's greatest colonial power. He fought the United Kingdom to free India from its shackles not with guns or violence but with peace. He came from a background of privilege yet devoted himself to the poor, the helpless, and the defenseless to free them from imperial bondage.

Gandhi proved that the even the strongest nations cannot win in the face of a united people determined to plan and control their destiny through nonviolence. He was arrested more than a dozen times and spent a total of seven years in prison. He was branded a criminal. Even so, he carried on in the face of beatings, mistreatment, and threats of death. He became among the

most quoted leaders in history. His words flew into the hearts and minds of billions of people from one generation to another.

Gandhi's courageous example of fighting peacefully without fear would set the world on fire as other apostles of good will fought for liberty and freedom not with the sword, but with the word and with the unity of love.

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won.
— Mahatma Gandhi

Early Life

The golden way is to be friends with the world and to regard the whole human family as one.
— Mahatma Gandhi

He was born in India in 1869. His was the home of an elite and powerful family. His father was a prominent Indian official. His nation was part of the British Empire and was considered its “crown jewel.”



Bashir Bagh Palace Drawing-Room, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, 1888, Images of an Empire, Dawn Magazine, Saima Shakil Hussain, July 28, 2013, 08:20 a.m.



Putlibai, Gandhi's mother, Courtesy Gandhi Foundation

It furnished spices, textiles and precious stones and had a huge population that allowed the British to create a military class. Indian troops helped control other parts of the Empire and played a crucial role in fighting for the Imperial Crown for over a century (BBC, 2012).

Gandhi's father was a high-level administrator in the regional government. Yet, it was a woman who had the strongest influence on Gandhi. His mother inspired his spiritual upbringing. He grew up as a Hindu, worshiping Vishnu and followed Janism which was a rigorous faith that espoused mediation, vegetarianism, fasting, and nonviolence.

“To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior. Has she not greater intuition, is she not more self-sacrificing, has she not greater powers of endurance, has she not greater courage? Without her, man could not be. If nonviolence is the law of our being, the future is with woman. Who can make a more effective appeal to the heart than woman?”

(To the Women of India, Young India, Oct. 4, 1930)

— Mahatma Gandhi



Gandhi and his wife Kasturba. http://www.mahatma.org.in/books/images/io0002/pg0002_1.jpg

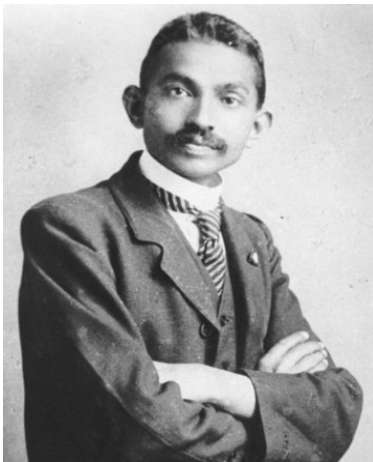
Young Gandhi grew up in an affluent household that could afford him a good education. He lived by the customs and rules of his day and the land of his ancestors. His father, in particular, determined the course of his life. At 13, he was married to the daughter of a merchant. It was arranged by the families as was the tradition in India.

The Lawyer

I realized the true function of a lawyer was to unite parties riven asunder. I came in contact with every known Indian anarchist in London. Their bravery impressed me, but I felt that their

zeal was misguided. I felt that violence was no remedy for India's ills, and that her civilization required the use of a different and higher weapon for self-protection.

— Mahatma Gandhi



Gandhi in London, 1888, Courtesy Gandhi Foundation

In 1885, he saw his father die. He suffered the loss of his young baby. He had just turned sixteen. Three years later, after the birth of his first surviving son, Gandhi was sent to London to study law. The capital of the Empire was one of the richest cities on the planet. It was a cosmopolitan metropolis filled with examples of the global power of the royal possessions. It was a far cry from his home in the small coastal town of Porbandar, in southwest India, where fishing and farming were the principle sources of employment.

It was the Age of Queen Victoria. Her reign was one of relative peace and prosperity. It was a time of colonial, economic and industrial consolidation of the Empire and political reform of domestic politics. Britain enjoyed unprecedented opulence and influence.



