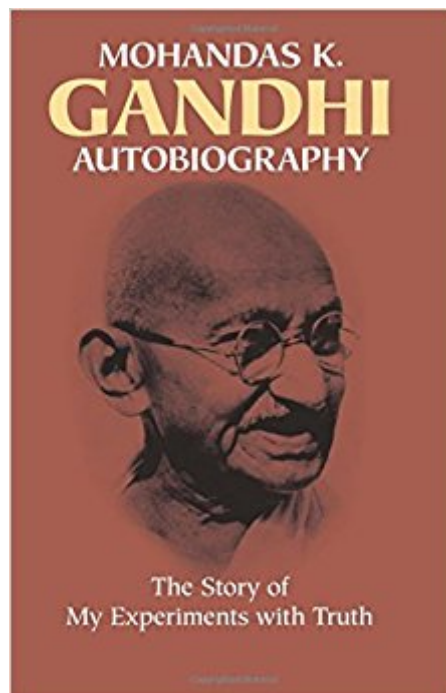




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Mohandas K. Gandhi, Autobiography: The Story Of My Experiments With Truth



Synopsis

"My purpose," Mahatma Gandhi writes of this book, "is to describe experiments in the science of Satyagraha, not to say how good I am." Satyagraha, Gandhi's nonviolent protest movement (satya = true, agraha = firmness), came to stand, like its creator, as a moral principle and a rallying cry; the principle was truth and the cry freedom. The life of Gandhi has given fire and fiber to freedom fighters and to the untouchables of the world: hagiographers and patriots have capitalized on Mahatma myths. Yet Gandhi writes: "Often the title [Mahatma, Great Soul] has deeply pained me. . . . But I should certainly like to narrate my experiments in the spiritual field which are known only to myself, and from which I have derived such power as I possess for working in the political field." Clearly, Gandhi never renounced the world; he was neither pacifist nor cult guru. Who was Gandhi? In the midst of resurging interest in the man who freed India, inspired the American Civil Rights Movement, and is revered, respected, and misunderstood all over the world, the time is proper to listen to Gandhi himself — in his own words, his own "confessions," his autobiography. Gandhi made scrupulous truth-telling a religion and his Autobiography inevitably reminds one of other saints who have suffered and burned for their lapses. His simply narrated account of boyhood in Gujarat, marriage at age 13, legal studies in England, and growing desire for purity and reform has the force of a man extreme in all things. He details his gradual conversion to vegetarianism and ahimsa (non-violence) and the state of celibacy (brahmacharya, self-restraint) that became one of his more arduous spiritual trials. In the political realm he outlines the beginning of Satyagraha in South Africa and India, with accounts of the first Indian fasts and protests, his initial errors and misgivings, his jailings, and continued cordial dealings with the British overlords. Gandhi was a fascinating, complex man, a brilliant leader and guide, a seeker of truth who died for his beliefs but had no use for martyrdom or sainthood. His story, the path to his vision of Satyagraha and human dignity, is a critical work of the twentieth century, and timeless in its courage and inspiration.

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Customer Reviews

Gandhi's nonviolent struggles in South Africa and India had already brought him to such a level of notoriety, adulation, and controversy that when asked to write an autobiography midway through his career, he took it as an opportunity to explain himself. Although accepting of his status as a great innovator in the struggle against racism, violence, and, just then, colonialism, Gandhi feared that enthusiasm for his ideas tended to exceed a deeper understanding. He says that he was after truth rooted in devotion to God and attributed the turning points, successes, and challenges in his life to the will of God. His attempts to get closer to this divine power led him to seek purity through simple living, dietary practices (he called himself a fruitarian), celibacy, and ahimsa, a life without violence. It is in this sense that he calls his book *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, offering it also as a reference for those who would follow in his footsteps. A reader expecting a complete accounting of his actions, however, will be sorely disappointed. --.com --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Text: English (translation)

Mahatma Gandhi represents everything to me that which I choose to aspire. I have been a follower of this great yogi for 40 years and have found his teachings to be the epitome of Truth.

Gandhi's book was recommended to me by a friend who is involved in the Peace and Non-Violence group at URI when I asked her for a recommendation for a book for my college age granddaughter who is very involved as an activist in Black Lives Matter and groups that support LBGTQ.

inspiring story and for the price this ebook was great. However, be aware that the translation is unclear in a few places and there are a significant number of misspellings and typos throughout this edition of the book.

What can I say? I love Gandhi, so enjoy the feeling of his words. Truly a great and openly honest

man -- and how better to know him than through his personal narrative.

Really enjoy reading about Ghandi's life. The book is written in an introspective, humble and thoughtful manner beginning at his childhood and chronologically journeys through his extraordinary life. The chapters are short and concise, yet expansive in depth. Highly recommend!!!

I could not write this book- I wouldn't be this truthful to an audience. Also, I think that Martin Luther King thought that Gandhi strategies would be effective in the United States because he fought the same obstacles that people of the south were fighting, such as humiliation and poll taxes. Furthermore, Ghandi took a vow of celibacy for twenty years of his marriage, a testimony to his dedication to seeking the truth. Yet, in experiments you will have success and failures which Mr. Gandhi discusses, his own petulant attitudes toward his wife. Furthermore, many Christians tried to persuade him to convert to Christianity, but Ghandi adherence to the truth was inexorable.

I enjoyed this book. There were parts that were a bit boring, and others that were very instructive- especially when he talked about his 'experiments' with non-violent protests and confrontation for change. It inspired me to find other examples of successful non-violent leaders. There aren't many. But if you enjoy this type of thinking and writing you might also look at 'The Kingdom of Heaven is Within You' by Tolstoy which inspired Gandhi. (They corresponded and were contemporaries.) 'Strength to Love' by Martin Luther King is also a good one. He was inspired by Gandhi and came to embrace civil disobedience without violence. We could use more leaders that focus on positive change without attack and violence. A few people have shown that it is possible!

Firstly, I'd like to note that it is difficult, for me at least, to opine on a topic like Gandhi's life. My experience has been that there is hardly anyone of any consequence who does not hold an opinion regarding Gandhi. I'd also note that such opinion usually tends to be not very favorable, among my generation, & part of the reason I read this book was indeed to express a more informed point of view when ever the occasion presented itself. This book starts with Gandhi's birth & ends somewhere around the end of the first world war. The language, in the second decade of the twenty first century, seems a little archaic. I cannot seem to recollect if this work was penned by Gandhi much like a diary written regularly or he wrote it down all together at a certain time. If it is the latter, then Gandhi definitely possessed a very remarkable memory. Of mirth & humor, there is very little. By & large, there are some traits that consistently emerge. Conviction definitely stands out.

Needless to say, there are many principles that Gandhi espoused that have stood the test of time - non-violence, satyagraha, non-cooperation etc - however, certain others really appear awfully obstinate - like refusal to take medicines regardless of the criticality of the disease, emphasizing building character in children at the cost of regular grammar & arithmetic, his fascination with the spinning wheel etc. However, the most outstanding trait in all of this is Gandhi's scrupulous honesty. And it is from this that his great courage emerges. I'll also say that such courage & conviction was also aided by sharp skills to negotiate - it is interesting to me that in spite of some of his convictions noted above, Gandhi never came across as naive - & an uncompromising attitude towards taking no for an answer. In essence, I'd definitely say that I know more about Gandhi, & learnt to admire him as a leader of men, & an apostle of truth. The polemic surrounding his impact on the Indian freedom struggle, however, remains unanswered by this book. @souvikstweets

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