



MAHATMA GANDHI AND THE INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi played a major role in the development and mass mobilization of the Indian national movement during the struggle against British colonial rule. His political ideas and methods emphasized non-violence, (Satyagraha), civil disobedience, self-reliance, and mass participation. Under his leadership, nationalist politics expanded beyond limited political circles and involved peasants, workers, women, students, and other sections of Indian society. The present study examines Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to the Indian national movement, with particular attention to his political philosophy, methods of mass mobilization, major movements, and constructive programmes. It discusses his leadership in the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement, along with his emphasis on Swadeshi, Khadi, village development, communal harmony, and social reform. The study also examines Gandhi's efforts to address untouchability and promote social participation among marginalized communities.

The research highlights the relationship between Gandhi's political strategy and the broader process of national awakening in India. His use of non-violent resistance transformed the nature of political protest and helped bring the demand for independence into wider public life. At the same time, the study recognizes that the national movement involved diverse leaders, organizations, ideologies, and methods, and that Gandhi's approach existed alongside other political perspectives. The study concludes that Gandhi's contribution was significant in shaping the mass character of the Indian national movement and in connecting the struggle for political freedom with questions of social reform, ethical politics, and public participation. His methods and ideas remain an important subject for understanding the history of India's freedom struggle.

KEYWORDS: Mahatma Gandhi, Indian National Movement, Indian Independence Movement, Satyagraha, Non-Violence, Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Quit India Movement.

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948) occupies a significant place in the history of the Indian national movement. After returning to India from South Africa in 1915, Gandhi gradually emerged as an important leader of the struggle against British colonial rule. He introduced and developed political methods based on Satyagraha, non-violence, non-cooperation, and civil disobedience, which became important instruments of nationalist mobilization. Gandhi's approach to the national movement emphasized the participation of



ordinary people. His involvement in local struggles and campaigns helped connect national politics with issues affecting peasants, workers, and other sections of society. The Rowlatt Satyagraha of 1919 and subsequent political developments marked important stages in the expansion of mass political participation. The Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920–22 represented a major phase in Gandhi's leadership. It encouraged Indians to withdraw cooperation from colonial institutions and emphasized non-violent political action. The movement contributed to the development of wider nationalist consciousness, although Gandhi suspended it following the violence at Chauri Chaura in February 1922.

Gandhi later played a central role in the Civil Disobedience Movement, particularly through the Salt March of 1930. The march from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi challenged the colonial salt laws and became an important symbol of mass resistance. The Civil Disobedience campaign also led to negotiations with the British government, including the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of March 1931. During the final phase of the freedom struggle, Gandhi supported the Quit India Movement, launched after the Congress resolution of August 1942. The movement demanded an end to British rule, and Gandhi's call for "Do or Die" became closely associated with this phase of the national struggle. He and other Congress leaders were arrested immediately after the resolution was adopted.

