

Mohandas Gandhi / Ho Chi Minh

Freedom Fighters

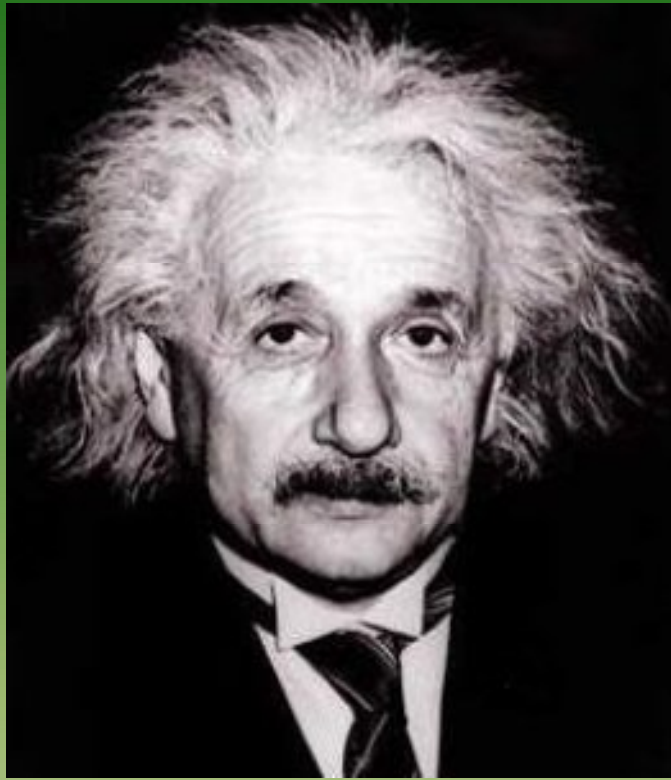
OR

Terrorists?

Gandhi: A Paradox (1869-1948)



- Unconventional Politician
- A Victorian Moralizer in the Age of Great Dictators
- Searching for Peace in an era of War and Violence
- A Critical Outsider in Indian Society
- Religious Leader or Social Modernizer?

