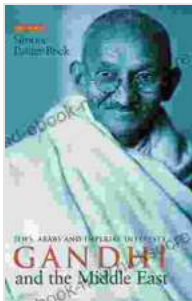


# Gandhi and the Middle East: A Legacy of Nonviolence and Peace

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the father of the Indian independence movement and a global icon of nonviolence, had a profound impact on the Middle East. His teachings inspired countless individuals and movements, and his legacy continues to shape the region today.

## Gandhi's Early Life and Influences

Gandhi was born in 1869 in Porbandar, India. His father was a government official, and his mother was a devout Hindu. Gandhi was raised in a deeply religious household, and he was greatly influenced by the teachings of Jainism, a religion that emphasizes nonviolence and compassion for all living beings.



## Gandhi and the Middle East: Jews, Arabs and Imperial Interests

by Dmitri Volkogonov

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In 1888, Gandhi traveled to England to study law. While in England, he was exposed to the ideas of Western liberalism and Christianity. He was also

deeply impressed by the writings of John Ruskin, a British social reformer who advocated for nonviolence and social justice.

## **Gandhi's Return to India**

Gandhi returned to India in 1893. He began his career as a lawyer in Bombay, but he soon became involved in the Indian independence movement. Gandhi was deeply disturbed by the racism and discrimination that he witnessed under British rule. He believed that the only way to achieve independence was through nonviolent resistance.

In 1915, Gandhi traveled to South Africa, where he lived for 21 years. In South Africa, Gandhi developed his philosophy of satyagraha, which means "truth force." Satyagraha is a form of nonviolent resistance that seeks to overcome injustice through love and compassion.

## **Gandhi's Impact on the Middle East**

Gandhi's teachings had a profound impact on the Middle East. His ideas inspired countless individuals and movements, including the Palestinian national movement and the nonviolent resistance movement in Egypt. Gandhi's legacy continues to shape the region today, and his teachings are still studied and applied by activists and peacemakers around the world.

## **The Palestinian National Movement**

The Palestinian national movement has been deeply influenced by Gandhi's teachings of nonviolence. In the 1930s, the Palestinian leader Haj Amin al-Husseini visited Gandhi in India and was greatly impressed by his philosophy. Al-Husseini returned to Palestine and began to promote Gandhi's teachings among the Palestinian people.

During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the Palestinian people used nonviolent resistance to protest the establishment of the state of Israel. They refused to leave their homes and villages, and they staged peaceful demonstrations against the Israeli occupation. However, the Israelis responded with violence, and the Palestinians were forced to flee their homes.

Despite the setbacks, the Palestinian people have continued to use nonviolent resistance as a way to achieve their goals. In the 1980s, the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat adopted Gandhi's teachings as the basis for the Palestinian national movement. Arafat and his followers used nonviolent resistance to achieve a number of important goals, including the recognition of the Palestinian state by the United Nations and the signing of the Oslo Accords.

### **The Nonviolent Resistance Movement in Egypt**

Gandhi's teachings have also inspired the nonviolent resistance movement in Egypt. In the 1970s, the Egyptian activist Saad Eddin Ibrahim founded the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies. The Ibn Khaldun Center promotes nonviolence and civil society in Egypt. Ibrahim and his followers have used nonviolent resistance to achieve a number of important goals, including the release of political prisoners, the repeal of emergency laws, and the democratization of Egypt.

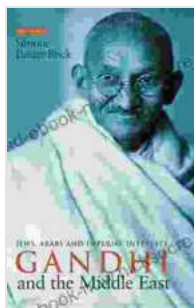
In 2011, the nonviolent resistance movement in Egypt played a key role in the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak. The protesters used Gandhi's teachings to organize peaceful demonstrations and to resist the government's violence. The Egyptian people's nonviolent resistance was ultimately successful, and Mubarak was forced to step down from power.

## Gandhi's Legacy in the Middle East

Gandhi's legacy in the Middle East is one of nonviolence and peace. His teachings have inspired countless individuals and movements, and they continue to shape the region today. Gandhi's legacy is a reminder that nonviolence is a powerful force for change, and that it can be used to achieve even the most difficult goals.

Gandhi's teachings are particularly relevant in the Middle East today, where the region is plagued by violence and conflict. Gandhi's message of nonviolence offers a way to break the cycle of violence and to build a more just and peaceful world.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to fighting for peace and justice. His teachings have had a profound impact on the Middle East, and his legacy continues to shape the region today. Gandhi's message of nonviolence is a powerful reminder that all people are connected, and that we can overcome hatred and division through love and compassion.



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**Interests** by Dmitri Volkogonov

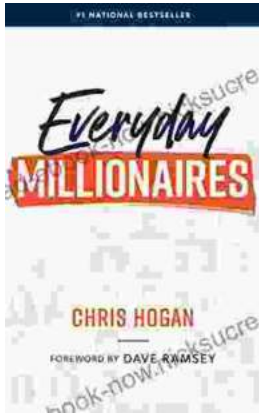
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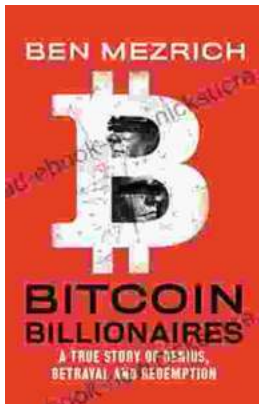
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