



English

Book

Review

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Year - Ist Year (IInd Sem)

Catching Up with Gandhi

Title - Catching up with Gandhi.

Author - Graham Turner.

Introduction :- I chose Catching up with Gandhi because I have always been fascinated by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and wanted to see a modern interpretation of his ideas. I expected the book to provide fresh insights into how Gandhi's principles could be applied in today's world. Graham Turner's perspective as a journalist also intrigued me, as I hoped for a well-researched yet engaging narrative.

Summary :-

Catching up with Gandhi explores the relevance of Gandhi's teachings in the contemporary society. The book follows Turner's journey as he revisits key locations from Gandhi's life, interviews scholars and activists, and reflects on how nonviolence, simplicity and truth can address modern challenges. The central theme revolves around whether Gandhi's ideals still hold power in an era of globalization and digital revolution.

Turner introduces different characters historians, community people, and average citizens whom he identifies with Gandhian philosophy in a

fresh manner. The book avoids a formal biography but interweaves observation on the personal level with scholarly history. The book is not constructed around a plot in the classical sense but is framed around a story format that engages readers with issues of justice, sustainability, and personal responsibility.

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Analysis & Opinion :-

What worked well in catching up with Gandhi was Turner's balanced approach - he neither glorifies Gandhi blindly nor dismisses his relevance. His interviews with activists who practice nonviolent resistance today add depth, showing how Gandhian principles can still inspire change. One memorable moment is when a protester says, "Gandhi's strength was in his stubborn hope he believed people could change." This line captures the book's optimistic tone.

However, some sections feel repetitive, especially when revisiting well known Gandhi anecdotes. A deeper critique of Gandhi's limitations (such as his early racial view) would have added nuance.

The character who stood out most was a young environmentalist who applies Satyagraha (truth force)

to climate activism. Turner mentions that she "refused to see activism as a battle, but rather as a dialogue." This modern interpretation of Gandhi's philosophy was refreshing.

The book's key message is that Gandhi's ideas are not outdated but require adaptation. It challenges readers to consider how individual actions contribute to large societal change.

Personal Connection →

I identified with this book because it questioned my own lifestyle. Reading about Gandhi's emphasis on simplicity, I chose to curb unnecessary expenditure and live more responsibly. The thought that small consistent actions aggregate to produce great change was something I identified with.

One of the most idiomatically expressed sentences that best encapsulates my experience is "walk the talk". Turner's experience showed me that it is not enough to read Gandhi, we need to live by his words. Another is "the ball is in our court" that we are the ones who need to apply these teachings today.

The book also convinced me that activism is not merely protests but all the choices are. I now realize Gandhi's philosophy in a way

of life aware rather than an idealized perception of history.

Conclusion -

I highly recommend Patching Up with Gandhi to anyone interested in social justice, history, or self-improvement. It's especially valuable for readers who enjoy reflective, journalistic narratives. While not a strict biography, it successfully bridges Gandhi's legacy with modern struggles, making his wisdom accessible and actionable. If you're looking for a book that inspires both thought and action, this is a great choice.