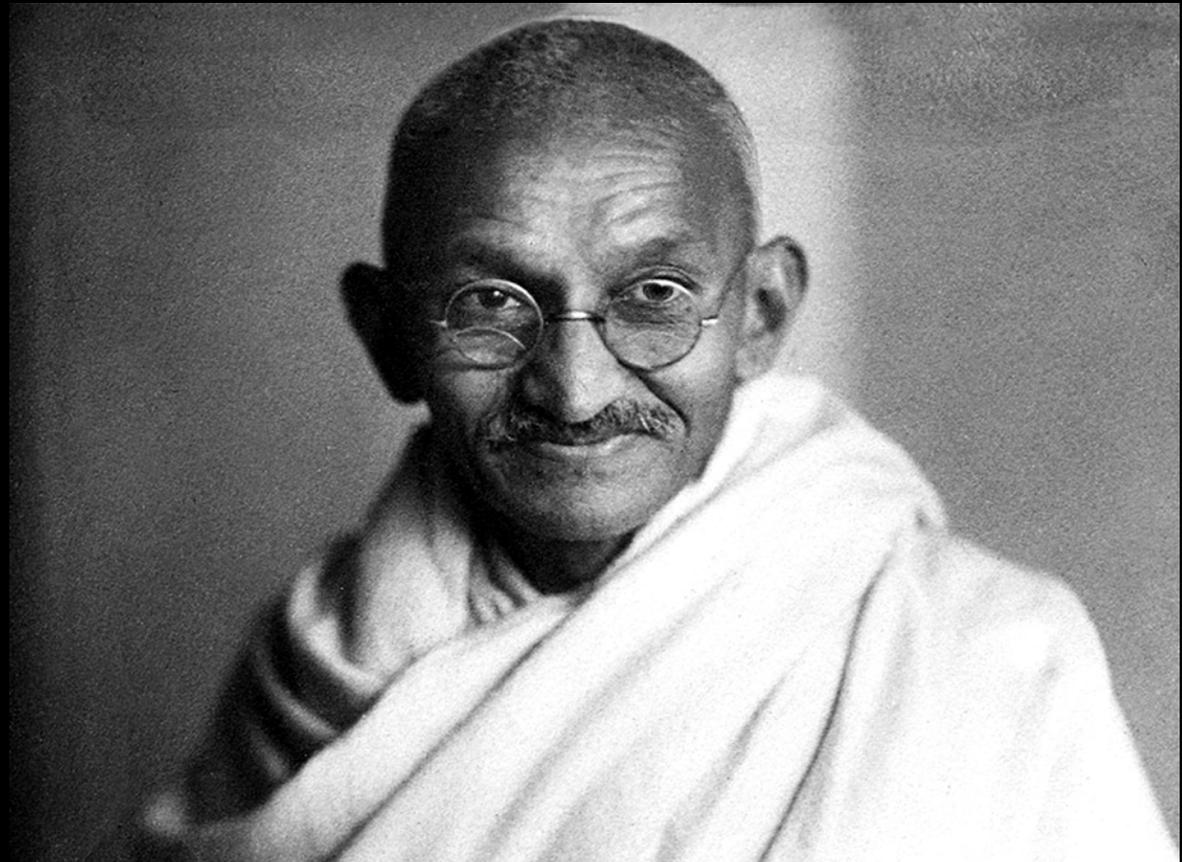


# Speaking Truth

*Watershed Moments in  
Global Leadership*



Fund for the  
Future of  
Our Children



- ❖ What are the *critical problems* facing the world today?
- ❖ How can young people deal with the *doubts* that have held back previous generations?
- ❖ How can *faith* influence the next generation as it deals with “*impossible*” problems?
- ❖ What *values* will the *leaders* of the next generation possess?
- ❖ Where will the next generation find *inspiration* to encourage and guide them?



*What are the  
critical problems  
facing the world today?*



# *Institutional Corruption*



# *Destruction of the Environment*



F F C

# *Deadly Epidemics*



Photo: The Telegraph

# *Global and Local Poverty*



F F C

# *Senseless Violence*



# *Social Upheaval*



Photo: National Geographic



F F C

# *Hatred and Extremism*



Photo: Baltimore Sun, Jed Kirschbaum



F F C

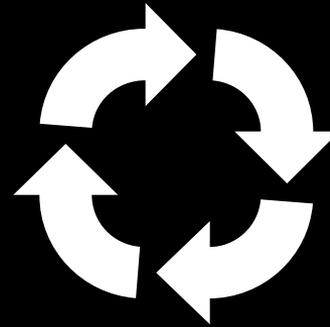
*How can young people deal  
with the **doubts** that have  
held back previous generations?*



# The next generation must break the cycle of cynicism

Step One:  
**Facing an  
“Impossible” Problem**

Step Four:  
**The problem  
worsens**



Step Two:  
**Feeling of  
hopelessness**

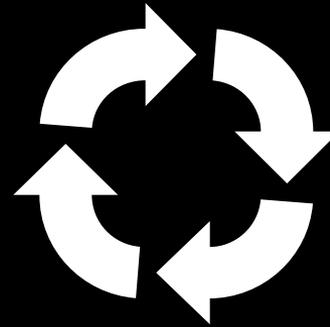
Step Three:  
**Cynicism  
 (“Compassion is a  
waste of time”)**