Queen Victoria, 1837-1901, Courtesy BBC



London shop, 1888, vintagephoto.livejournal.com
Courtesy Pinterest

The wealth of the Empire could be seen in the affluent lifestyles of the British and their elegant shops filled with goods from around the world, especially from India. It was also a place of enormous contrasts of classes and distinctions. Alongside of abundance was poverty. The poor were everywhere, barely surviving while the powerful enjoyed ever growing abundance.



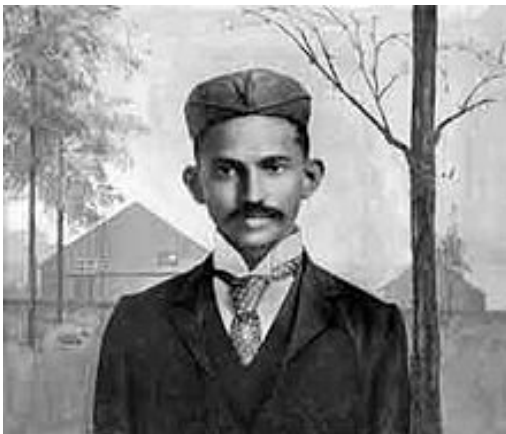
White Chapel Street, London, 1888, Courtesy BBC



It was difficult for Gandhi to adjust to London, its social disparities and the customs of the British. He found them arrogant, racist, and ingrained with a superior attitude. They saw themselves as masters of the earth and all others far below them. The British were carnivores. He was a vegetarian.

He developed a strong sense of spirituality by reading and studying world religions. He became committed to a peaceful and gentle style of life filled with respect for each individual. He formulated his own concept of all people living together in a world of tranquility (BBC, 2012). When he returned to India in 1891, the person who had shaped him was gone. His mother died a few weeks before his arrival home.

Gandhi set about practicing law. He was not successful. He failed in his first case and was thrown out of the office of a British official. The incident scarred him. He struggled to find work.



Gandhi in South Africa, Courtesy Gandhi Foundation

Finally, in 1893, he was offered a one year contract to provide legal services in South Africa. He sailed for Durban. It would be a turning point in his life. He was 24.

South Africa was controlled by the British and the Dutch, who were called Boers. They fought each other in a series of wars in the 19th century to take control of the country's wealth (Giliomee et al, 2007). As soon as Gandhi set foot in South Africa, he saw the appalling discrimination and racial segregation faced by immigrants from India at the hands of the Boers and the British.

Fighting for Civil Rights in South Africa

Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.

Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good. — Mahatma Gandhi

A large Indian colony had developed in South Africa. The community spanned across the social and geographic boundaries of India, bringing together people of all classes, backgrounds and faiths. It included wealthy Muslims. They needed a lawyer to defend their rights and offered a

job to Gandhi. These Indian entrepreneurs employed impoverished Hindu laborers, which had an effect on Gandhi. He saw all people has one. He did not separate the Indians by religion, wealth or cultural differences. He learned more about his own people and the great diversity of his country in South Africa than he had known at home.

People of color were severely restricted in South Africa. Discrimination and segregation was the norm. While on a train at Pietermaritzburg, he was thrown off after refusing to move from first class. The next day he returned and was allowed to sit in first class where he had purchased his seat. His subsequent trip was by stage coach. He was beaten for refusing to make room for a European. Hotels would not accommodate him (Gandhi, 1940).

In a professional incident, the magistrate of the Durban tribunal demanded that Gandhi remove his turban. He refused. He was blacklisted from that moment on. In addition, Indians were not permitted to walk on public sidewalks. Gandhi was startled when he was kicked off a footpath by a police officer without any warning (Gandhi, 1940). These events and others shaped Gandhi into a social activist. A passion rose in him to fight for social justice. He began to question his role in society and the standing of the people of India in the British Empire (Gandhi, 1940).

Fighting for the Right to Vote

I can retain neither respect nor affection for government which has been moving from wrong to wrong in order to defend its immorality. – Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi decided to stay in South Africa to take up the causes of the weak and the downtrodden. A bill was proposed to deny Indians the right to vote. He asked the British Colonial Secretary to reconsider the act. The bill was passed despite his protests. Even so, Gandhi succeeded in drawing attention to the grievances of his people. He founded a society to unite Indians into a political force. Gandhi's name and influence was growing in South Africa. The political elites realized this.