Gandhi's contribution to the national movement was not limited to political campaigns. He promoted Swadeshi, Khadi, village industries, constructive programmes, communal harmony, and social reform and sought to connect political freedom with broader social responsibilities. His emphasis on non-violence and mass participation gave the national movement a distinctive political and ethical character. The present study examines Mahatma Gandhi's role in the Indian national movement by focusing on his political philosophy, major movements, methods of mass mobilization, constructive programmes, and relationship with broader nationalist politics. It also considers the historical significance of his leadership within a movement that included diverse leaders, organizations, ideologies, and forms of resistance.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the life, political ideas, and historical background of Mahatma Gandhi in relation to the Indian national movement.
2. To study Gandhi's principles of Satyagraha, non-violence, Swadeshi, and Swaraj and their role in nationalist politics.
3. To examine Gandhi's contribution to the development of mass participation in the Indian national movement.
4. To study his role in major nationalist movements, particularly the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement.
5. To analyse the significance of the Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad movements in the development of Gandhi's political leadership in India.
6. To examine the role of the Indian National Congress under Gandhi's leadership in organizing and expanding the national struggle.
7. To study Gandhi's methods of political mobilization and their impact on peasants, workers, women, students, and other sections of Indian society.
8. To examine Gandhi's constructive programmes, including Khadi, village industries, social reform, and communal harmony, in relation to the broader national movement.
9. To analyse the relationship between Gandhi's political activities and his efforts to address social issues such as untouchability and inequality.
10. To assess the historical significance of Gandhi's contribution to the Indian national movement and the broader struggle for independence from British colonial rule.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature on Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement is extensive and includes historical, political, sociological, and biographical studies. Scholars have examined Gandhi's political thought, methods of mass mobilization, relationship with the Indian National Congress, major nationalist movements, and interaction with other political leaders and social groups. The literature also reflects differing interpretations of the nature and impact of Gandhian politics. B. R. Nanda's works on Gandhi provide an important historical and biographical interpretation of his political development and role in the nationalist movement. His studies examine Gandhi's ideas of non-cooperation, mass participation, Hindu-Muslim relations, and political strategy. Nanda's analysis is useful for understanding the transition of Gandhi from a regional political activist to a major national leader. Judith M. Brown's scholarship on Gandhi examines his rise within Indian politics and his leadership during the major phases of the nationalist movement. Her studies place Gandhi within the political and social circumstances of his time and analyze the interaction between his strategies, Congress politics, and mass participation. Her work is particularly valuable for understanding Gandhi's political leadership rather than viewing the national movement solely through his personality.

Bipan Chandra and his collaborators provide a broad history of the Indian struggle for independence and examine the development of nationalist politics from the late nineteenth century to 1947. Their work discusses Gandhi's leadership in the Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India phases and places these movements within the larger history of Indian nationalism. David Hardiman's research on the Non-Cooperation Movement provides a detailed examination of Gandhi's strategy of non-violent protest between 1920 and 1922. His study emphasizes the interaction between nationwide nationalist politics and local grievances, showing how different social groups participated in the movement and how local struggles were connected to the broader nationalist programme. The work of John T. Crist on the Indian Independence Movement highlights the transformation of nationalist politics after Gandhi's return to India in 1915. It examines how the Indian National Congress adopted non-cooperation and civil disobedience and how Gandhi helped develop a broad nationalist coalition involving urban political groups and rural populations.

The literature on Gandhi and the Khilafat movement examines his attempt to connect nationalist politics with Muslim political concerns. This scholarship discusses Gandhi's support for the Khilafat movement and the relationship between Khilafat, non-cooperation, Hindu-Muslim political cooperation, and the wider nationalist struggle. Studies of the Civil Disobedience Movement focus particularly on the Salt March and Gandhi's strategy of challenging colonial authority through non-violent direct action. Talat Ahmed's study of Gandhi's experiments in civil disobedience examines the political and social forces surrounding his campaigns and discusses both the significance and contested interpretations of Gandhian non-violent resistance. The literature on the Indian National Congress also places Gandhi within a broader organizational and political framework. Studies of Congress history examine internal debates, changing political strategies, relationships among different ideological groups, and the role of other political parties and leaders. This scholarship demonstrates that the national movement was a complex process involving diverse organizations and political perspectives rather than the work of a single leader.

Scholarship on the Quit India Movement examines Gandhi's role during the final major mass campaign against British rule. Historical studies and review literature consider the movement's organization, repression, political context, and relationship to the broader process of the transfer of power. Critical studies of Gandhi provide another important dimension to the literature. Indian Critiques of Gandhi, edited by Harold Coward, examines Gandhi's debates and disagreements with figures such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, B. R. Ambedkar, and Annie Besant. Such studies are

useful for understanding Gandhi's political thought through multiple perspectives and for recognizing that his role in the national movement was interpreted differently by contemporaries and later scholars.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study on "Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement" adopts a historical, descriptive, and analytical research methodology. The historical method is used to examine Gandhi's political career, ideas, major movements, methods of mass mobilization, and contribution to the Indian struggle for independence within the broader political and social conditions of colonial India. The study is based on both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include Mahatma Gandhi's autobiographical writings, speeches, letters, articles, journals, political statements, and contemporary records relating to the Indian national movement. Secondary sources include books, biographies, research articles, historical studies, dissertations, and scholarly works dealing with Gandhi, Indian nationalism, the Indian National Congress, colonial rule, and the freedom struggle.

