

# An Assessment of Mahatma Gandhi's participation in the Independence Movement



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## Abstract

This article mostly focuses on Mahatma Gandhi's life and the struggle for freedom. Due to the brave, unselfish, and peaceful philosophies that defined Mahatma Gandhi's life and his efforts to bring about change for the benefit of his fellow citizens and the globe, Mahatma Gandhi came to be known as Mahatma (great soul). This chapter examines the lessons that may be learned from a person who was neither easily understood nor unaffected by failure or mistake, but whose inspiration and curiosity continue to reach a wide audience. Mahatma Gandhi taught us that a person may teach themselves to be open and transparent, as well as to build connections and collaborations between learning, employment, and the community while always aiming for development. Gandhi was the nation's performance manager and a transformation leader who was very pragmatic. Truth, tolerance, sacrifice, joy, and the peaceful rejection of oppression, according to Mahatma Gandhi, are the basic foundations of a happy life.

## Introduction

Due to the brave, unselfish, and peaceful philosophies that defined Mahatma Gandhi's life and his efforts to bring about change for the benefit of his fellow citizens and the globe, Mahatma Gandhi came to be known as Mahatma (great soul). Gandhi dedicated his life to achieving India's independence from Great Britain after being stirred up by the tragedy at Amritsar in 1919. The dominating figure inspired political activists of all

persuasions throughout the globe as he deployed his persuading concept of nonviolent confrontation. Mahatma Gandhi was a major promoter of peace in addition to his efforts to secure equality and freedom for everyone. Gandhi's unusual leadership style won him the admiration of a nation and finally allowed him to head the Indian independence struggle. On October 2, 1869, Mohandas Gandhi, later known as Mahatma Gandhi, was born in Porbandar, which is now the Indian state of Gujarat.

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### **Mahatma Gandhi**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, well known as Mahatma Gandhi, was born on October 2, 1869, in the Gujarati princely state of Porbandar. He chose law as his field of study and moved to London at the age of 18. He returned to India after receiving his diploma and started nonviolent demonstrations and actions for the improvement of the nation. Gandhi is regarded as one of the country's most significant leaders. His father worked for the government.

## **Mahatma Gandhi and Law**

- Before he started studying nonviolent revolution, Gandhi practised law for approximately 25 years. Gandhi edited Young India, Navajivan, and the Harijan while serving as the leader of the Indian independence movement. Gandhi oversaw many civil disobedience campaigns in South Africa to oppose racial legislation. DiSalvo said in his analysis of Gandhi's legal career that although Gandhi "finally lost trust in the conventional legal system - courts, judges, attorneys, litigation - he never lost faith in the law."
- Gandhi lived in South Africa before heading the Indian independence movement and campaigned there against inequality and classism. Within 10 years, Gandhi had spread the Satyagraha school of thought and inspired the nation to end all forms of racial or class prejudice. On board the SS Safari, Gandhi landed in Durban in 1893.
- Gandhi quickly rose to prominence as the community's leading Indian. His engagement in the South African nonviolent movement served as a crucial impetus for the Indian liberation fight, where he is revered as a leader.
- Gandhi worked as a lawyer and a governmental servant from 1893 until 1914. Gandhi said, "He was manufactured in South Africa, but he was born in India."
- Gandhiji began his legal practise at Mufassil Courts after his 1901 return to India from South Africa. His confidence grew as a result of his success at Mufassil Courts.
- He was persuaded by his friends and well-wishers to only reside in Bombay and work at the High Court. He was given a number of cases to work on and was successful in most of them. However, his destiny had other plans for him as he was once again summoned to South Africa to lead an uprising there.

## **Contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in Indian freedom struggle**

- World War I - Gandhi was invited to Delhi by Lord Chelmsford, the viceroy of India at the time, for a discussion on war. In order to gain the trust of the empire, Gandhi agreed to organise the populace to serve in the military during World War I. But in a letter to the Viceroy, he made a commitment that "personally, I shall never murder nor harm anyone, friend or foe."