In January, 1897, Gandhi traveled to Durban. As soon as he arrived, a mob attacked him. He barely escaped. He refused to press charges against his attackers. Gandhi said it was his principle never to seek redress for a wrong against him in a court of law (Tendulkar, 1951).

Three years later the Boer War broke out. Gandhi volunteered to form a corps of Indian stretcher bearers to help the wounded. It was known as the Natal Indian Ambulance Corps. Gandhi wanted to make a point to the British. He was determined to demonstrate that Hindus could take up manly tasks and were not afraid to risk their lives in dangerous situations. He raised eleven hundred volunteers. They served in the front lines. They saved countless lives by carrying wounded soldiers over rough terrain where vehicles could not go. Gandhi and thirty-seven other volunteers received the Boer War Medal (Bose & Jalal, 2004).

Six years later the British declared war against the Zulus. Gandhi encouraged the British to recruit Indians and to recognize their right to full citizenship. Twenty stretcher bearers helped the British save the lives of their wounded soldiers. It was at this time that Gandhi realized that it was useless to fight the British with arms. Only nonviolence could force them to change their policies and ultimately defeat them. Gandhi wanted to open the door to full citizenship to South Africans but knew it would take time. Years later, Gandhi would be proclaimed a hero when black South Africans gained the right to vote.

The Beginning of the Movement Toward Nonviolence

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it – always.

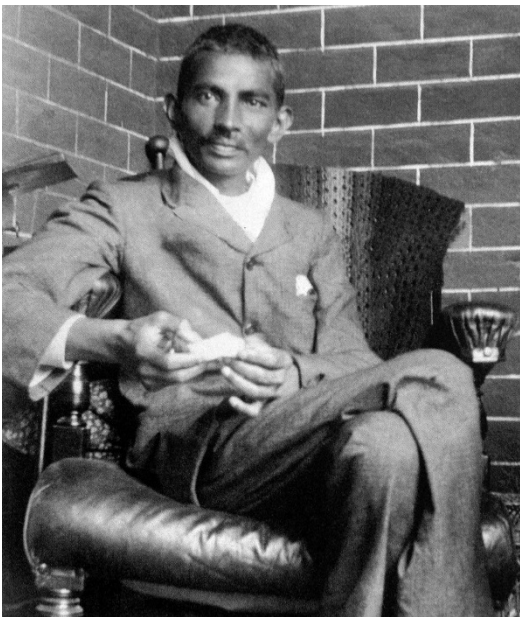


Gandhi in 1907, Courtesy Gandhi Foundation

Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat, for it is momentary. Nobody can hurt me without my permission.

— Mahatma Gandhi

In the South African colony of the Transvaal, Indian and Chinese nationals were forced to register by an unjust law. Gandhi decided that this was the moment to protest and to apply the principles of *Satyagraha* (devotion to truth), or defying without violence. In a mass rally held on September 11, 1906, Gandhi asked the Indians not to obey the law. He asked that they be willing to suffer the consequences which could be severe and even fatal. Gandhi's plan was adopted by the community. For nearly a decade, thousands of Indians were beaten, shot or jailed in defiance of an unfair, and unethical act of discrimination.



Gandhi recovering from a beating by Indians in South Africa, 1908, Courtesy Gandhi Foundation

Gandhi himself was subjected to violence not only by the South Africans but by other Indians who disagreed with his methods. He risked his life constantly at the hands of the British, the Boers and his own countrymen who felt that fighting with the sword was mightier than combating evil with love.

Gandhi's followers, burned their registration cards and conducted mass protests. The activists were suppressed but the movement raised a public outcry. The South African government was forced to come to terms with Gandhi and negotiate a compromise. The force of non-violence was taking shape. Before Gandhi left South Africa, he had negotiated recognition of Hindu marriages and the elimination of the poll tax for Indians.

His counterpart on the South African government side was General Jan Smuts, who later became Prime Minister. As Gandhi departed his nation he said, "The saint has left our shores, I sincerely hope forever."

