

# **IDEAS OF MAHATMA GANDI AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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The moral influence that Gandhi had on thinking people is much more powerful than it seems possible in our time with its excess of brute force. We are grateful to the fate that gave us such a brilliant contemporary, who shows the way to future generations.

***Albert Einstein***

"The world is large enough to satisfy the needs of any person, but too small to satisfy human greed." The person who said

these words - Mahatma Gandhi - turned 150 in October. At the turn of the XX - XXI centuries. In connection with the emergence of centers of tension on various continents, the question of the principles of the democratic structure of the state has repeatedly been raised by political leaders in several countries. Therefore, the progressive world community is increasingly turning to the ideas of M. Gandhi as one of the most charismatic representatives of his time, who achieved the victory of democratic ideals and values by peaceful means in the largest country in South Asia.

October 2 is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, an Indian public figure, ideologist of the Indian Independence Movement. In 2007, the UN established International Day of Non-Violence, celebrated on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi was a world famous Indian public figure, politician, fighter for the independence of India. He developed the tactics of nonviolent struggle - Satyagraha. Satyagraha is a combination of two words - sat (truth) and agraha (firmness). In India he is called the "father

of the nation." Gandhi is considered to be the founder of the philosophy of non-violence.

Mahatma Gandhi, born in 1869 in Porbandar, now its called Gujarat in northwestern India, is in the family of a government official. In 1888, he became a student of the College of London University. And after three years he got a law degree and returned to his motherland - India.

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.Zubov D. V., Lychagin A. I. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and his ideas about the Indian democratic state // Bulletin of Nizhny Novgorod University, 2013. - No. 4.

After receiving a law degree in the UK, Gandhi worked as a lawyer in Bombay, and in 1893 he was invited to serve as legal adviser to the Gujarati trade campaign in South Africa.

In 1915, Gandhi triumphantly returned to India, where he began to be called with the title of Mahatma (great soul). He founded the "Satyagraha ashram" community, included family of untouchables into it, which shocked the adherents of the caste division system. But Gandhi tirelessly argued that caste discord does not come up

from the foundations of religion, but people must overcome barriers among themselves. In 1917, Gandhi began to organize satyagrahi in those areas of the country where the arbitrariness of the British was most outrageous.

In 1919, Gandhi for the first time called on fellow citizens for a peaceful demonstration: a massive strike and disobedience. Millions of Indians did not go to work on the appointed day. They walked in the streets, shouting slogans about freedom and independence. The path chosen by Gandhi was far more correct one, especially considering that the majority of the country's population was peasants. The first stage of the struggle - the movement for non-violent rejection for cooperation, civil disobedience occurred in 1919-1921.

Mahatma was also the first to understand the importance of the struggle for the minds of not only Indians, but also the British. Reports about how Gandhi's supporters without resisting expose themselves under the batons of the police went around the world press. Public

opinion in Britain itself began to lean towards giving independence to the Indians. This opinion would clearly be different if the Indians began to kill the British.<sup>1</sup>

After World War II, in 1947, Great Britain left India. The reasons for this departure were different, including economic and political, but the role of Gandhi here was also considerable. In addition, the Mahatma did everything to withhold some of his supporters who were going to arrange "hot wires" to the British.

All this, subsequently, allowed the famous English historian Arnold Toynbee to write that Gandhi rendered the British invaluable service, allowing them to "retire without hidden animosity", since, as the historian rightly noted, "owning an empire is much easier than worthily getting rid of it."<sup>2</sup>

Nonviolent resistance, according to Gandhi, is not only a method of achieving freedom, but also of building a new society, and a criterion of that whether people are ready for freedom and the future society that Gandhi saw as a federation of communities.

Today, religion often becomes a cause for contention. Perhaps, recalling the words of

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Mahatma Gandhi about faith, we can become more open and tolerant and strengthen our connection with other people? "My faith does not require me to consider all verses as inspired ... I refuse to be bound by any interpretation if it is unacceptable to mind and moral sense."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Человек, который изменил страну. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/6955509>

<sup>2</sup> Пахомов Е. Ганди. Прах развеян... [//www.ej.ru/?a=note&id=9554](http://www.ej.ru/?a=note&id=9554)

<sup>3</sup> Махатма Ганди о религии. [//www.psychologies.ru/self-knowledge/smysl-zhizni/mahatma-gandi-o-religii/](http://www.psychologies.ru/self-knowledge/smysl-zhizni/mahatma-gandi-o-religii/)

Gandhism is a religious and philosophical system that contains the elements of idealism, Hinduism, Jainism and Christianity. At the heart of this philosophy is "truth, faith and not doing harm to anyone." Satyagraha is a peaceful uprising, an irreconcilable struggle without malice and shots, in which people have no weapons other than their own lives, and which people wage because they cannot do otherwise.

An important component of "Gandhism" was the great dream of a new type of state. He called the people of India to Sarvodaya, a society of universal prosperity, where justice, prosperity and non-violence would reign. He declared all the problems of the world a consequence of the "philosophy of the colonialists," which brings with them

inequality, money-grubbing and, of course, violence. Mahatma was sure that India, relying on a great culture, much more ancient than European, is able to build such a state.

Violence in all its manifestations is opposed by fortitude and inner confidence of a person in his rightness. According to M. Gandhi, non-violence is not a weakness, but, on the contrary, emphasizes the internal moral and ideological superiority of good over evil. A self-confident person will never resort to violence, he is able to convince with the power of words and his actions.

“His views continue to resonate around the world, and are also reflected in the work of the United Nations, which promotes the principles of mutual understanding, equality, sustainable development, support for the youth, as well as the peaceful resolution of conflicts,” said General Secretary of the UN, Antonio Guterres.

Gandhi, as one of the India's most prominent political leaders, has certainly left a deep mark on Indian history. The British in a 2000 BBC poll recognized Mahatma as "the man of the millennium."<sup>2</sup>



More than 10 films have been shot about Mahatma Gandhi, in particular: the British «Gandhi» (Gandhi, 1982, directed by Richard Attenborough, in the role of Gandhi - Ben Kingsley, 8 Oscars) and the Indian «Oh Lord» (HéRām, 2000).

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<https://news.un.org/ru/story/2019/10/1364232>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ru.wikipedia.org>.

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