# The next generation must break the cycle of corruption

Step One:

**Cynicism encourages corruption**



Step Two:

**Corruption filters downward**

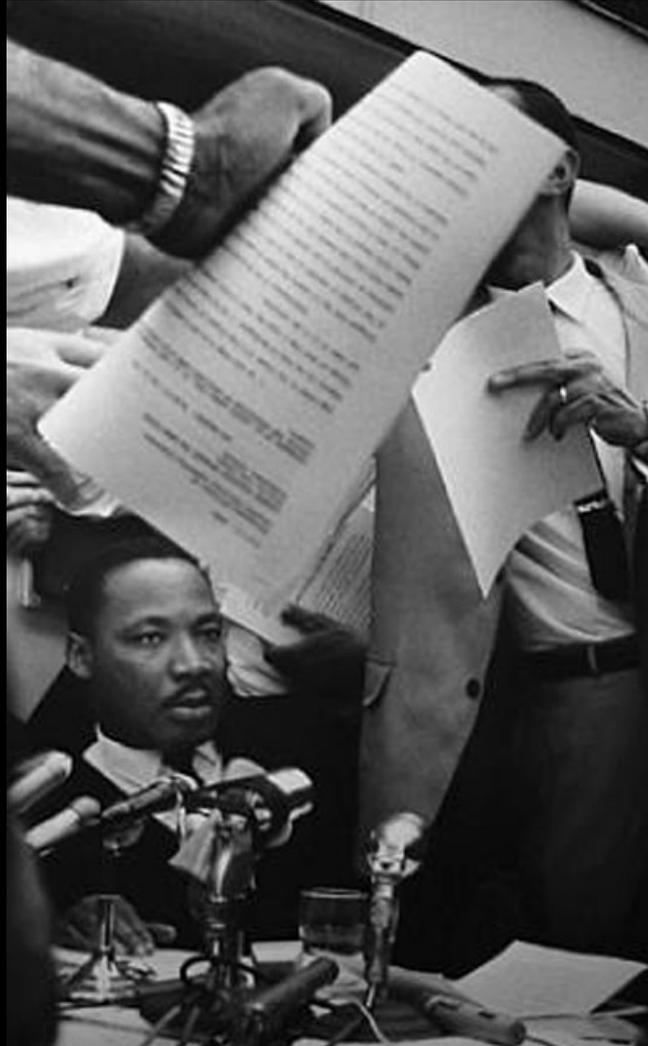
Step Four:  
**Anger and Hopelessness**

Step Three:

**Humiliation of those at the bottom of the system**



# All transformational leaders face doubts and find ways to overcome them



Great leaders show their character by the choices they make in face of reversals – and never abandon their principles



F F C

# Reversing The Cycle of Humiliation

“Count yourself blessed every time people put you down. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.”

**“The Sermon on the Mount”**



# Reversing The Cycle of Retaliation

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. Then is when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.”

**“The Sermon on the Mount”**



How can *faith* influence the  
next generation as they deal with  
“*impossible*” problems?



Are negative stereotypes of religions and their leaders true?

“Religions are ‘ancient’ – this is the modern era”

“Religions promote conflict, not compassion for all”



# Religious leaders have a history of changing history

## Moses

Liberated Hebrew people from slavery

## Jesus

Ultimately transformed the Roman empire

## Muhammad

In 30 years changed the Arabian peninsula,  
introducing principles of equality,  
justice and care for poor



# These three transformational religious leaders share similar life stories

- ❖ Each started from humble beginnings
- ❖ Each lived in times of injustice and corruption
- ❖ Each developed a deep sense of compassion from early experiences
- ❖ Each came to reject use of violence or evil means to solve injustice



# Moses, Jesus and Muhammad adopted similar strategies

- ❖ Adopted a “planting the seed” approach – not a “success” model
- ❖ Modeled strength in weakness – showing the weak how to cast off humiliation
- ❖ Insisted on incredible patience
- ❖ Avoided “reacting” to injustice with anger – rather nurtured their spirits carefully to love
- ❖ Saw prayer as opening their hearts to the mysterious presence of God in order to help them see innovative ways to change things



## Moses:

“God wasn’t attracted to you and didn’t choose you because you were big and important – the fact is, there was almost nothing to you.

He did it out of sheer love, keeping the promise he made to your ancestors.

God stepped in and mightily brought you back out of that world of slavery, freed you from the iron grip of Pharaoh King of Egypt.

Know this: God, your God, is indeed, a God you can depend upon.”

– Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 7



## Jesus:

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world - your mind and heart - put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.”

– The Sermon on the Mount



## The Prophet Mohammad:

“The true servants of the compassionate are those who walk the Earth in humility, and when ignorant people address them, they reply with [words of] peace”

– Sura 25 (63) of the Qur’an



What *values* will  
the *leaders* of  
the next generation possess?