- Champaran - The Champaran movement in Bihar was Gandhi's first actual participation in Indian liberation struggles. In Champaran, farmers were pressured to grow indigo and threatened with torture if they refused.
- Kheda - When the land in Gujarat's Kheda village was badly devastated by floods, the local farmers asked the government to refund the taxes. Peasants pledged not to pay taxes as part of Gandhi's next drive-in for signatures.
- Gandhi had a significant influence on the Muslim people.
- Khilafat movement. This was shown by his involvement in the Khilafat Movement. A worldwide rebellion was planned to challenge the Caliph's declining position when Muslims worried for the safety of their Caliph or religious leader. Gandhi eventually rose to prominence as a spokesperson for the All-India Muslim Conference. He forfeited the medals he had received from the Empire for his work with the Indian Ambulance Corps in South Africa. Due to his participation in the Khilafat, he soon rose to the position of national leader.
- Gandhi saw that the Indians' collaboration was the only factor in the British being permitted to stay in India, which led to the non-cooperation campaign. In light of this, he called for a movement of non-cooperation.
- The Dandi Movement, popularly known as Gandhi's Salt March, is recognised as a pivotal moment in the history of the liberation movement. At the Calcutta Congress in 1928, Gandhi cautioned the British to give India dominion status or else the country would explode in a revolution for complete independence. The British chose to disregard this.
- Quit India Movement - During the Second World War, Gandhi was dedicated to striking the British Empire a crushing blow that would assure their deportation from India. This happened when the British started recruiting Indians into the war.

## **Indian independence movement and Partition of India**

Gandhi was against religiously based division of the Indian subcontinent. Gandhi and the Indian National Congress demanded that the British leave India. The Muslim League, however, called for "Divide and Quit India." Gandhi proposed a deal that called for the Muslim League and the Congress to cooperate in order to achieve independence under a temporary administration. After that, the topic of partition would be decided by referendum in the areas having a Muslim majority. Gandhi's idea was rejected by Jinnah, who instead called for Direct Action Day on August 16, 1946, to pressure Muslims to openly rally in cities in favour of his plan to

divide the Indian subcontinent into Muslim and non-Muslim states. Due to police being on vacation, the dispute could not be contained or put an end to after the Direct Action Day led to the mass slaughter of Hindus in Calcutta and the torching of their property. The British government did not issue an order for its soldiers to enter the area to quell the unrest. In India, violence against Muslims increased as a result of the violence on Direct Action Day. In the days that followed, a violent cycle resulted in the death of thousands of Hindus and Muslims and the injury of tens of thousands more. Gandhi appealed for an end to the atrocities by visiting the districts most prone to riots.

## **Gandhi spinning yarn, in the late 1920s**

Gandhi included the swadeshi policy, or boycott of products created abroad, particularly British products, as part of his nonviolent non-cooperation movement. His urging that all Indians wear khadi (homespun fabric) rather than British-made textiles was related to this. Gandhi urged all Indians, regardless of wealth, to dedicate some of each day to spinning khadi in support of the freedom fight. Gandhi advised the populace to forgo British titles and honours, quit their government jobs, and boycott British institutions and courts in addition to British goods. Thus started Gandhi's quest to bring down the British Indian administration on all fronts—politically, economically, and administratively. As "Non-cooperation" gained popularity in society, people from all socioeconomic classes in India began to participate. Gandhi was taken into custody on March 10, 1922, prosecuted for sedition, and given a six-year jail term. On March 18, 1922, he started serving his sentence. The Indian National Congress broke into two groups while Gandhi was imprisoned; one was supported by Chitta Ranjan Das and Motilal Nehru and opposed party involvement in legislatures, while the other was headed by Chakravarti Rajagopalachari and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Additionally, cooperation between Hindus and Muslims came to an end with the demise of the Khilafat movement and the ascent of Ataturk in Turkey. Muslim Congressmen formed Muslim groups after leaving. Gandhi's political base has been divided into factions. Gandhi spent just two years before being released in February 1924 for an appendix procedure.

## **Conclusion**

Gandhi believed it was his duty to defend India's rights. Mahatma Gandhi had a significant role in India's independence from the British. He had an impact on many individuals and locations outside only India. By peacefully demonstrating and winning India's freedom, he altered the course of history. Gandhi is significant to us now because of his impact on Martin Luther King, who helped secure equal rights for African-Americans.

Gandhi was a devout member of politics. The desire to be like him inspires a lot of individuals throughout the globe. He is revered as a hero for freeing India from oppressive rules and the rule of Britain. The majority of people adored him as the "father of the country" and the "great soul," despite the fact that other individuals, like Nathuram Godse, did not like him and killed him. Gandhi was a guy who was willing to fast for the freedom of his people and who did not fear going to prison. He was always willing to make a sacrifice.

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