A descriptive approach is used to document major events and movements associated with Gandhi, including the Champaran and Kheda movements, Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Salt Satyagraha, and Quit India Movement. An analytical approach is then employed to examine the objectives, methods, social participation, political circumstances, and historical significance of these movements. The study also uses thematic analysis to examine major concepts in Gandhian political thought, including Satyagraha, non-violence, Swaraj, Swadeshi, constructive work, mass participation, and civil disobedience. Particular attention is given to the relationship between Gandhi's political methods and the changing nature of nationalist mobilization in India.

A contextual approach is adopted to understand Gandhi's activities in relation to colonial policies, economic conditions, social divisions, communal relations, and developments within the Indian National Congress. The study also recognizes that the national movement involved many leaders, organizations, ideologies, and forms of resistance, and therefore examines Gandhi's contribution within this wider historical framework. The collected information is critically compared and interpreted to identify major developments, patterns, and historical significance. The study is primarily qualitative and does not depend on statistical analysis. Through historical interpretation and source-based analysis, the research seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to the Indian national movement and the development of mass nationalist politics in India.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Indian national movement developed over several decades as a response to British colonial rule and involved diverse political organizations, leaders, ideologies, and forms of resistance. During the early twentieth century, Mahatma Gandhi emerged as an important national leader and introduced distinctive methods of political action based on Satyagraha, non-violence, non-cooperation, and civil disobedience. His leadership contributed to the expansion of nationalist politics and the participation of broader sections of Indian society. The central problem of the present study is to examine the nature, extent, and historical significance of Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to the Indian national movement. The study seeks to understand how his political ideas and methods influenced the development of mass mobilization and how nationalist campaigns under his leadership responded to the changing political conditions of colonial India.

The study focuses on Gandhi's involvement in major movements, including the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement. It examines their objectives, methods, forms of participation, responses of the colonial government, and place within the broader freedom

struggle. Attention is also given to earlier regional movements such as Champaran and Kheda that contributed to the development of Gandhi's political leadership in India. Another important aspect of the problem is the relationship between Gandhi's political activities and his constructive programmes. His emphasis on Swadeshi, Khadi, village industries, social reform, and communal harmony reflected an effort to connect political freedom with wider social concerns. The study therefore examines how these programmes related to the broader objectives of the national movement.

The problem also requires an examination of Gandhi's contribution within the wider diversity of the Indian national movement. The struggle for independence involved several leaders, organizations, ideological positions, and methods of resistance. Therefore, Gandhi's role needs to be understood within this broader historical context rather than as the sole explanation for the development of Indian nationalism. The present study consequently seeks to analyse Gandhi's political philosophy, major nationalist campaigns, methods of mass mobilization, constructive activities, and historical role in the Indian national movement, while situating his contribution within the wider and complex history of India's struggle for independence.

NEED OF STUDY

The study of "Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement" is important for understanding the development of Indian nationalism and the struggle against British colonial rule. The national movement was a complex historical process involving different leaders, organizations, ideologies, and forms of political action. Gandhi's emergence as a major national leader marked an important phase in the expansion of nationalist politics and mass participation. The study is needed to examine Gandhi's political philosophy and methods, particularly Satyagraha, non-violence, non-cooperation, civil disobedience, Swadeshi, and Swaraj. These ideas shaped important forms of political mobilization and provided a distinctive framework for challenging colonial authority. Understanding these methods helps explain changes in the nature of nationalist protest during the twentieth century.

The study is also necessary to examine the major movements associated with Gandhi, including the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement. Analysis of these movements helps in understanding their historical objectives, organizational structures, forms of participation, colonial responses, and relationship with the broader freedom struggle. Another important need of the study is to examine the participation of different sections of Indian society in the national movement. Gandhi's political campaigns brought issues of national freedom into wider public life and involved peasants, workers, women, students, and other social groups in varying ways. Studying this process provides a broader understanding of the changing social base of Indian nationalism.