Many contemporary models for solving “impossible” problems are flawed

The “Untouchables” Approach –  
Attack corruption with violence



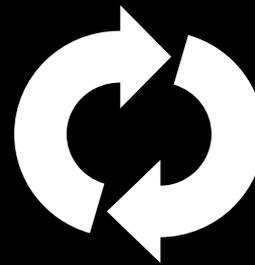
Many contemporary models for solving “impossible” problems are flawed

The “Untouchables” Approach –  
Attack corruption with violence

Flaw:

**Reinforces the vicious cycle of retribution**

**Violence**



**Violence**



Many contemporary models for solving “impossible” problems are flawed

The “Mission Impossible” Approach –  
Outwit injustice by cleverness and subterfuge



Many contemporary models for solving “impossible” problems are flawed

The “Mission Impossible” Approach –  
Outwit injustice by cleverness and subterfuge

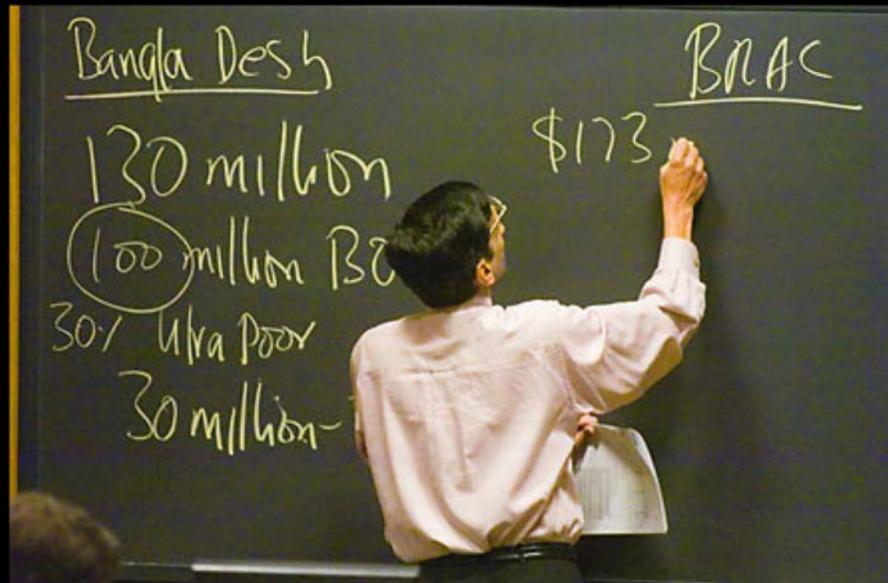
Flaw:

**Uses evil means to achieve just ends**



Many contemporary models for solving “impossible” problems are flawed

“Harvard Business School” Model:  
Just introduce efficiencies and criteria for success



Many contemporary models for solving “impossible” problems are flawed

“Harvard Business School” Model:  
Just introduce efficiencies and criteria for success

Flaw:

