



Mahatma Gandhi biography

SYNOPSIS

Born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, India, Mohandas Gandhi studied law and came to aggrivate for Indian rights both at home and in South Africa. He became a leader of India's independence movement, organizing boycotts against British institutions in peaceful forms of civil disobedience. He was given the holy name Mahatmas and oversaw a diverse ashram. He was killed by a fanatic in 1948.

PROFILE

Indian nationalist leader. Born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, Kathiawar, West India. He studied law in London, but in 1893 went to South Africa, where he spent 20 years opposing discriminatory legislation against Indians. As a pioneer of Satyagraha, or resistance through mass non-violent civil disobedience, he became one of the major political and spiritual leaders of his time. Satyagraha remains one of the most potent philosophies in freedom struggles throughout the world today.

In 1914, Gandhi returned to India, where he supported the Home Rule movement, and became leader of the Indian National Congress, advocating a policy of non-violent non-co-operation to achieve independence. His goal was to help poor farmers and laborers protest oppressive taxation and discrimination. He struggled to alleviate poverty, liberate women and put an end to caste discrimination, with the ultimate objective being self-rule for India.

Following his civil disobedience campaign (1919-22), he was jailed for conspiracy (1922-4). In 1930, he led a landmark 320 km/200 mi march to the sea to collect salt in symbolic defiance of the government monopoly. On his release from prison (1931), he attended the London Round Table Conference on Indian constitutional reform. In 1946, he negotiated with the Cabinet Mission which recommended the new constitutional structure. After independence (1947), he tried to stop the Hindu-Muslim conflict in Bengal, a policy which led to his assassination in Delhi by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu fanatic.

Even after his death, Gandhi's commitment to non-violence and his belief in simple living--making his own clothes, eating a vegetarian diet, and using fasts for self-purification as well as a means of protest--have been a beacon of hope for oppressed and marginalized people throughout the world.

QUICK FACTS

NAME: Mahatma Gandhi

OCCUPATION: [Anti-War Activist](#)

BIRTH DATE: [October 02, 1869](#)

DEATH DATE: [January 30, 1948](#)

EDUCATION: Samaldas College at Bhavnagar, Gujarat, University College London

PLACE OF BIRTH: Porbandar

PLACE OF DEATH: New Delhi

BEST KNOWN FOR

Mahatmas Gandhi was the primary leader of India's independence movement and also the architect of a form of civil disobedience that would influence the world.

How to Cite this Page: Mahatma Gandhi

APA Style

Mahatma Gandhi. (2012). *The Biography Channel website*. Retrieved 05:31, Nov 30, 2012, from <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898>.

Harvard Style

Mahatma Gandhi. [Internet]. 2012. The Biography Channel website. Available from: <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898> [Accessed 30 Nov 2012].

MLA Style

"Mahatma Gandhi." 2012. *The Biography Channel website*. Nov 30 2012, 05:31 <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898>.

MHRA Style

"Mahatma Gandhi," *The Biography Channel website*, 2012, <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898> [accessed Nov 30, 2012].

Chicago Style

"Mahatma Gandhi," *The Biography Channel website*, <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898> (accessed Nov 30, 2012).

CBE/CSE Style

Mahatma Gandhi [Internet]. The Biography Channel website; 2012 [cited 2012 Nov 30] Available from: <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898>.

Bluebook Style

Mahatma Gandhi, <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898> (last visited Nov 30, 2012).

AMA Style

Mahatma Gandhi. The Biography Channel website. 2012. Available at: <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898>. Accessed Nov 30, 2012.