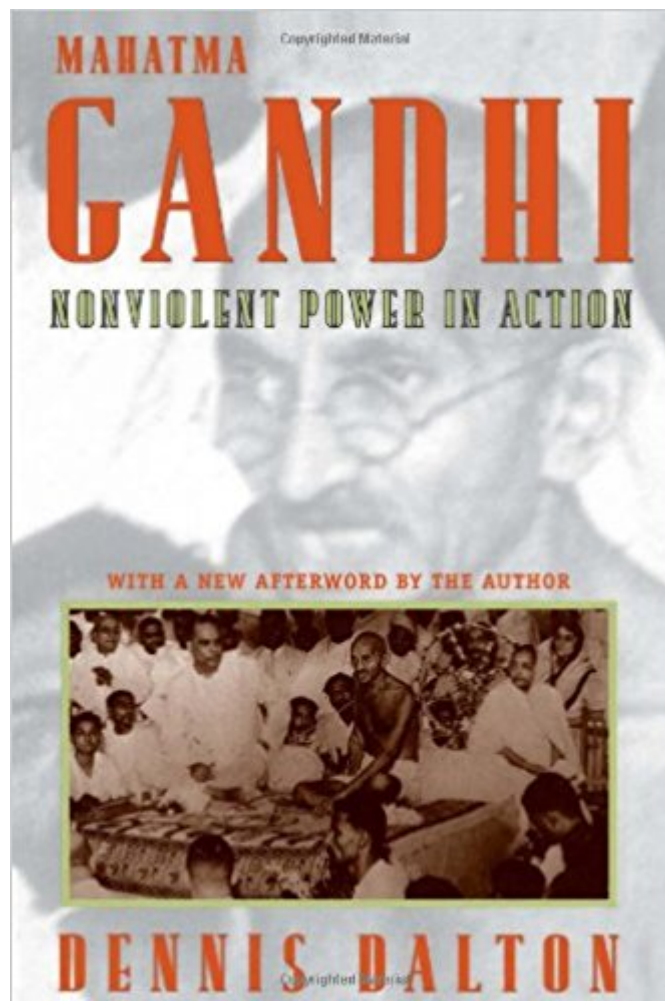




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# Mahatma Gandhi: Nonviolent Power In Action



## Synopsis

Dennis Dalton's classic account of Gandhi's political and intellectual development focuses on the leader's two signal triumphs: the civil disobedience movement (or salt satyagraha) of 1930 and the Calcutta fast of 1947. Dalton clearly demonstrates how Gandhi's lifelong career in national politics gave him the opportunity to develop and refine his ideals. He then concludes with a comparison of Gandhi's methods and the strategies of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, drawing a fascinating juxtaposition that enriches the biography of all three figures and asserts Gandhi's relevance to the study of race and political leadership in America. Dalton situates Gandhi within the "clash of civilizations" debate, identifying the implications of his work on continuing nonviolent protests. He also extensively reviews Gandhian studies and adds a detailed chronology of events in Gandhi's life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In a study of interest primarily to academics, Dalton, a professor of political science at Manhattan's Barnard College, describes how Gandhi's work in South Africa and India helped him develop the subtle relationship between swaraj (freedom as self-rule or self-control) and satyagraha (nonviolent force born of truth and love). The author elucidates the criticisms of Gandhi by such contemporaries as Rabindranath Tagore and M. N. Roy, pointing out that neither man found a way to connect freedom and power as Gandhi did in his 24-day protest march in 1930 against the British tax on salt in India, and in his 1947 fast in response to communal violence in Calcutta. Dalton offers an