Often the powerful benefit most

It doesn't change the “hearts and minds”  
about injustice

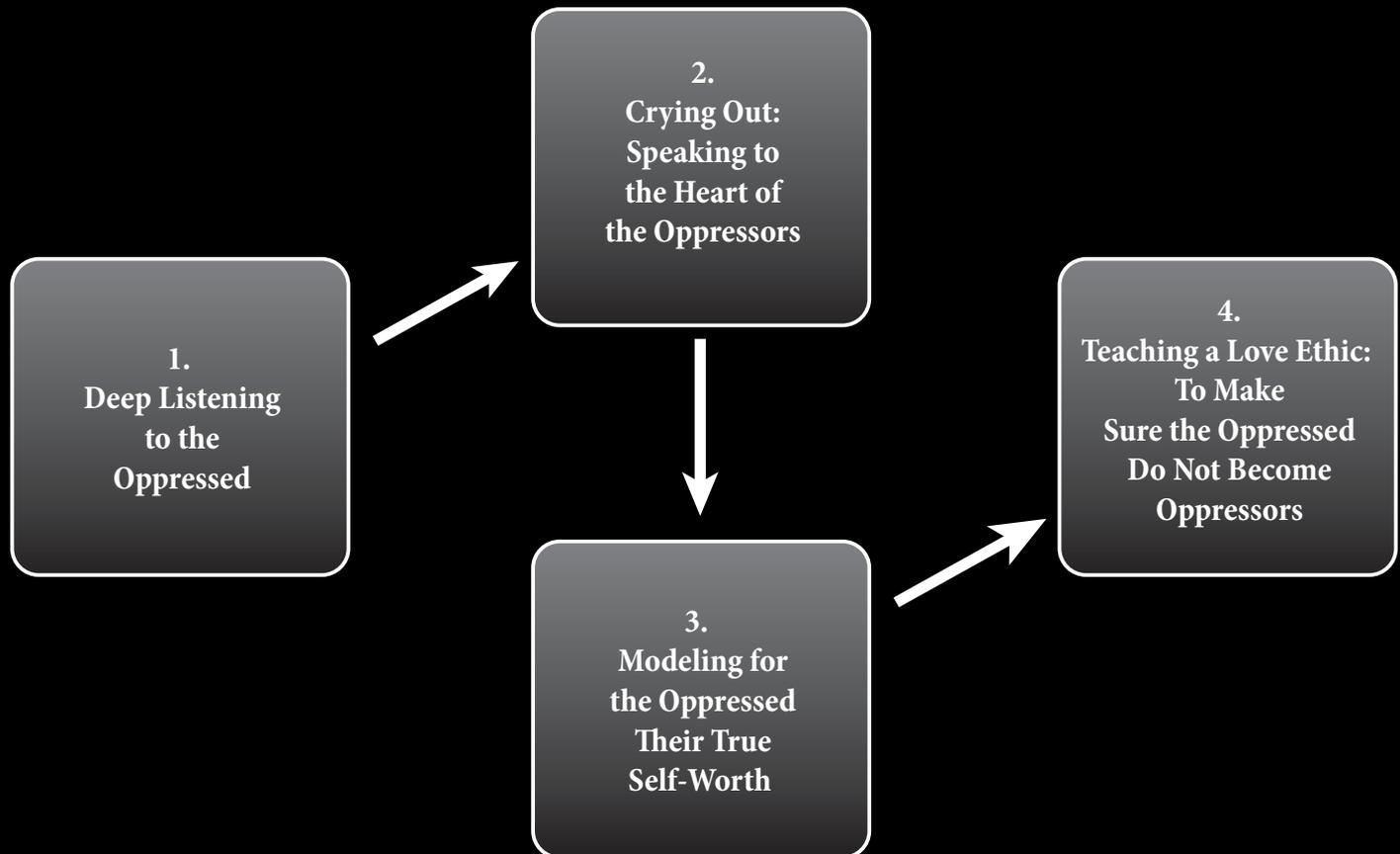


## The next generation must create “Transformational Leaders”

- ❖ Far more than just “business as usual” will be needed
- ❖ Truly transformation leadership will require huge changes in orientation



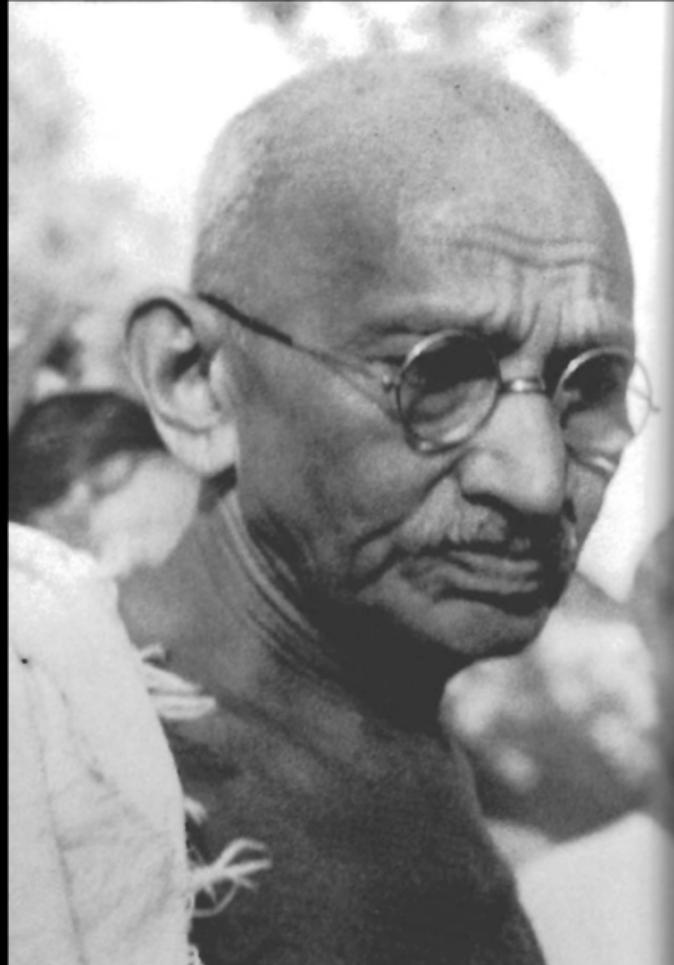
# Transformational Leadership works to change the hearts of the oppressed – and the oppressors



*Where will the next generation  
find **inspiration** to  
encourage and guide them?*