Return to India

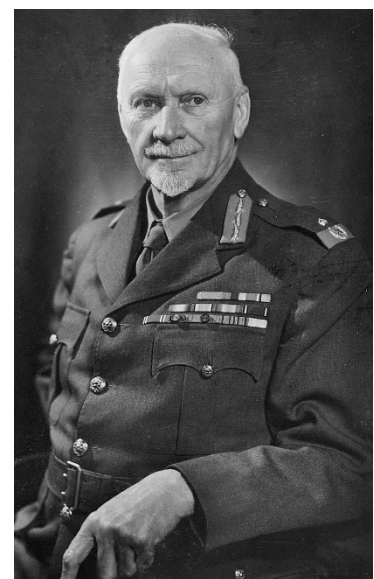
The day a woman can walk freely on the roads at night, that day we can say that India has achieved independence.

How can one be compelled to accept slavery? I simply refuse to do the master's bidding. He may torture me, break my bones to atoms and even kill me. He will then have my dead body, not my obedience. Ultimately, therefore, it is I who am the victor and not he, for he has failed in getting me to do what he wanted done.

Personally, I crave not for 'independence' which I do not understand, but I long for freedom from the English yoke.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi returned to India in 1915. He was different. His experience in South Africa had challenged him as a man, as a leader and as a human being. He now was self-confident, articulate, wise, and fearless. He had learned how to negotiate, raise funds for a cause, deal with the media and convince thousands to follow him. Some



General Jan Smuts, 1948, Dutch National Archive

of these skills he developed as a lawyer as well as a proponent of social causes (DiSalvo, 2013). He joined the Congress Party and in a few years had a major leadership position.

When World War I broke out, Gandhi was forced to make a difficult choice. The British wanted his support to raise Indian soldiers to fight on their behalf. This was contrary to Gandhi's principles of nonviolence. At the same time, Gandhi felt that supporting the Empire would put India in a better position to bargain for independence.

As a result, in 1918, he reluctantly urged Indians to join the British as combatants. Gandhi wrote: "To bring about such a state of things we should have the ability to defend ourselves, that is, the ability to bear arms and to use them...If we want to learn the use of arms with the greatest possible dispatch, it is our duty to enlist ourselves in the army" (Gandhi, 1918). In a letter to the Viceroy's private secretary, he insisted that he "personally will not kill or injure anybody, friend or foe" (Gandhi, 1918). Over a million Indians fought for Britain in the First World War. Sixty thousand of them were killed. With the end of the War in 1918, pressure mounted for Indian independence (Cavendish, 2009).



Gandhi in 1918, Yale University Press

The Struggle for Indian Independence

Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, conquer him with love...Nonviolence is a weapon of the strong...Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

Complete independence will be complete only to the extent of our approach in practice to truth and nonviolence.

Independence of my conception means nothing less than the realization of the "Kingdom of God" within you and on this earth.

Complete independence through truth and nonviolence means the independence of every unit, be it the humblest of the nation, without distinction of race, color or creed. — Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi's influence in the Congress Party grew. He allied himself with the Muslims of India and broadened his base of support. He returned his medals bestowed upon him by the British for his service in the Boer and Zulu wars to show his solidarity with the plight of the Muslims. He also fought to prevent the Muslims and Hindu from fighting each other. He was not successful, in this regard. The seeds were being sown for a separation of India based on religion and not geography.

The Massacre at Amritsar

Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat, for it is momentary.

Just as one must learn the art of killing in the training for violence, so one must learn the art of dying in the training for nonviolence.

Better than cowardice is killing and being killed in battle.

If blood be shed, let it be our own. Let us cultivate the calm courage to die without killing.
— Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi began to escalate his demands against the British. In 1909, Gandhi had written about the relationship of the British and the people of India. He said that it was a matter of cooperation. The Indians had helped the British control them. Gandhi insisted that it should end. He was convinced that if the Indians refused to cooperate, British rule would collapse (King, 2013). The British controlled India starting in the 18th century. During the ensuing years, they were not averse to use violence and other methods to suppress insurrections and movements toward home rule.