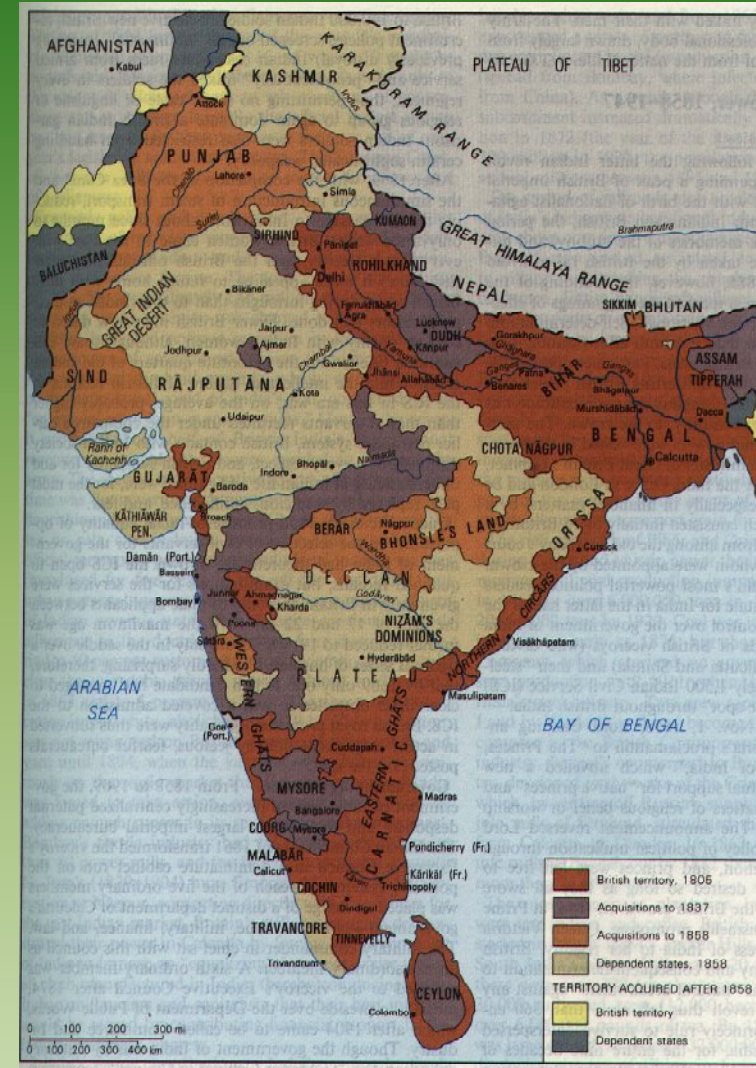


“Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this--ever in flesh and blood--walked upon this earth”

Albert Einstein

BRITISH INDIA

- **Benefits of British rule**
 - Economic progress
 - Educational opportunities for upper class
 - Improvement in public health
- **Downside of British rule**
 - Genuine freedom missing
 - Economic progress passed most by
 - Public health improvements caused population to skyrocket
- **Formation of Congress Party**
 - Made up moderate Indian professionals



OBSTACLES TO INDEPENDENCE



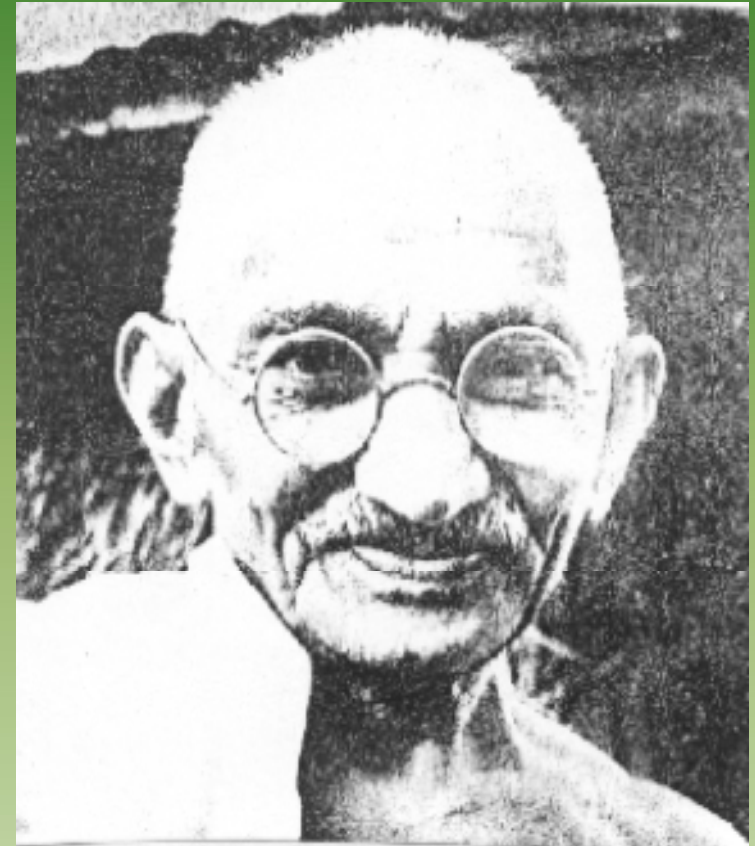
- **History of being ruled by outsiders**
- **Isolation and poverty of rural population**
- **Caste divisions**
- **Hostility between Hindus and Muslims**
- **Lack of common language**
- **Huge gap between wealthy, western-educated members of Congress Party and impoverished and uneducated masses**

Chronological Biography

- October 2, 1869: • Birth
- 1888: • pursuit of law degree in England
- 1892-1915: • Legal advisor in South Africa
- 1919: • Given the title of Mahatma, or *great soul*
- 1922-1925: • Imprisoned for sedition
- 1930s: • Return to a simple Indian life
- March 12, 1930: • Salt March
- 1932: • Fast to protest Hindu-Muslim violence in India
- 1942: • Last call for independence from GB Empire
- 1945: • Deemed the “Father of the Nation” of India
- August 15, 1947: • Complete independence achieved
- January 30, 1948: • Murdered during his prayer service by a radical

MAHATMA GANDHI

- Born in 1869 to a wealthy Hindu family (2nd caste)
- Received law education in London
- While in London, spent spare time studying spiritual writings
 - Hindu
 - Bible
 - Leo Tolstoy
 - Henry David Thoreau
 - Concept of civil disobedience
- Moved to South Africa after graduation
 - Developed strategy to help Indian contract workers
- Returned to India in 1916
 - Welcomed as a hero
 - Invited to join Congress Party



Gandhi's Philosophy

“Christ gave the message, and Gandhi gave the method.”
– Martin Luther King Jr.

