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**The Assassination of Gandhi Part II**

**Lead: For 50 years Mahatma Gandhi led a movement for the liberation of India. He prevailed over the British without striking a single violent blow or planning a single military maneuver.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Gandhi's non-violent revolution which led to the defeat of British rule in India in 1947 was based on the principles he called "Satyagraha." He had perfected the system as a young lawyer in the struggle for immigrant Indian rights**

**in South Africa in the 1920s and continued it in India where he spent the rest of his life seeking independence from Britain's imperial rule in a time of great political and religious turmoil.**

**“Satyagraha” was a system of personal behavior and social responsibility, based on truth, higher moral laws, and non-violent resistance to oppressive political and social structures. This approach had rich philosophical underpinnings: the teachings of Jesus Christ, particularly in the Sermon on the Mount, the ideas of Henry David Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience*, the assertions of Russian writer Leo Tolstoy and the principles of the Hindu scriptures in**

## *The Bhagavad Gita.*

His tactics and philosophy did not go unnoticed. Gandhi inspired the passive resistance strategy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders who worked to end racial discrimination in the United States. He said, "Times change and systems decay, but it is my faith that in the end, it is only nonviolence and things that are based on nonviolence that will endure." He was greatly disappointed when India and Pakistan were partitioned along religious lines, convinced that Hindus and Muslims should live together in peace. His martyrdom in 1948 removed an important force for the cause of peace both in the sub-

**continent and around the world.**

**At the University of Richmond,  
this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

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