

Gandhi: The Making of an Exemplary Leader Par Excellence!

This proposed edited volume is centered on the twin themes of leadership and change, with ethics acting as a balancing force. It explores the moral basis and spiritual genesis of Gandhi as a leader and as a change master over the following periods of his life:

- a. The Formative years (1869–1888)
- b. The London years (1888–1891)
- c. The South Africa years (1893–1914), and
- d. The Final years in India (1915–1948)

The individual chapters (5,000-6,000 words each) may focus on Gandhi's development as a leader within in one or more of these periods or explore some of the concepts/movements he inspired, such as *Swaraj* (self-rule), *Sarvodaya* (universal uplift), *Satyagraha* (firm abidance in truth), *ahimsa* (nonviolence) and Salt March.

Why Gandhi? Even more than 70 years after his death, he continues to be on most people's short list of inspiring leaders. How impactful is Gandhi? Well, more than a hundred nations have chosen to issue a stamp of Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869 – 1948). Gandhi led the greatest anti-colonial movement in history peacefully, showed how to lead consummate political life without compromising integrity, revealed a rare model of morally sensitive leadership, and provided politics much-needed moral and spiritual basis. "Perhaps never before," writes Robert Payne, "on so grand a scale has any man succeeded in shaping the course of history while using only the weapon of peace."¹

Gandhi's power came from empowering the weak; his passion came from his uncompromising pursuit of truth; his charisma, from the courage of his convictions; his authenticity, from being thoroughly himself; and his strength, from sacrifice and service. Gandhi gave his life to a higher cause; that is where his real greatness lies. He accomplished the impossible by humanizing politics and by approaching his lifework in an utterly selfless manner, never seeking for himself any title, position, or office.² These are all valuable lessons for modern leaders to emulate.

Gandhi life shows the power of peace, humility and gentleness of a "little brown man in a loincloth" who brought the mightiest empire on earth to its knees. With his life as his monument and message, Gandhi now belongs to all humanity, and his abiding peaceful leadership lessons apply to all nations and times. *Whenever a soul peacefully raises his voice against any kind of oppression, Gandhi's legacy will continue.*

Be the Change! 

¹ Robert Payne, *The Life and Death of Mahatma Gandhi* (New York: Konecky & Konecky, 1969), 16.

² Satinder Dhiman, *Gandhi and Leadership: New Horizons in Exemplary Leadership* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), p. 2.