In 1919 a tragic event happened that would alter the course of British and Indian history. "Early in April 1919 news of the arrest of Indian nationalist leaders in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar sparked riots in which a mob went on the rampage, killing several Europeans, leaving an English female missionary for dead, and looting numerous banks and public buildings. British and Indian troops under the command of Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer were sent to restore order and Dyer banned all public meetings which, he announced, would be dispersed



Amritsar massacre – Jallianwala Bagh Rare photos, Courtesy <http://funyam.com/amritsar-massacre-jallianwala-bagh-rare-photos-2/September 20, 2013>

by force if necessary. Despite this, thousands gathered in protest in a walled enclosure called the Jallianwala Bagh, near the city's Golden Temple, sacred to Sikhs" (Cavendish, 2009). They joined a group of Baishakhi pilgrims to participate in annual religious and cultural celebrations. Martial law had been imposed. The crowd may not have been unaware of this since they came from outside the city.

Under the orders of Dyer, a contingent of Gurkha troops entered the enclosed area. They confronted the crowd. Without warning, they attacked the multitude of helpless, unarmed



Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, c. 1919, Courtesy History.com

civilians. When the throng realized what was happening, they tried to flee. As they fled, the soldiers fired. They aimed at the few available exits to cut down as many people as possible. It was pandemonium. People ran frightened and shocked. The barrage of bullets lasted more than ten minutes. Over 1600 rounds were fired until Dyer's men ran out of ammunition. The British claimed 379 dead and 1200 wounded. Other sources insisted the death toll was much higher, probably over a 1000 (*Report of Commissioners, 1920*).

At first Dyer was considered a hero in the eyes of the Crown. Later, when public reaction in Britain and around the world condemned the killings, Parliament censured him and forced him into retirement (Collett, 2006). "The news of the massacre provoked fierce disapproval. Speaking in the House of Commons, Winston Churchill condemned 'an extraordinary event, a monstrous event, and an event which stands in singular and

sinister isolation'" (Cavendish, 2009).

The murders at Amritsar were considered by some historians as the turning point that led to the in the end of the British rule in India (Sarkar, 1983). British brutality stunned the nation and the world. The massacre led Gandhi to push vigorously for Indian independence.

The Non-Cooperation Movement gained impetus after the killings at Amritsar. Its goal was to resist British rule in any way possible. Indians refused to purchase British goods. They protested against liquor stores and promoted Indian handicrafts (Collett at pp. 398–399).

Gandhi asked Indians to spin their own cloth to avoid purchasing textiles made in the Britain. He urged Indians to boycott British educational institutions, resign from government jobs, not use British courts and give up British honors and titles. He led national protests around the country.



Gandhi spinning cloth, Courtesy Rare Photos of Mahatma Gandhi, <http://www.patnabeats.com/rare-photos-of-mahatma-gandhi/>

Because of his popularity and sense of trust, he was able to harness the help of both Muslims and Hindus to peacefully fight the Crown (Shashi, 1966).

Gandhi was arrested for sedition. He was sentenced to serve a six-year prison sentence. He was released after two. During that time, his movement splintered because of the lack of his leadership. He tried to restore the coalition of Hindus and Muslims but was only partially successful. Gandhi stayed out of politics. For four years, he tried to mend political differences and expanded initiatives to defeat ignorance, poverty, alcoholism and untouchability. He strongly favored the emancipation of women, the end to child marriages and the oppression of widows.

Then, in 1928, the British appointed a new constitutional reform commission. No Indians were members. Gandhi voiced his disapproval. He demanded Indian dominion status to put the country on the road to independence. The British refused to respond.

On New Year's Eve, 1929, the flag of India was unfurled in Lahore. On the 26th of January, 1930, the Indian National Congress declared its Independence Day. Gandhi expanded his non-violent activities.

The Salt March to Dandi



Statue of Gandhi commemorating the 1930 Salt March to Dandi, Courtesy History.com

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

To deprive a man of his natural liberty and to deny to him the ordinary amenities of life is worse than starving the body; it is starvation of the soul, the dweller in the body. — Mahatma Gandhi

He launched an attack against the salt tax. Indians were forbidden to collect or sell salt. The British held a monopoly and imposed a heavy duty. It was a burden, especially on the poor. Gandhi decided it was time to fight this unjust policy.

On March 12, 1930, he told his followers he would conduct a religious retreat and go to the coastal town of Dandi on the Arabian Sea. He would defy the British by making salt at the sea. As he and his followers walked, he addressed larger and larger crowds. They followed him. By the time they reached the coast, 240 miles from where they began, tens of thousands of people were with them. On April 5, he addressed the multitude and prayed. The next day, he went down to the sea to collect salt.