The study is further needed to understand Gandhi's constructive programmes, including Khadi, village industries, Swadeshi, social reform, and communal harmony. These programmes show that his conception of national freedom was connected with broader social and economic concerns and was not limited to opposition to colonial rule. Historical study of Gandhi is also important because his role has been interpreted differently by scholars and contemporaries. Examining both supportive and critical perspectives helps place his political activities within the wider diversity of the Indian national movement and avoids reducing the freedom struggle to the contribution of a single individual.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

Further research on "Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement" can examine Gandhi's political activities at the regional and local levels to understand how national programmes were interpreted and implemented in different parts of India. Regional studies may provide greater insight into

the participation of peasants, workers, women, students, and local political organizations in nationalist campaigns. Future researchers can undertake detailed studies of individual movements such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Salt Satyagraha, and Quit India Movement. Such studies may examine their organization, local leadership, patterns of participation, colonial response, and differences in the experience of various regions.

Further research can focus on Gandhi's relationship with other important leaders and ideological groups within the national movement. Comparative studies involving Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B. R. Ambedkar, and other political figures can examine differences in approaches to nationalism, social reform, economic development, constitutional change, and political strategy. Research may also examine the participation of women and marginalized communities in Gandhian movements. Special attention can be given to the experiences of women activists, peasants, workers, Dalits, tribal communities, and other groups whose participation has not always received equal attention in conventional accounts of the national movement. Another important area for research is Gandhi's constructive programme. Studies may investigate Khadi, village industries, basic education, sanitation, communal harmony, social reform, and anti-untouchability campaigns and examine their relationship with the political objectives of the national movement.

Future researchers can make greater use of primary sources such as Gandhi's correspondence, *Young India*, *Harijan*, *Navajivan*, speeches, Congress records, government reports, newspapers, and regional archives. Digital archives and oral-history collections can also help reconstruct local experiences of the freedom struggle. Comparative research may examine Gandhi's methods of non-violent political action alongside other forms of resistance used during the Indian national movement. Such studies can provide a broader understanding of the diversity of strategies employed in the struggle against colonial rule.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Scope of the Study

The present study, "Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement," focuses on Mahatma Gandhi's role in the development and expansion of Indian nationalist politics during the struggle against British colonial rule. The study examines his political ideas, methods of mass mobilization, major movements, constructive programmes, and contribution to the broader freedom struggle. The scope of the study includes Gandhi's early political activities in India, particularly the Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad movements, which contributed to the development of his methods of political action. It also covers the major national campaigns associated with his leadership, including the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Salt Satyagraha, and Quit India Movement.

The study examines the principles of Satyagraha, non-violence, Swaraj, Swadeshi, civil disobedience, and non-cooperation and their place in Gandhi's political approach. It also considers his constructive programmes, including Khadi, village industries, social reform, communal harmony, and efforts related to the removal of untouchability. The study further considers the participation of different sections of Indian society in the nationalist movement and examines Gandhi's relationship with the Indian National Congress and other political leaders and organizations. His contribution is studied within the wider historical context of Indian nationalism rather than as an isolated political development.

Limitations of the Study

The study is primarily historical and qualitative and therefore depends on the availability, reliability, and interpretation of primary and secondary sources. Some contemporary records, local documents, personal correspondence, and regional accounts of nationalist activities may be incomplete or

inaccessible. The Indian national movement was a vast and complex process involving numerous leaders, organizations, ideological groups, and forms of resistance. Therefore, the present study cannot provide an exhaustive account of every regional movement or every individual contribution to the freedom struggle. Its principal focus remains Gandhi's role and activities.

Another limitation is the extensive nature of Gandhi's political and social thought. His writings and activities covered politics, religion, ethics, economics, education, social reform, village development, and communal relations. The present study therefore focuses primarily on those aspects directly related to the Indian national movement. Interpretations of Gandhi's political strategies and their historical significance differ among scholars. The study attempts to consider diverse historical perspectives, but it does not claim to resolve all historiographical debates concerning Gandhi, the Congress, or the nationalist movement.