Mohandas Gandhi was a transformational leader who inspired millions



Gandhi was born into the merchant  
caste in India in 1869

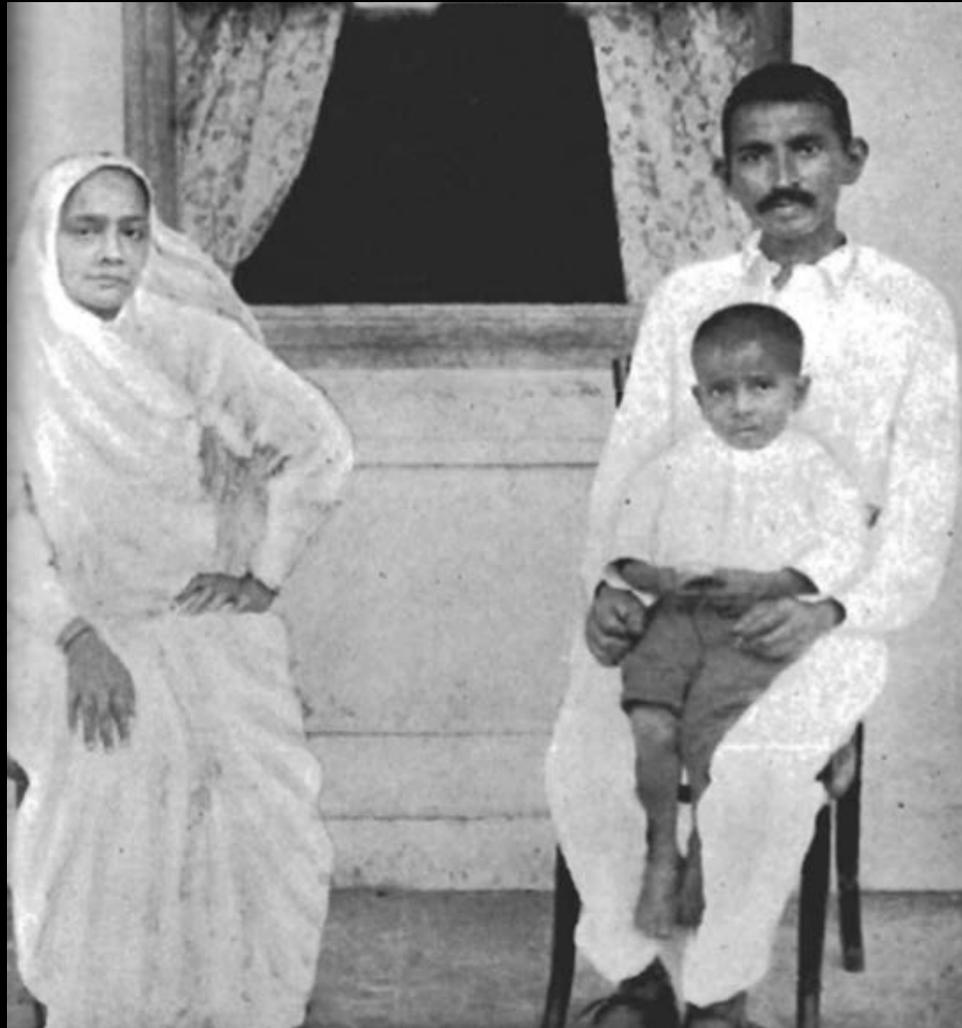


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Gandhi was a very shy child and found it difficult to speak to his teachers and classmates



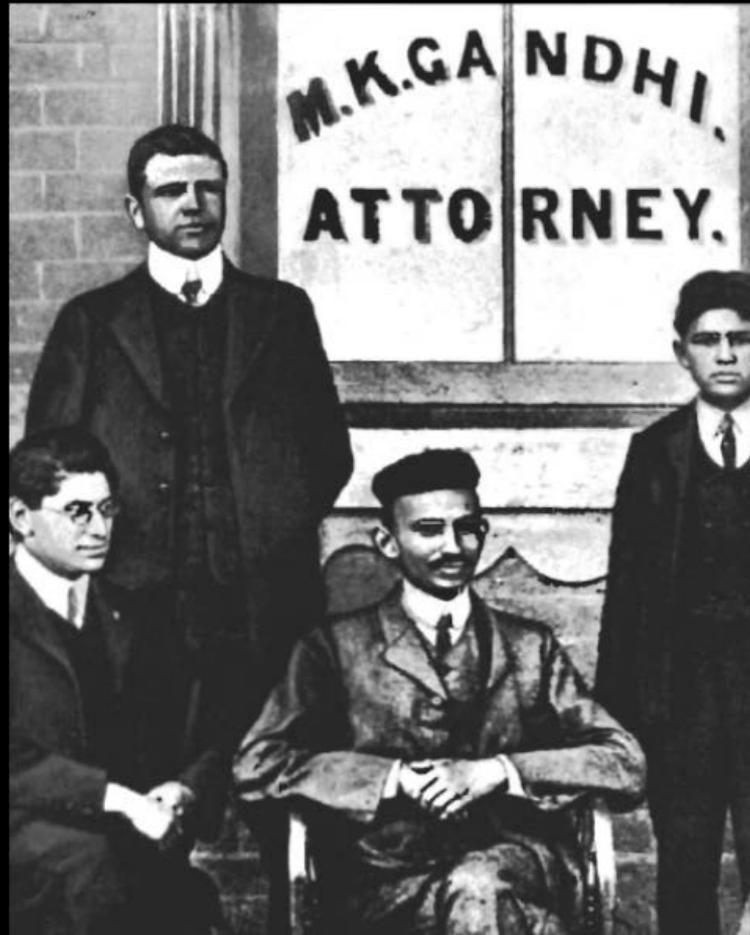
Following Indian tradition, Gandhi had an arranged marriage when he was 13 years old



At age 18, Gandhi was labeled an outcast  
by local elders when he left to study  
law in England