Gandhi and his followers during the Salt March, April 1930, Courtesy History Channel.



Gandhi Picking up salt in Dandi, April 5, 1930, http://www.calpeacepower.org/0101/images/1930-pick-salt-GS_BG.jpg

He had planned to gather salt from the great salt flats that hugged the shore. The police arrived first. They crushed the salt into the mud. Gandhi reached down, deep into the mire and picked out a piece of salt. He had defied the British. Thousands followed his lead and did the same. Civil disobedience broke out across the country. Millions of Indians demonstrated against the Crown. Sixty thousand people were arrested along with Gandhi. He was released the following year.

Negotiations

Good government is no substitute for self-government.

Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it even if I didn't have it in the beginning.

Corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be inevitable products of democracy, as they undoubtedly are today.

— Mahatma Gandhi

In 1931, the government decided it was time to negotiate with Gandhi. They agreed to free all political prisoners in exchange for a suspension of the civil disobedience movement. As a result, Gandhi was invited to attend a Round Table Conference in London. He was the sole representative of the Indian National Congress. The encounter was a disappointment. It dwelt on issues of Indian royalty and not a transfer of power.

A British Member of Parliament gave a speech about the affair. He ridiculed Gandhi. He said: "It is alarming and also nauseating to see Mr. Gandhi, a seditious Middle Temple lawyer, now posing as a fakir of a type well known in the East, striding half-naked up the steps of the Vice-regal palace....to parley on equal terms with the representative of the King-Emperor."

The Parliamentarian was Winston Churchill (Herman, 2008).

Congress Party Politics

It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.

If I seem to take part in politics, it is only because politics encircles us today like the coil of a snake from which one cannot get out, no matter how much one tries. I wish therefore to wrestle with the snake. — Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi returned to India. Protests and civil disobedience resumed. He was once again arrested and later released. For the next decade, he continued his movement to fight the British via nonviolence and not by traditional political means. As a result, in 1934, he resigned from the Congress Party which was now very diverse, representing social and economic groups throughout India. Gandhi wanted the Party to grow without him so that these various entities could express themselves.

He returned to the Party in 1936. He was disappointed at the constant infighting and the growing lack of support for his approach to Independence with nonviolence.

World War II

I appeal for cessation of hostilities ... because war is bad in essence. You want to kill Nazism. Your soldiers are doing the same work of destruction as the Germans. The only difference is that perhaps yours are not as thorough as the Germans ... I venture to present you with a nobler and a braver way, worthy of the bravest soldiers. I want you to fight Nazism without arms or ... with non-violent arms. I would like you to lay down the arms you have as being useless for saving you or humanity. You will invite Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini to take what they want of the countries you call your possessions. Let them take possession of your beautiful island, with your many beautiful buildings. You will give all these but neither your souls, nor your minds. If these gentlemen choose to occupy your homes, you will vacate them. If they do not give you free passage out, you will allow yourself, man, woman and child, to be slaughtered, but you will refuse to owe allegiance to them ... I am telling His Excellency the Viceroy that my services are at the disposal of His Majesty's Government, should they consider them of any practical use in advancing the object of my appeal. — Mahatma Gandhi



Gandhi in Jail, Courtesy Twitter.com

Gandhi was opposed to Indian involvement in World War II without a definite British guarantee of independence. He launched the *Quit India* movement. His views and that of others split the Indian political realm. Muslims were divided against Hindus. Supporters of the British insisted that Indian troops engage in the fighting. They did, despite the protests of Gandhi and his followers. Gandhi was criticized by the Allies as well as the British who viewed him as traitor. In 1942, Gandhi and his

disciples were incarcerated along with the entire Congress Party leadership. They remained in jail almost to the end of the War. In 1943, Gandhi launched a hunger strike. Fearful that he and

other leaders would die in prison, the British released him in 1944 while Indians fought to help the Allies defeat the Axis powers.

In the end, Indian soldiers fought bravely to save the United Kingdom from a Nazi and Japanese victory. Over two and half million soldiers fought for the Crown. Several Indian princely states provided major donations to support the Allied cause. India was a base of operations for American forces in the Chinese and Burmese campaigns.