No Secrecy: “I have no weapon but non-violence.”

Truth: “Truth is superior to man's wisdom.”

Trust: “Trust begets trust.”

Leadership: “I do entertain the hope that there is yet work for me to do, that the darkness that seems to have enveloped me will disappear, and that...India will come to her own demonstrably through non-violent means.”

Power of Change: “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Martyrdom: “In this cause, I am prepared to die. But there is no cause in which I am prepared to kill.”



Gandhi believed that British imperialism was wrong and that Indians should refuse to cooperate with the British imperialists. However, he also believed that violence was wrong. He encouraged his followers to engage in non-violent protests.



Gandhi encouraged a policy of non-violent non-cooperation. By refusing to obey the unjust laws of the imperialists and refusing to buy British products, Indians could change the policies of imperialists. As Gandhi said, “Real non-cooperation is non-cooperation with evil and not the evildoer.”



Gandhi believed that the use of violence was always wrong. He believed that the only way to change a wrongdoer was to show the wrongdoer the error of his ways. As Gandhi said, “An eye for an eye and the whole world is blind.”



Gandhi encouraged Indians to boycott or refuse to buy British-made cotton goods or cloth. He encouraged Indians to make their own homespun cloth. He wanted Indians to support the Indian economy not the British economy.



Gandhi also urged Indians to disobey unjust British laws. The refusal to obey unjust laws and the willingness to face the consequences is called Civil Disobedience. The making of illegal salt was an example of Civil Disobedience.

Gandhi's vision for change

- Gandhi spent **2,338** days in **jail** during his lifetime
- Argued to use **non-violent resistance** (*civil disobedience*) to achieve change
- **Satyagraha**: principle of “**truth-force**” which was the secret power of non-violence

The British Viceroy's view

(from a meeting with Gandhi in 1921)

- ***“There is no hesitation about him and there is a ring of sincerity in all that he utters...his religious views are...that non-violence and love will give India its independence and enable it to withstand the British Government”***

“I must confess that I found it difficult to understand his practice of them in politics...”



The British taxed salt production in India. In 1930, Gandhi led the Salt March to protest the British salt tax. Indians illegally made salt. They refused to obey the law.

The Salt March



- March 12 – April 5, 1930
- Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi
- Distance: 241 Miles
- Participants:
 - 79 official volunteers
 - 2 miles of Indian citizens



First day of the Salt March, Gandhi is 61 years old

Terrorism in Practice?

“With this salt, I am shaking the foundations of the British Empire.”

- Addressed the non-interference of the British government
- Demanded that the British government must be “***sensitive to world opinion which will not tolerate repression of extreme political agitation which civil disobedience undoubtedly is...***”
- Gandhi was depicted as the general of the great Indian Army



Gandhi's *Terrorist* Tactics?

- Public gatherings
- Rallied the masses through his speeches
- Performed endless acts of sedition
- Openly encouraged Indian citizens to defy the laws of the British government
- Made specific demands for change
- ***All done through non-violent resistance***

Terrorism in 21st Century

- “Gandhi would absolutely oppose al Qaeda and other terrorists, but he would also oppose some of the ways we are approaching the war on terrorism.”
- “There seem to be no limits now on the war on terrorism. You can crack down on dissent and deny civil liberties. Just label someone a terrorist, and anything goes.”
- “For Gandhi, violence was not just physical aggression. The nature of violence also could be economic, social, religious, and environmental. In fact, any type of suffering that humans cause or humans could prevent, was, to Gandhi, a form of violence.”