When he was 24, Gandhi began his legal practice in South Africa



# Gandhi witnessed prejudice against Indians and Africans while working in South Africa



In 1900, while fighting with the British in the Boer War, Gandhi began to see the futility of using violence to affect social change



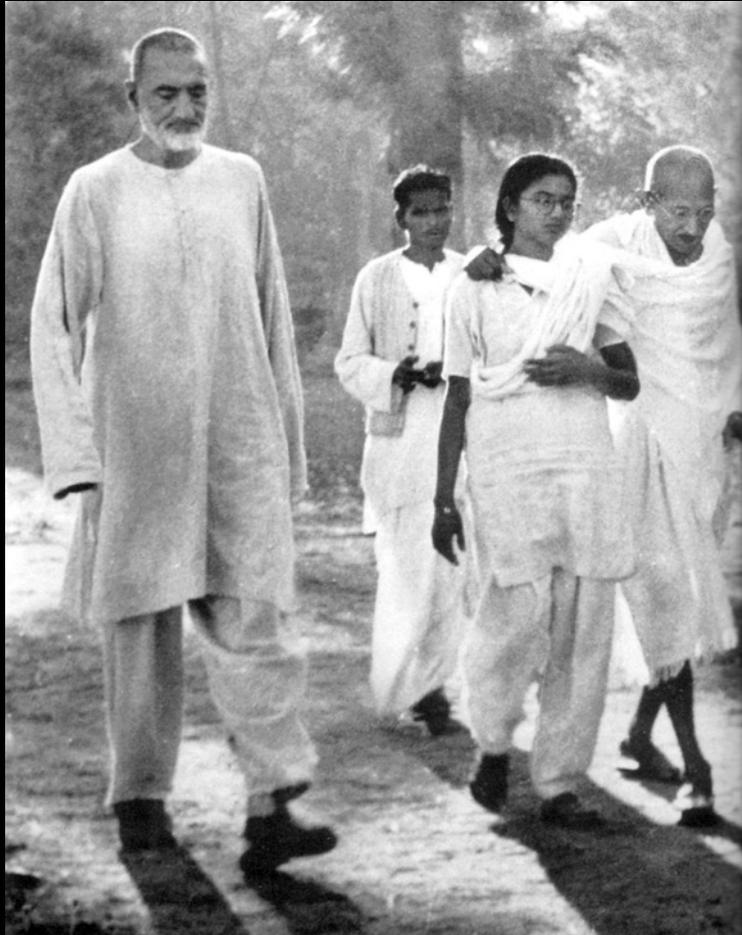
Gandhi returned to India in 1915 and became a leader of the Indian National Congress, which advocated independence from the British



In the 1920s, Gandhi began fighting colonial rule by creating a movement of non-violent non-cooperation with the British



# Gandhi included Indians of all faiths in his non-violent protests



“There is nothing surprising in a Muslim or a Pathan like me subscribing to the creed of nonviolence. It is not a new creed. It was followed fourteen hundred years ago by the Prophet [Muhammad] at the time he was in Mecca.”

- Badshah Khan



India declared their independence from the British in 1930, the year Gandhi inspired the nation with a march to the sea to make salt





“I have not been able to see any difference between the Sermon on the Mount and Bhagavad Gita...

It's the 'Law of Love' - the law of abandon as I would call it - in a scientific manner.”

– Gandhi



Gandhi continued with non-violent protests and negotiations with the British throughout the 1930s and early 1940s





“You people are talking about revolution. I am making one.  
What is revolutionary about violence?

If you really love people, help me show them how to turn  
their backs on violence and throw off their fear.”

– Gandhi



In 1942, the leaders of the Indian National Congress were imprisoned by the British, where Gandhi became very ill and his wife died



“[In prison, Gandhi] was able to read the Bible, the Koran and the Bhavagad Gita [Hindu sacred text] every day.”

– E. Eswaran (Gandhi’s friend)

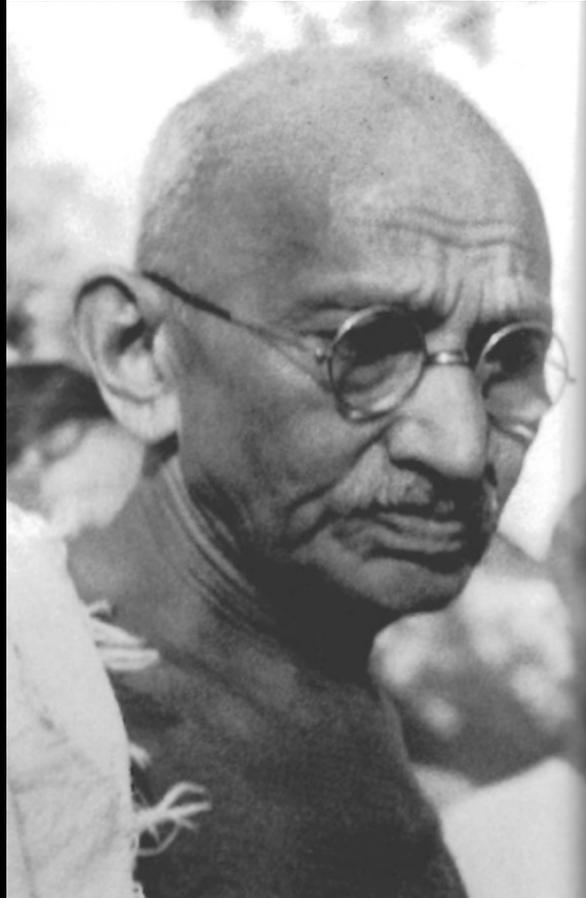




“Call it then by whatever name you like, that which gives one the greatest solace in the midst of the severest fire is God.”