They fought the Japanese and prevented them from invading India. Indians helped liberate Singapore and Hong Kong. More than 87,000 men died fighting for the British (*Commonwealth Report, 2013-2014*). It was clear that the Indian participation in the War effort was crucial for the success of the Allies. India also benefited economically. The country produced arms and goods to supply Allied armies. At the end of the hostilities, India emerged as a stronger nation in terms of political and economic influence.

Independence

A Labor government emerged at the helm of Britain at the close of World War II. The people of the United Kingdom were tired of war and conflict. The new government moved to grant India independence. Disputes grew between the Hindus and Muslims. The only way to deal with it, in the eyes of the British, the Congress Party and the Muslim League was partition. Gandhi was opposed. He reluctantly agreed with the hope that after independence the two people could



The last Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten and his wife with Gandhi, 1947, Gandhi Foundation

come together and achieve peace. Instead, massive riots ensued after partition. Gandhi went on a hunger strike until the riots ceased.

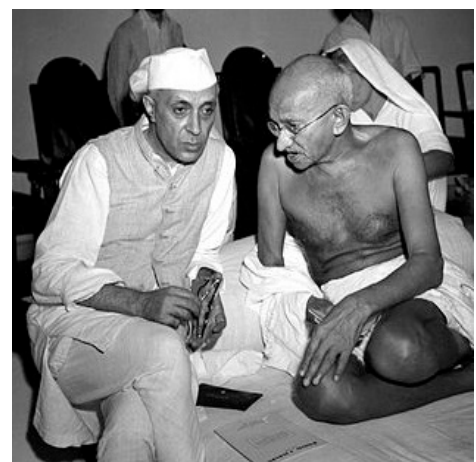
The *Independence Act of 1947* created the two independence dominions of India and Pakistan on the same day, August 15, 1947. Gandhi's dream had been realized. He was one of the most esteemed and popular figures on earth. He was on the cover of magazines, nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize and was considered by millions of Indians as the father of their nation.

Five months after Independence, the long journey of Mahatma Gandhi came to an end.

It was January, 1948. Gandhi was walking to a prayer meeting. Suddenly, a man emerged and shot him. He was a Hindu fanatic, angry with Gandhi's negotiations with the Muslims. The following day, millions of people followed his funeral procession. His ashes were spread out over rivers in India. Some were poured in other places including Self Realization Lake Shrine in Los Angeles. His death was mourned around the world.

One of the first leaders of the new India, Jawaharlal Nehru, said of Gandhi:

"Friends and comrades, the light has gone out of our lives, and there is darkness everywhere, and I do not quite know what to tell you or how to say it. Our beloved leader, Bapu as we called him, the father of the nation, is no more. Perhaps I am wrong to say that; nevertheless, we will not



Gandhi and Nehru in 1942, Courtesy Gandhi Foundation

see him again, as we have seen him for these many years, we will not run to him for advice or seek solace from him, and that is a terrible blow, not only for me, but for millions and millions in this country” (Jain, 2014).



“Gandhi, Leader of the Century” *Israelinews.com*

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

When I admire the wonders of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the creator.

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

—Mahatma Gandhi

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About the Author

Professor Iodice spent over three decades as a senior executive in the public and private sectors, as both an educator and a university administrator. He joined Loyola University in 2007 as Director of the John Felice Rome Center. In 2008, he was promoted to Vice President of the University. He assumed the role of Director Emeritus in 2016.

During those thirty years of experience, he was also a key official in Washington working under several Administrations. He was named by the President to the Senior Executive Service when he was thirty-three and considered the youngest public servant to reach the highest levels of federal service.



In the US diplomatic corps, he was among the most decorated officers in history and was awarded the Gold Medal for heroism, a Gold Medal for exemplary service, and the Silver Medal and nominated for two Bronze Medals. His honors include being knighted by the former king of Italy and receiving Medals of Honor from Spain and Italy.

Iodice speaks several languages and has traveled across the globe. He is considered an accomplished public speaker and author. His recent books include: *Profiles in Leadership from Caesar to Modern Times; A Kid from Philadelphia, Mario Lanza, the Voice of the Poets and Sisters; Reflections, Stories of Power, Love, Inspiration and Remembrance; and Future Shock 2.0, The Dragon Brief*.

Professor Iodice is a regular contributor to the *JVBL* and can be contacted at efiodice@yahoo.com.