



## Gandhian Ideologies



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### What

- ❑ Religious and social ideas adopted and developed by Mahatma Gandhi
- ❑ **Rooted in ancient Indian culture**
- ❑ Based on several planes- spiritual or religious, moral, political, economic, social, individual and collective
- ❑ Emphasis on **Practical Idealism**
- ❑ Aims to transform individuals and society simultaneously.
- ❑ Inspiration: Bhagvad Geeta, Jainism, Buddhism, Bible, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Tolstoy (**The Kingdom of God is within you**), John Ruskin (**Unto this Last**)

### Major Ideologies

- ❑ **Truth and nonviolence:**
  - God is the ultimate truth and morality is its basis
  - Nonviolence is related to love, the highest law of humankind
- ❑ **Satyagraha:** securing rights by personal suffering and not inflicting injury on others
- ❑ **Sarvodaya:** 'Universal Uplift' or 'Progress of All'
- ❑ **Swaraj:** self-rule, self-restraint, could be equated with moksha or salvation
- ❑ **Trusteeship:** law of non-possession, converting the privileged classes into trustees, equitable distribution of wealth
- ❑ **Swadeshi:** acting within and from one's own community, both politically and economically

### Relevance Today

- ❑ Ideals of truth and non-violence are universal and relevant to all humankind forever
- ❑ Provides solutions to the problems such as rampant greed, widespread violence, and consumptive style of living
- ❑ Mass mobilization has been utilised by leaders such as **Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, and Aung San Suu Kyi**
- ❑ Can ensure world peace, can keep in check materialism and totalitarianism
- ❑ Political tolerance and religious pluralism holds relevance in contemporary Indian politics
- ❑ Voluntary cooperation and dignified & peaceful co-existence replicated in several other modern democracies

### Conclusion

- ❑ Truth, nonviolence, Sarvodaya and Satyagraha and their significance constitute Gandhian philosophy, four pillars of Gandhian thought
- ❑ Can shape institutions and practices that value the **voices and perspectives of everyone**



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