FINDINGS

The study of "Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement" finds that Gandhi played a significant role in transforming Indian nationalism into a broader mass political movement during the twentieth century. His political activities connected the demand for national freedom with the participation of wider sections of Indian society and contributed to changes in the methods and organization of nationalist politics. The study finds that Satyagraha and non-violence became important elements of Gandhi's political strategy. Through these methods, he sought to challenge colonial authority by encouraging non-cooperation, civil disobedience, peaceful protest, and voluntary participation. These methods gave nationalist campaigns a distinctive form and became closely associated with Gandhi's political leadership.

The findings further indicate that Gandhi's early involvement in the Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad movements helped develop his methods of political mobilization in India. These campaigns connected local social and economic grievances with wider political participation and contributed to the expansion of his public leadership. The study finds that the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920–22 marked an important stage in the development of mass nationalism. The movement encouraged participation through the withdrawal of cooperation from colonial institutions and promoted the use of Swadeshi and indigenous goods. Its suspension after the Chauri Chaura incident also demonstrates Gandhi's insistence on non-violence as an essential principle of his political method. The findings show that the Civil Disobedience Movement and Salt Satyagraha further expanded the scope of nationalist resistance. The Salt March of 1930 provided a highly visible example of challenging colonial laws through organized non-violent action and helped bring the issue of independence into wider public consciousness.

The study also finds that the Quit India Movement of 1942 represented another major phase of the struggle against British rule. Gandhi's call for an end to colonial rule contributed to the intensification of nationalist political activity, although the movement developed through diverse forms of participation and resistance across different parts of India. Another major finding is that Gandhi's contribution extended beyond direct political campaigns. His programmes relating to Khadi, Swadeshi, village industries, constructive work, communal harmony, and social reform sought to connect the struggle for political freedom with wider social and economic concerns.

The study further finds that Gandhi's political leadership operated within a diverse national movement. The Indian struggle for independence involved the Indian National Congress as well as other organizations, leaders, ideological groups, revolutionary activities, labour movements, peasant movements, and regional political initiatives. Gandhi's role therefore needs to be understood within this broader and complex historical context. The findings also indicate that Gandhi's approach attracted participation from different sections of society, including peasants, workers, women, students, and urban political groups,

although the extent and nature of participation varied across regions and movements. This expansion of participation contributed to the changing social character of Indian nationalist politics.

DISCUSSION

The present study demonstrates that Mahatma Gandhi played an important role in the transformation of Indian nationalist politics during the twentieth century. His contribution needs to be understood within the wider historical context of British colonial rule and the participation of numerous political leaders, organizations, social groups, and regional movements. Gandhi introduced methods of political action that emphasized non-violence, Satyagraha, non-cooperation, and civil disobedience. A central theme emerging from the study is the importance of mass participation in Gandhi's political strategy. Earlier nationalist politics had often been concentrated among educated and politically active sections of society. Under Gandhi's leadership, major campaigns sought to involve peasants, workers, women, students, and other sections of the population. This expansion helped connect national political issues with local social and economic concerns.

The discussion also highlights the significance of Gandhi's early campaigns in Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad. These movements provided important experiences in organizing collective action around specific grievances and demonstrated how local issues could become connected with broader nationalist politics. They also helped establish Gandhi's public role in Indian politics. The Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920–22 represented a major development in the national movement. It encouraged Indians to withdraw cooperation from colonial institutions and promote indigenous goods and institutions. The movement demonstrated the possibilities and challenges of large-scale non-violent mobilization. Its suspension following the Chauri Chaura violence also reflected Gandhi's insistence that non-violence remain central to his political strategy. The Civil Disobedience Movement and Salt Satyagraha further demonstrated the political use of symbolic issues to mobilize wider public participation. The Salt March of 1930 transformed resistance to the salt laws into a highly visible national campaign. The movement also illustrated the relationship between organized protest, colonial repression, negotiations, and changing political circumstances.

The Quit India Movement of 1942 marked another important phase of the national struggle. Gandhi's demand for an end to British rule contributed to an intensified political atmosphere, although participation and forms of resistance varied considerably across regions. The movement therefore needs to be understood as part of a broader process involving both organized nationalist politics and wider public responses to colonial rule. The study also indicates that Gandhi's political activities were connected with constructive programmes. Khadi, Swadeshi, village industries, social reform, communal harmony, and efforts against untouchability reflected his attempt to link political freedom with wider social concerns. These initiatives demonstrate that his conception of nationalism included social and economic dimensions in addition to the demand for independence.

