

Mahatma Gandhi

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (/ˈɡɑːndi, ˈɡəndi/^[2] 2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948) was an Indian lawyer,^[3] anti-colonial nationalist,^[4] and political ethicist,^[5] who employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British Rule,^[6] and in turn inspire movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. The honorific **Mahātmā** (Sanskrit: "high-souled", "venerable"),^[7] first applied to him in 1914 in South Africa,^[8] is now used throughout the world.

Born and raised in a Hindu family in coastal Gujarat, western India, and trained in law at the Inner Temple, London, Gandhi first employed nonviolent civil disobedience as an expatriate lawyer in South Africa, in the resident Indian community's struggle for civil rights. After his return to India in 1915, he set about organising peasants, farmers, and urban labourers to protest against excessive land-tax and discrimination. Assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns for various social causes and for achieving *Swaraj* or self-rule.^[9]

Gandhi led Indians in challenging the British-imposed salt tax with the 400 km (250 mi) Dandi Salt March in 1930, and later in calling for the British to Quit India in 1942. He was imprisoned for many years, upon many occasions, in both South Africa and India. He lived modestly in a self-sufficient residential community and wore the traditional Indian *dhoti* and shawl, woven with yarn hand-spun on a *charkha*. He ate simple vegetarian food, and also undertook long fasts as a means of both self-purification and political protest.

Gandhi's vision of an independent India based on religious pluralism was challenged in the early 1940s by a new Muslim nationalism which was demanding a separate Muslim homeland carved out of India.^[10] In August 1947, Britain granted independence, but the British Indian Empire^[10] was partitioned into two dominions, a Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan.^[11] As many displaced Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs made their way to their new lands, religious violence broke out, especially in the Punjab and Bengal. Eschewing the official celebration of independence in Delhi, Gandhi visited the affected areas, attempting to provide solace. In the months following, he undertook several fasts unto death to stop religious violence. The last of these, undertaken on 12 January 1948 when he was 78,^[12] also had the indirect goal of pressuring India to pay out some cash assets owed to Pakistan.^[12] Some Indians thought Gandhi was too accommodating.^{[12][13]} Among them was Nathuram Godse, a Hindu nationalist, who assassinated Gandhi on 30 January 1948 by firing three bullets into his chest.^[13]

<div>Mahātmā</div> <div>Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi</div>	
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Born	<div>Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi</div> 2 October 1869 <div>Porbandar, Porbandar State, Kathiawar Agency, British India (present-day Gujarat, India)</div>
Died	30 January 1948 (aged 78) <div>New Delhi, Delhi, Dominion of India (present-day India)</div>
Cause of death	Assassination
Monuments	Raj Ghat, Gandhi Smriti
Nationality	Indian
Other names	Mahatma Gandhi, Bapu ji, Gandhi ji
Education	Bachelor of Laws
Alma mater	University College