

GANDHI

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

edited by

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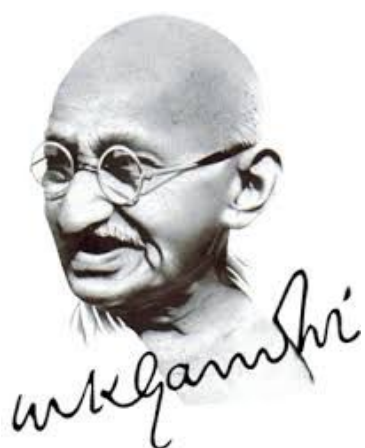
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Padma Bhushan Dr. Ela Gandhi

(GrandDaughter of Mahatma Gandhi)

Former Member of S.African Parliament

Trustee of the Phoenix Settlement Trust

The founder of Gandhi Development Trust

Chairperson of the KAICIID International Centre

Chair of the Mahatma Gandhi Salt March Committee

Co-President of the World Conference on Religions for Peace

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The 20th century has been characterised by crass materialism rendering the world polarised between the wealthy few and the poverty stricken masses, between the modern, technologically advanced countries and the poorly resourced countries struggling to provide essential services such as universal access to healthcare, education, recreation, sports and cultural opportunities.

We witnessed the 21st century ushered in with a bang of natural disasters on the one hand and the blight of corruption, suffering masses struggling under conditions of inequality, poverty and starvation. But it is also characterised with low intensity warfare plaguing many countries of the world resulting in greater expenditure by governments on military spending growing and thriving armament industry, while billions of people around the world are struggling to eke out a living. The population of the homeless and the refugees, the migrants and the asylum seekers is growing. Countries are losing their original ethos. Humanity is grappling with issues of personal security through the clamour to maintain the status quo and resist change. In the process we are eroding our deeper values of embracing the other, generosity of spirit, and the notion of justice, fairness and oneness of the universe. Change is always difficult.

Gandhiji's life is an example of change of transformation and the entrenchment of a value based society. Humankind needs to once more look at what really matters in life. While billions of people do subscribe to one religion or another, this has not stopped them from engaging in violence in killing and looting and generally breaking down social and moral code that is professed by our faiths. At a time like this a voice of sanity, of morality of ethics and humaneness is needed. This book with its hundred essays on Gandhiji will assist humanity find some answers to the issues we face.

Prof. Shobana Nelasco, a leading economist, educationist and a social activist has meticulously compiled this volume of essays/ articles by eminent writers on Gandhiji's life. A life which typified change from the earliest years until his last days on earth. These articles and ideas dwell on his multifaceted thoughts.

The only way that humanity will be able to deal with the effects of the ultra modern trend of the present is through looking at a paradigm shift. The sharp divide between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have nots must be confronted. It is within this context of anxiety, frustration and hunger that people are forced to develop new world views and an appropriate time to relook at Gandhian ideas for inspiration.

This is indeed a time when we need to look at our own relevance on this planet. Who are we, what is our purpose and how will we be able to fulfil our purpose on this earth.

For me, just as Gandhiji found his answers in the Gita, we can find answers to these and other questions in Gandhian thinking. Gandhiji wrote and spoke about so many aspects of life that indeed we can find some synergy in his many thoughts and ideas.

This book with thoughts and analysis by eminent writers on Gandhiji will undoubtedly help us in our quest for a new world view. Whether we agree with every interpretation or not, there are ideas here that can guide us to the new normal that everyone is talking about. The fact that mankind has gone astray is now not in dispute. It is indeed time to get back on the right path. The thoughts outlined in this book will no doubt guide us in the right direction.

As we read and digest the many ideas, it would be important to remember that Gandhiji encouraged critical thought. But he insisted that critical thinking must be within the confines of universal moral principles, top among which are truth and nonviolence; and he gave us a talisman which was - consider the plight of the poorest of the poor and take the steps that would improve his/her position as against our own. I am grateful to Shobanaji for taking the initiative to compile this book.



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Mahatma Gandhi with his values and thoughts has been celebrated as the pertinent and insightful leader of enlightenment in this book as a snippet. He is the maker of positive history and a glorifying Indian perspective. His life and Philosophies has been an inevitable model to everyone. His life is his message. “Christ gave us the goals and Mahatma Gandhi, the tactics,” says Martin Luther King Jr. Gandhi was a source of inspiration, and his wealth of wisdom and powerful insights could transform the lives of so many. For Gandhi, Madurai is a place of revelation to follow simplicity on 22nd September 1921 when he witnessed the hard labourers of India. Hailed from higher strata of the society, he has never kept quiet on seeing the predicaments of the unprivileged in the same society. This book, with 100 papers on Gandhi on his unparalleled services is compiled to celebrate the entry into the hundredth anniversary at Madurai. This collection is a tribute to the great legendary hero for his greater vision of simplicity, honesty, peace, ahimsa, non-violence, justice, free from poverty, minimalism, village industries, trusteeship, environment protection etc. His life is to be celebrated and commemorated throughout to impart the message of this great acclaimed leader to the newer generations. This book is a collection of perspectives and researches of various experts, who have dedicated their time and energy to relive and revitalize his values. To add flavour, few Gandhian case models are also included. This Masterpiece on Gandhi, touched the pinnacle of glory with the foreword by Dr Ela Gandhiji, the great Granddaughter of Mahatma and thereby receiving the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi himself. This book is a treasure to possess with its rich and varied fiesta of learning to the readers.