Gandhi's vision for an independent India included justice for all. He wanted to improve the lives of untouchables. He wanted to raise the standard of living. He wanted all Indians to live together in harmony.

SUCCESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT



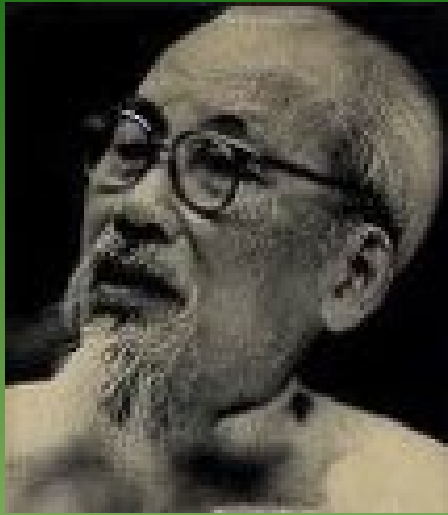
- British often over-reacted to non-violent demonstrations, generating international sympathy for Gandhi's causes
- Decades of protest finally paid off in 1947 → India is granted independence



- Riots immediately break out between Muslims and Hindus
- Gandhi is assassinated in 1948
- Muslim parts of India break off to form Pakistan and Bangladesh

World Impact

- Indian independence achieved on August 15, 1947
- Dozens of European nations liberated their colonies in Gandhi's example
- “The finest lesson we can learn from the philosophy of Gandhi is that, for the individual and the community, policies that make power the criterion of truth can only lead to disastrous consequences.”



Ho Chi Minh

“Half Lenin, Half Gandhi”



Early Life and Background

- Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969) born in Central Vietnam, grew up in simplicity
- Father unwilling to compromise with French and lost his job
- Father held nationalist beliefs and taught his children to oppose French authority
- BUT Sent to French school by father
- Learned about world by becoming a sailor
- Family fully involved in opposition to French authority

Formulation of Philosophies and Beliefs

- Heads abroad, learns Western tradition
- Ho Chi Minh reads works of Marx, forms communist ideas
- Helps form French Communist Party
- Attempted to gain French sympathy
- After learning political goals / tactics in his youth, Minh encourages movement for independence



Historical Context of French Vietnam

- After years of independence, Napoleon III colonizes Vietnam
- Western-style administration, Vietnamese bureaucracy loses all power
- Economic success of agriculture at expense of Vietnamese
- General opposition to rule grows, radical groups form with so much poverty



The Role of Ho Chi Minh

- Minh is upset by indifference to situation by West in the 1920s
- France split on issue, Minh publishes beliefs in France
- While debate was occurring, he travels around Asia spreading his beliefs, sometimes leading to imprisonment
- Founded Vietminh to coordinate nationalist group for independence
- Organizes help from Chinese and attempts to gain help America



The Vietminh and Opposition to the Japanese – WW II

- Japanese move into Vietnam and take control
- WW II rages on and Vietnamese help fight the Japanese
- After war, Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin decide to split Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam as the “Democratic Republic of Vietnam”, but French immediately oppose outbreak
- War breaks out with French December 1946 after lack of agreement between the two parties

- Following the end of World War II, **Ho Chi Minh** appeals to his nation to rebel against France because they have denied the citizens the same liberties, prevented a united country and focused more on punishment (prisons) than on education.
- To persuade his countrymen to rebel against France, **Ho Chi Minh** proclaims, “They have mercilessly massacred our patriots!”

The “French” War and Attempt of Uniting Vietnam Under Communism

- Nationalists and Communists support Ho Chi Minh’s government
- French humiliated, war ends in 1954, agreement reached in Geneva
- Vietnam divided along 17th parallel
- Communist elections in north, but free elections in South
- Ho Chi Minh still attempts to unite whole of Vietnam under communism



17th
parallel

Overall Impact on Vietnam Today

- His revolutionary ideas and leadership inspired many
- With growing tensions between North and South, the US got involved, resulting in the Vietnam War
- Vietnam eventually united under communism as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), Vietnam's largest city, was named to honor the revolutionary who fought passionately for its independence

