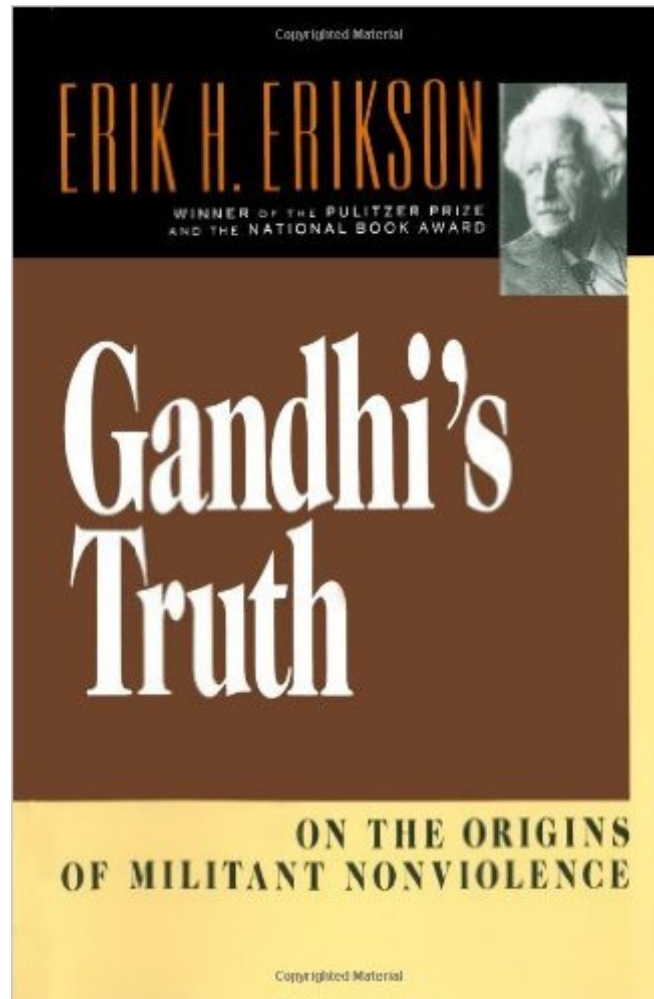


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Gandhi's Truth: On The Origins Of Militant Nonviolence



Synopsis

In this study of Mahatma Gandhi, psychoanalyst Erik H. Erikson explores how Gandhi succeeded in mobilizing the Indian people both spiritually and politically as he became the revolutionary innovator of militant non-violence and India became the motherland of large-scale civil disobedience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was surprised to discover that Erikson's Gandhi is a sort of travelogue or journalistic diary. It is not like "Young Man Luther" at all, and, pleasantly enough, doesn't seem to keep to its basic assumptions, such as its traumatology. The fact that it is built around an "Event", but not in any traumatological or originological sense, was unexpected. Certainly, Erikson comes out as a brilliant observer as a better talker. Erikson is thoroughly interesting. I find that in this book he sort of works backward, trying to find childhood evidence of what he knows transpired in the future. The background information, though apparently sufficient to his purpose, is not extensive. He said nothing, for instance, about the political or social context at the time of Gandhi's life before leaving for England. Of course, strictly speaking this is not a biography, and seems to take minute biographical data (which does not interest him) as given elsewhere. Nonetheless, the book is a brilliant work of many insights and sharp acumen. I was surprised that, midway through his work, Erikson addresses a sort of talk to Gandhi himself. An interesting style I didn't expect. Though he deals with violence extensively (and non-violence), it seems important to him to find a link with Gandhi's sexuality, which, of course, makes sense, since Gandhi himself seems to have made the connection. Erikson's intuitions are profound and wide-ranging. His work leaves you wanting

more. It gives one much food for thought. Thoroughly fascinating. His deep insights are a wonder to behold. Erikson peels intuitions off Gandhi layer by layer, seldom missing anything, always giving due credit, and consistently going to the limits of whatever he deals with. A master of psychobiography, Erikson does honour to biography writing as to psychology.

Recommended book for anyone in the social sciences, especially developmental psychology. Includes the developmental milestones of adulthood. Maybe difficult for some to understand unless the individual has a background in psychology

Gandhi's Truth is a psychoanalysis on Gandhi performed by the famed psychologist Erik Erikson. Although the psychoanalysis is done after Gandhi's death by a man who's never met him, I still think it could've been done effectively. Unfortunately, Mr. Erikson spends half of the book going over himself. Why he wants to analyze Gandhi, how Gandhi is really very similar to Freud, and various ruminations on the inherent problems of getting to know the "other." Another quarter of the book is simply wasted on senseless words. Mr. Erikson seems to have real trouble using one word when thirty will do. The portion of the book that actually talks about Gandhi is solid and enjoyable. Too bad it makes up such a small portion of the book. I have not read other books about Gandhi. Specifically, I haven't read his autobiography. Maybe it's just really difficult to get solid information on this incredibly famous man. Maybe Erikson included the sum of what was known about Gandhi in his work. Somehow, I doubt it. I find Gandhi to be fascinating and I'm very interested in learning more about this impressive man. Unfortunately, I picked the wrong book to start with.

Incredible book to read night after night. Erikson's analysis is methodical. After reading the biography, this was a great update.

I found this book very interesting, as well as culturally diverse. It gave me a whole new perspective into a world much different from my own. I learned that Mahatma Gandhi has profoundly influenced leaders that have been involved in nonviolent liberation movements, such as Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.. I now have a deep admiration for this abstruse, insightful man because Gandhi believed that truth is always essential in the political arena. "Gandhi's Truth" is an introduction to the challenges of poverty, religious difference, and ethnic tensions we all must accept and try to deal with as we head into the everchanging 21st century. I strongly recommend this book to anyone involved in or wishing to study politics. Happy Reading!

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