

Mahatma Gandhi: The Apostle of Peace and Nonviolence

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, better known as Mahatma Gandhi, was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, India. He emerged as the preeminent leader of India's independence movement against British rule and became an enduring symbol of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience. Gandhi's early life was marked by a deep commitment to truth, simplicity, and social justice. Trained as a lawyer in London, he initially practiced law in South Africa, where he experienced firsthand the racial discrimination faced by Indians. His experiences there ignited his passion for social reform and laid the foundation for his philosophy of nonviolent resistance. Returning to India in 1915, Gandhi quickly became a prominent leader in the Indian National Congress, advocating for the rights of peasants, workers, and marginalized communities. He emphasized the principles of Satyagraha (truth-force) and Ahimsa (nonviolence), believing in the power of moral courage and passive resistance to achieve social and political change. Gandhi's leadership during India's independence struggle was characterized by his steadfast adherence to nonviolence, even in the face of severe repression and violence from British authorities. His campaigns, such as the Salt March of 1930 and the Quit India Movement of 1942, mobilized millions of Indians in peaceful protests against British colonial policies.