intriguing chapter comparing Gandhi, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., and suggests that while King embodied Gandhi's tactics and Malcolm X traveled a similar journey of personal emancipation, neither managed to combine both swaraj and satyagraha . Dalton concludes by reflecting how Gandhi's example proves that political life can include ideals and truth. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What a refreshing study of Gandhi's political thought! Void of the usual psychological mumbo jumbo, this book presents an intellectually satisfying analysis of the Gandhian concepts of satyagraha and swaraj , of their interconnection, and of their application in his quest for Indian independence. Tracing the origins of Gandhi's ideals in ancient Vedic texts and in the body of Western philosophy, Dalton (political science, Barnard) demonstrates Gandhi's first tentative use of satyagraha , the power of truth and love, in nonviolent protests in South Africa and then with increasing confidence in India in the 1930s. Here Gandhi linked satyagraha with swaraj , self-rule or self-restraint, to push forward his case against British Imperial rule. Dalton's focus on Gandhi's salt march of 1930 and his fast of 1946 in Calcutta illustrate with great clarity these principles. Although admiring Gandhi, Dalton eschews his canonization for a clear, thoughtful study, the best in recent years.- John F. Riddick, Central Michigan Univ. Lib., Mt. PleasantCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dennis Dalton has an extraordinary piece of scholarship here on Gandhi. It might be better suited for Gandhi experts, or at least those who have read a bit about Gandhi. This is not a biography. If you want that begin with Louis Fischer books on Gandhi. Dalton does contribute an exceptional analysis of Gandhi's nonviolent program, his commitment to "swaraj" or home rule, and all his political interests. Dalton also critiques and understands well the strength and limitations of nonviolence. This book is ideal for those interested in religion and politics, who preferably have at least some biographical knowledge of Gandhi. For example, having read the Fischer books, or Gandhi's "Autobiography" and his book "Hind Swaraj" would put you in a prime position to grasp Dalton's very fine work. Overall highly recommended for the hard core Gandhi enthusiast or scholar. Dalton's book concludes with an illuminating comparison and contrast of King, Malcolm X and Gandhi.

A cogent, informative review of Gandhi's life, thoughts, his influence, written by one of the world's best Gandhi scholars. His evenhandedness, and his values and who his as person shine through

his lucid prose. This is a must read book for all Americans who value our rich history and are concerned about the path on which we are going.

I don't care to duplicate the academic praise seen in the above reviews. But I can tell you simply that Dennis Dalton was my professor in a class on Non-Violence at Columbia Univ. and it changed my life. At a period of time when I was an atheist, believing that all religion was just a set of rules to control people, D. Dalton demonstrated through the example of Ghandi that the Love and Truth force can be a powerful vehicle for change. This completely changed my view point from victim to activist. One could actually have spirituality from within, instead of imposed upon him or her from without. A tool, not a punishment. The 'truth' one has seems to be irrelevant; it is one's passion and belief and willingness to stand behind that Truth that triumphs. If it is True in the archetypal sense, others will join (not follow) you. And by direct action at the heart level, you can touch and change nations. This is not about passive resistance; this is about direct non-violent confrontation. It is about appealing to the best, the highest nature, of that which you confront. He showed me that one can change the world with one's heart; that truth can win. And now I just wait for Dennis to write the definitive book on Emma Goldman... Truly a great teacher and initiator of the inner spark of one's own truth force. And with Ghandi as his guiding archetype, this book should be on the reading list of every activist.

high quality,easy to use Excellent product, works great! Will be buying more for gifts for my sisters! I would buy this again! I am very fond of. Beyond my imagination, I think it might be bad. But when I received, I am very satisfied.Great product, most people do not believe I'm in the at such a low price to buy it. Well-pleased with quality & good price does what it says

Dalton presents the historical development of Gandhi's political thought, especially on nonviolence and satyagraha (nonviolent direct action). When read in combination with Joan Bondurant's "Conquest of Violence," one understands the key concepts and strategies of nonviolent action in the context of India's independence movement. Despite the attention to historical detail, the reader is left wondering just how nonviolence works and how it persuades rather than dominates the opponent. Dalton's comparison of Malcolm X and Gandhi enlightens the reader on the striking parallels in the development of their political thought under conditions of racist oppression. Both traveled the road from emulating the white oppressor, due to a sense of inferiority, to psychological liberation and resistance, violent versus nonviolent. M. L. King, Malcolm X and Gandhi all embraced

the idea of "inclusiveness" encompassing both oppressor and oppressed. For a further treatment of this theme, see my book, "The Psychopolitics of Liberation: Political Consciousness from a Jungian Perspective" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). Lawrence Alschuler, Professor of Political Science.

What a brilliant analysis of Gandhi's philosophy! This is an insightful collection of essays that illuminates the essential relationship between Gandhi's theory of non-violence and his practice of the same. Dennis Dalton uses two powerful examples: the Salt March of 1930 and the fast to end Partition-related violence in 1947. There is a fascinating conclusion between Gandhi's ideas and those of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, illustrating the relevance of Gandhi's thought to present day issues.

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