– Gandhi



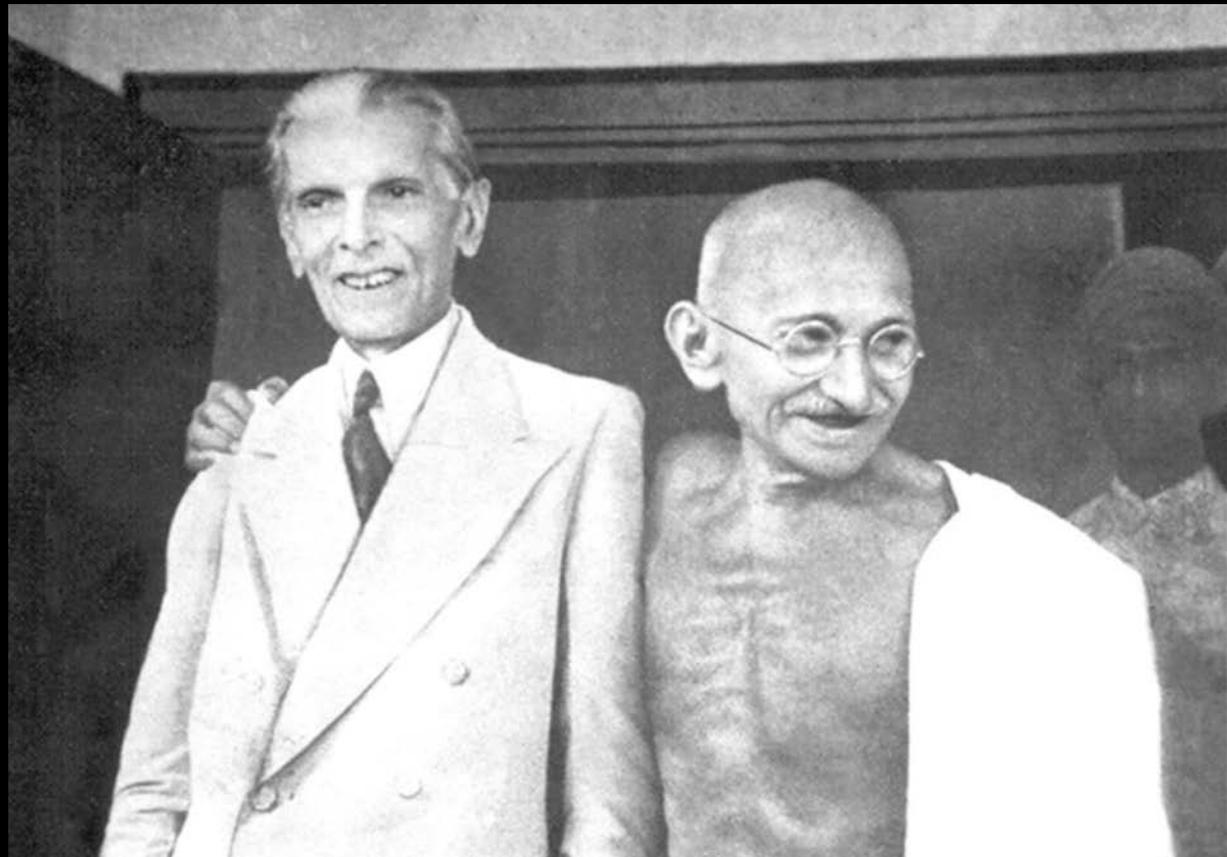


“It is not nonviolence if we merely love those that love us. It is nonviolence only when we love those that hate us.”

– Gandhi



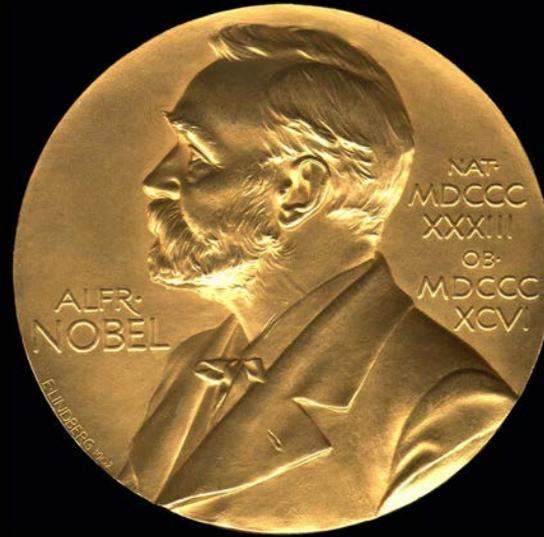
Soon after the end of World War II, the British gave in to Gandhi's demands and granted independence to India