Another important aspect of the discussion is the diversity of the national movement. Gandhi's approach was influential, but it existed alongside other forms of political thought and action. Leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, B. R. Ambedkar, and others differed from Gandhi on important questions of political strategy, social reform, economic development, representation, and nationalism. Recognizing these differences provides a more comprehensive understanding of the freedom struggle. The discussion further shows that Gandhi's methods generated both support and criticism. His emphasis on non-violence and negotiation shaped important phases of nationalist politics, while disagreements arose over the pace of political action, social reform, constitutional questions, and relations among different

communities and political groups. These debates form an important part of the historical study of Gandhian politics.

CONCLUSION

The study of “Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement” shows that Mahatma Gandhi played an important role in the development and expansion of nationalist politics during the struggle against British colonial rule. His introduction of political methods based on Satyagraha, non-violence, non-cooperation, and civil disobedience contributed to changes in the nature of political mobilization and encouraged broader participation in the national movement. Gandhi’s early campaigns in Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad helped establish his political leadership and demonstrated the connection between local grievances and wider nationalist activity. The Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Salt Satyagraha, and Quit India Movement represented important phases of the struggle in which Gandhi played a prominent role. These movements also revealed the opportunities and challenges associated with organizing large-scale political action.

The study concludes that Gandhi’s contribution extended beyond political protest. His emphasis on Swadeshi, Khadi, village industries, constructive work, communal harmony, and social reform reflected an effort to connect political freedom with wider social concerns. His approach sought to make nationalism part of everyday public life and encouraged participation beyond established political groups. At the same time, the Indian national movement was not the work of Gandhi alone. It involved numerous leaders, organizations, ideological traditions, peasant and worker movements, revolutionary groups, regional initiatives, and diverse forms of resistance. Gandhi’s role is therefore best understood as an important part of a broader and complex historical process. The study further concludes that Gandhi’s political methods and ideas had a substantial place in the history of Indian nationalism, while also generating debates and disagreements among contemporaries and later scholars. His relationships with other national leaders and political groups demonstrate the diversity of perspectives within the freedom struggle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study of “Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Movement” suggests that greater attention should be given to the study of Gandhi’s political ideas and activities within the wider historical context of the Indian freedom struggle. His contribution should be examined alongside the roles of other leaders, organizations, social groups, and regional movements. Educational institutions should include systematic study of Gandhi’s major political concepts, including Satyagraha, non-violence, Swaraj, Swadeshi, non-cooperation, and civil disobedience. Students should be encouraged to study Gandhi’s original writings, speeches, correspondence, and contemporary historical documents to develop a source-based understanding of his political thought.

Universities and research institutions should promote detailed regional studies of the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Salt Satyagraha, and Quit India Movement. Such research can examine local participation, leadership, organization, colonial responses, and differences in the experience of various regions and social groups. Greater attention should also be given to the participation of women, peasants, workers, students, marginalized communities, and local organizations in the national movement. Research on these groups can provide a broader understanding of the social dimensions of Indian nationalism.

The study recommends further research on Gandhi’s constructive programmes, including Khadi, village industries, basic education, communal harmony, sanitation, and social reform. Their relationship with the political objectives of the national movement deserves systematic historical examination. Archival

institutions and universities should preserve, digitize, and make accessible primary sources such as Gandhi's letters, journals, speeches, Congress records, newspapers, government reports, and regional documents. Greater use of such materials can strengthen historical research and reduce dependence on generalized narratives. Comparative studies should also examine Gandhi's ideas in relation to other contemporary political thinkers and leaders. Such research can explore differences concerning nationalism, constitutional reform, social equality, economic development, communal relations, and methods of resistance.

Finally, interdisciplinary research combining history, sociology, political science, economics, and cultural studies should be encouraged. A broader and source-based examination of Gandhi's contribution, together with the diverse nature of the Indian national movement, can deepen understanding of the historical processes that led to India's independence.

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