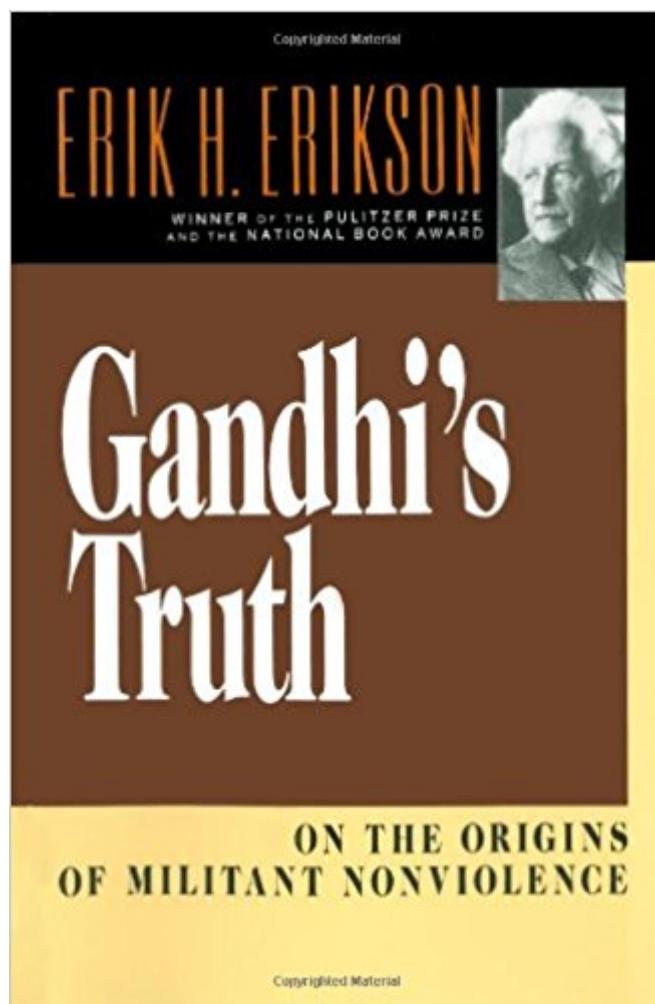


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Gandhi's Truth: On The Origins Of Militant Nonviolence



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

Profound and enlightening. . . . Expands our grasp of some of the ultimate questions of our time.

--Robert Jay Lifton "It is the triumph of Erikson's book that in uncovering the inner sources of Gandhi's power it does not dissolve but deepens his inherent moral ambiguity. . . . [This] penetrating book . . . deepens our understanding not only of the inward sources of personal greatness but those, as well, of its self-defeat. --Clifford Geertz "Gandhi's Truth, even more brilliantly than its predecessor, Young Man Luther, shows that psychoanalytic theory, in the hands of an interpreter both resourceful and wise, can immeasurably enrich the study of 'great lives' and of much else besides. . . . [The book's] richness and almost inexhaustible suggestiveness . . . cannot be conveyed in a summary. --Christopher Lasch"

A winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, Erik H. Erikson was renowned worldwide as teacher, clinician, and theorist in the field of psychoanalysis and human development.

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 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

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

Classic, brilliant.

This is an intriguing analysis of Gandhi from a developmental point of view. Anything by Erikson is a joy to read and this is no exception.

Helped great for psych. research.

For a psychobiography, this book hit the nail on the head. Erikson took the small but fundamental aspects of Gandhi's early beginnings, adolescence, and adult life and brought them to life and understanding through the use of theory.

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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