In 1948, after realizing his dream of Indian independence, Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist who rejected non-violence

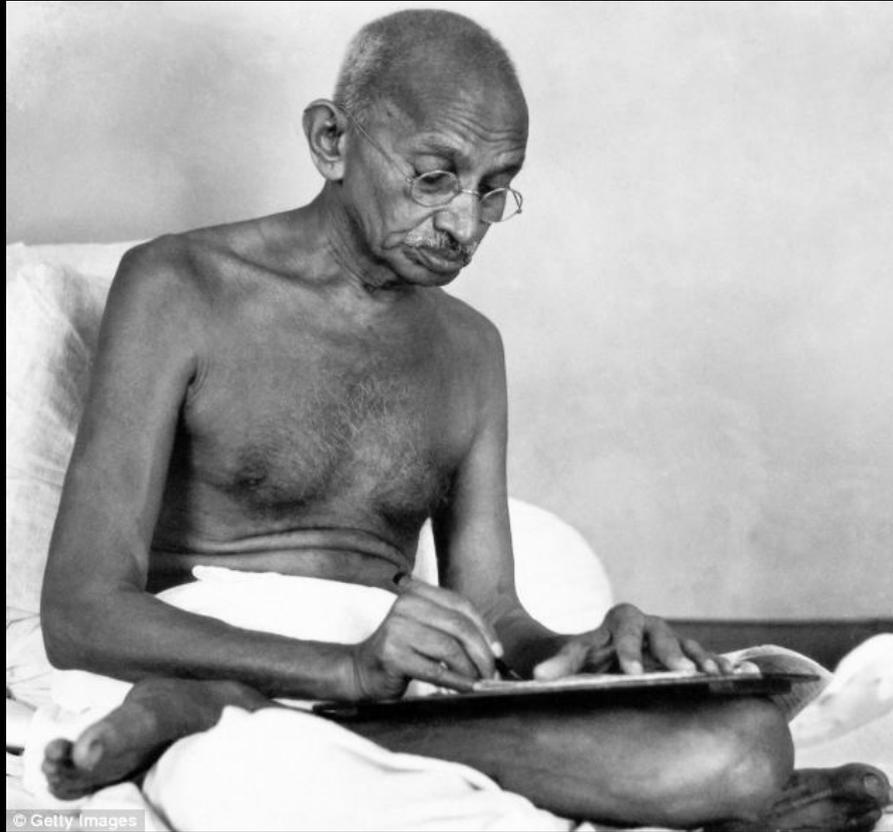


Gandhi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times, including after his death in 1948, but no Peace Prize was given that year



With Gandhi gone, and no heirs to give a cash award to, the Nobel committee stated that “there was no suitable living candidate”





“I object to violence because when it appears to do good,  
the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent”

– Gandhi



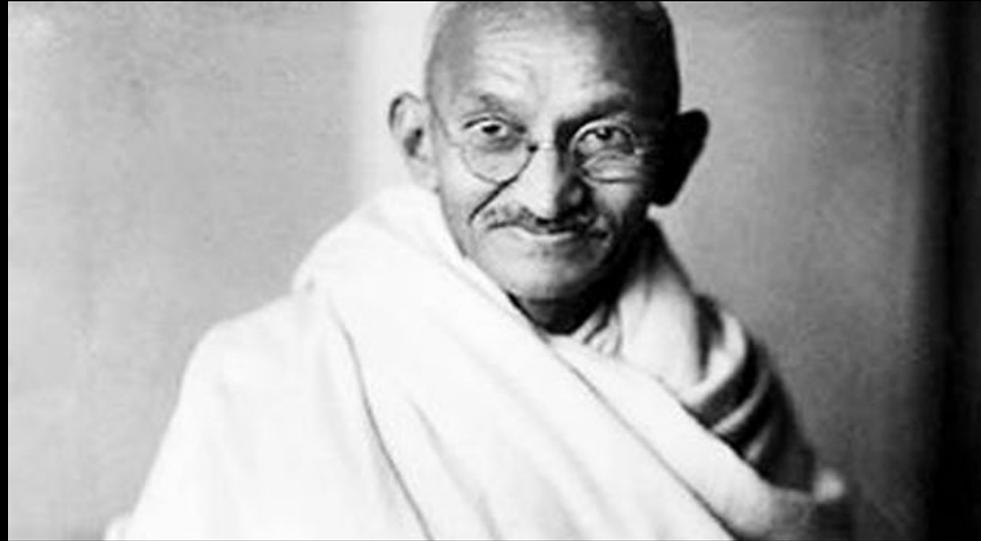


“It is the Law of Love that rules mankind.

Had violence, i.e., hate ruled us, we should  
have become extinct long ago”

– Gandhi





“My life is my message.”

– Gandhi

(scrawled on a piece of paper thrown out of a train to a reporter asking for a message from Gandhi to take back to his people)



Even now, there are living role models who inspire others with extraordinary lives of compassion and courage



Congressman John Lewis



Malala Yousafzai



Ruth Messinger



Mario Gonzalez

