

## The Indispensability of Mahatma Gandhi and his Ideology

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The emergence of globalization has ushered in an era of remarkable progress. The proliferation of knowledge and the interconnectivity of societies have made information easily accessible, marking a significant gauge of human advancement. Nonetheless, there is a troubling underbelly to this progress. Terrorism, violence, corruption, and the widening disconnect among individuals represent grave threats to humanity. When the very existence of humanity is at risk, the pursuit of progress loses its significance. In such dire circumstances, Mahatma Gandhi's principles can provide solace and guidance.

The concept of political ideology has its roots in ancient times. Across different historical eras, elements such as philosophy, ideology, and imagination have played pivotal roles in shaping global politics. In today's modern social context, these ideologies have become intricately interwoven with our comprehension of human society and culture, influencing and molding political ideologies within the diverse contexts of various time periods. Embracing grassroots leadership rooted in individuality entails disseminating their ideology, mannerisms, and way of life within the collective consciousness of society. The evolution of this grassroots leadership spans different levels, from self-proclaimed to extraordinary, across diverse lineages. Even without a political heritage, a personality emerging from their own lifestyle can profoundly impact the general populace. Mahatma Gandhi's leadership philosophy serves as a prime example of such charismatic leadership firmly grounded in individuality.

**Understanding Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and its inevitability requires paying attention to certain key aspects.**

Mahatma Gandhi, initially a barrister, ventured to South Africa to spearhead a campaign against racial discrimination. His ordeal at the Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, where he was expelled from a "whites-only" compartment, served as a catalyst for his resolve to combat injustice. In his quest, Gandhi employed strategies such as Satyagraha (Nonviolent Resistance), Civil Disobedience, and unwavering adherence to ethical principles. These methods left an indelible mark on the Indian consciousness. Notably, Gandhi's influence on the Indian populace predominantly stemmed from the Jain and Buddhist

philosophy of non-violence and peace, resonating far more deeply than Machiavellian realist ideologies. This insight illuminates the profound impact of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and the widespread acceptance of his political and social ideals within Indian society. The focal point of Mahatma Gandhi's entire extensive work has always been the common man. Understanding their primary needs was where his greatest passion lay.

### **Mahatma Gandhi's View on Culture**

Mahatma Gandhi's principles of struggle were more of a religious and cultural nature rather than political, as he considered them to be a means of achieving social change within the nation or as an individual, rather than pursuing political power. He viewed his involvement in politics as a spiritual and cultural endeavor rather than a pursuit of political power. When a culture is on the verge of decline, efforts are made to preserve its monuments and heritage by investing significant labor and resources. However, when this labor is used more for fostering inter-cultural relationships, it results in the creation of a stronger and more enriched culture. Strengthening the culture of labor and service to the downtrodden is indeed a true culture, as per the lifelong belief of Mahatma Gandhi. This belief emphasizes the importance of empowering ordinary people through their efforts and serving the needy. The shift from isolated human cultures to a connection with nature necessitated a transformation in human perspective. Rather than posing questions concerning humanity, people had to generate inquiries that led to cultural clashes. Mahatma Gandhi succinctly articulated the idea that these cultural conflicts should evolve into cultural dialogues.

Mahatma Gandhi's viewpoint emphasized acknowledging God as the core of life and making efforts to alleviate suffering within the human experience, which could contribute to the formation of a distinct culture. In 1993, Samuel Huntington, in his book "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order," is noted to have addressed a related theme.

The distinction between violence and non-violence brings forth a profound issue related to self-worth. Those who lack an appreciation for life often dismiss this question with indifference, deriving satisfaction from their disregard. Life itself isn't inherently good or bad. Consequently, there's no need to separate one's existence from that of others. Genuine living involves cherishing life, not contemplating its termination, as ending one's life isn't a solution; it constitutes an unjustifiable act of self-harm committed by individuals.

Mahatma Gandhi's perspective suggests that individuals should not dread death, as it is akin to a constant companion that has been with us since birth. He stresses that those who distinguish between accepting and fearing death cannot genuinely practice non-violence. The arena where human actions carry the most weight is in politics. Consequently, political activists shoulder greater responsibilities and must possess a profound comprehension of political philosophy. Without this understanding, politics can devolve into a directionless, ego-driven endeavor that shifts its focus with changing individuals. Thus, Gandhi's wisdom underscores the importance of principled rather than individualistic politics.

To attain true freedom, the means employed must be pure, as corrupt methods taint the ultimate goal. Instead of harboring hatred, Mahatma Gandhi believed that nonviolence held the power to overcome anger. In his quest for independence, he followed in the footsteps of Gautam Buddha, embodying these principles

In his everyday life, Mahatma Gandhi placed a strong emphasis on simplicity. He believed that the primary cause of human suffering was the relentless pursuit of material desires and competition. Through his own lifestyle and guiding principles, he served as a beacon for society, promoting the values of self-sufficiency and restraint.

### **Thoughts on education**

Gandhi's educational principles were deeply grounded in the values of labor and self-reliance. He advocated for an educational system that nurtured self-confidence and self-worth in individuals. His approach to education stood in stark contrast to the modern conventional curriculum, as it underscored the belief that every person possesses inherent abilities and untapped potential. Nevertheless, he recognized that these innate qualities are often stifled by the societal norms and cultural constructs we impose. Therefore, he argued for the need to create educational programs that foster both personal and collective intellectual development. Such an approach, he believed, would not only make education relevant but also contribute to a more meaningful life. The influence of the philosophies of Ruskin, Tolstoy, and Thoreau on Mahatma Gandhi's approach to governance was profound. Their thoughts significantly shaped Gandhi's perspectives, ultimately impacting his strategies for governance.

Understanding concepts of intellect and scientific temper is essential for the general populace. Those who grasp these ideas not only find them beneficial but also apply them in a manner that propels them to leadership positions among the people. Mahatma Gandhi's principles resonate with this perspective. Modern leadership has recognized Mahatma Gandhi's influence from the standpoint of the general populace. Both adherents and opponents of Gandhi's principles display a profound trust in the truthfulness of his convictions, thus demonstrating open resistance alongside an implicit acknowledgment of the indispensability of his ideologies. Mahatma Gandhi's influence on the Indian mindset has been unmatched. His principles faced opposition across all sectors. The political sphere, serving as a means, posed significant questions regarding Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. This conflict found expression in diverse areas such as religion, philosophy, literature, and sports. The factions opposing Gandhi in Indian politics struggled to carve their own identity without embracing Gandhi's ideologies. The significance of non-violence, truth, and peace advocated by Mahatma Gandhi remained misunderstood, resulting in the escalation of turmoil in human existence.

Imparting the value of peace is eternally crucial for the human heart, perpetually open to learning from life's experiences, deepening its understanding. It prompts inquiries and imparts purpose to life. At its core, lies the comprehension of Mahatma Gandhi, forming the bedrock of this process. Hence, recognizing the indispensability of his teachings has become imperative and momentous.

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