

Gandhi's Non-Violence and United Nations

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Abstract

"It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of humanity. When we tap in to the spirit of non violence, it becomes contagious and can topple empires." Gandhi "The choice is not between violence and nonviolence but between nonviolence and non-existence."

Many religions, holy books, and great leaders have been preaching non violence since ancient times. Non violence or ahimsa is the greatest creed in today's nuclear world. Gandhi became a great leader who used non violence as his greatest weapon to fight against all injustices. Nonviolence in Gandhi's opinion is the ultimate solution to all kinds of problems in the world. Gandhi was a single individual who fought the British with the weapons of truth and nonviolence. Gandhi waged a decades-long nonviolent movement in India against British control, which eventually resulted in the country's independence in 1947. Gandhi's efforts resulted in India's independence. Gandhi started non violent movements such as the Quit India campaign and the non-cooperation movement.¹

The United Nations working to create a peaceful world and to eliminate war dangers or threats can and must adhere to Gandhian principle of nonviolence.

Key words: Gandhi, Non violence, United Nations.

Introduction

The peaceful techniques are unquestionably better than the violent ways for resolving international conflicts and disagreements. Forceful means, or the use of force to settle a conflict, rarely work. The use of force almost always has negative and detrimental consequences, and there solution of disputes that arise as a result of the use of force is rarely successful and prompt in practice. In contrast, when a conflict is addressed using peaceful or pacific means, the results are usually always positive and fruitful,² as these methods entail the parties' willing consent. Only the employment of peaceful means can assist in the effective resolution of all international problems in today's world of international relations. In today's world of international relations, peaceful coexistence and peace through peaceful means are seen as ideal goals that, if completely realized, can assist members of the international community develop and prosper.³

Talking of international peace without mentioning the United Nations would do injustice. From the ashes of the League of Nations, a new international organization called the "United Nations Organization" arose. Despite the failure of the League of Nations to bring security to humanity, the International Organization's ideas to prevent war and promote peace were not abandoned. On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was formally established. With one of the mottos being "rescue the next generation from the scourge of war".⁴ One of the purposes of the UN, as indicated in Chapter One and Article One of the UN Charter, is to maintain international peace and security, with the goal of taking effective and collective steps to prevent and eliminate threats to peace.

Coming to Gandhi's non violence, he needs no introduction, he was the most remarkable and non violent freedom fighter of India. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi popularly known as bapu (father of nation), he successfully evaded Britishers from India with his non violence strategies.⁶ A charismatic personality who converted the Indian freedom movement in to mass movement and thus gained popularity and success. From dandi march for tax exemption to non cooperation movement to register revolt against british authorities, he had shown immense dedication to non violence through his activities.⁷ Therefore, the International Day of Nonviolence is observed every year on October 2 to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. It was incorporated on the 15th of June, 2007 by UN General Assembly Resolution. The day is an opportunity to "disseminate the message of nonviolence...through education and public awareness...and reiterate the goal for a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding, and nonviolence," according to the United Nations. Recently United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized the need to "usher in a new era of peace and tolerance" and urged countries to heed Gandhi's non violence message.⁸

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Objectives

1. To show relevance of Gandhian ideas on nonviolence.
2. To emphasize that Gandhian ideas can bring more peace in world.
3. Evaluating Gandhian ideas to show that these can be adopted by UN and the member nations for better performance
4. To show that Gandhian ideas on non violence can be a setback for UN' failure or unsuccessful missions and will form a foundation of a promising peaceful world.
Martin Luther King Jr

Gandhi's contribution in nonviolence:

Gandhi envisioned a new world based on nonviolence and a generally peaceful environment. He was a firm believer in the end-to-end approach. Gandhi was a firm believer in the utmost purity of means, as well as nonviolence as a religion. Because he believed in an all-pervading, all-loving, all-powerful god who created the world, there was no room for not only detached pity for an adversary, but also denial of the enemy's mere existence.⁹

Gandhi established the notion of nonviolence only after his return to India in 1915. Many extreme nationalists in India at the time believed that the only way to obtain independence was to use violence against the British. Gandhi argued that national violence offered a pretext for the British to retaliate harshly. It was preferable to acquire moral high ground by refraining to retaliate with violence, even if imperial rulers violently suppressed protests. In fact, he believed that the more the British utilized violence against defenseless masses, the more enraged Indians would get and rally behind the nationalist movement, giving it unstoppable

momentum. He turned the Indian word ahimsa, which means "not harming others" or "non-killing," into a political notion that he translated into English as "non-violence." His kind of protest was to be defined by its lack of violence, which meant that he would neither physically or emotionally harm others. This was tested in 1919, when Gandhi organized civil disobedience against the British's punitive legislation [the Rowlatt Acts], which tried to suppress radical nationalists. The Non-cooperation Movement of 1920-22, led by Gandhi, was launched the next year. 10 Satyagraha is a logical out growth of his nonviolence and truth ideology. In simple terms, it refers to the use of the soul energy to combat all forms of injustice, oppression, and exploitation. This soul energy is associated with suffering and faith (or trust).

Satyagraha's significance was quickly recognized around the world. In 1950, Martin Luther King used Satyagraha practices in his struggle against racial injustice by American authorities. Albert Einstein had correctly quoted him, "Generations to come, it may well be, will scarcely believe that such a man as this one ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth".

United Nations and non violence:

The United Nations Charter declares war to be an unacceptable and illegitimate tool of international relations. It opposes war and other coercive measures as bad and hazardous weapons of international affairs. In opposition to these, it promotes Pacific settlement of all international problems among members of the international community, as well as collective security of international peace and security against any state's aggression or war. The UN charter's sixth chapter is entirely devoted to concerns of Pacific conflict settlement in international affairs. It consists of six articles and occupies a central position in the charter's structure. Its placement as the first chapter, following the provisions for the UN's aims, membership, and organs, emphasizes its significance in the chapter. In addition, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the body in charge of ensuring international peace and security. In circumstances where peace and security are threatened, various UNSC resolutions have been issued to promote peace processes, resolve disputes, respond to unlawful uses of force, and enforce sanctions. This involvement encompasses Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1993, Afghanistan in 2001, and the Anti-Piracy Resolution of 2008.¹¹ UNSC resolutions have proven that considerable collective action may be taken to respond to crises, such as when Iraq occupied Kuwait in 1990, when the UNSC condemned Iraq's action and allowed states to "use all necessary means" to end the occupation. Nonetheless, the UNSC has come under fire for defending processes that obstruct swift action in critical instances when international law has been broken but the P5 disagree, such as Syria (Nad in 2017). In the case of Iraq in 1990, an agreed-upon resolution allowed a US-led military campaign, but UN oversight was inadequate. Furthermore, vetoes in the Security Council have not always succeeded in stopping nations from carrying out their

ambitions, as was the case with the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. Such examples cast doubt on the UN and UNSC's legitimacy, as well as the balance that the UNSC's composition is supposed to preserve, which is a major road block to the organization's performance in sustaining peace and security, and here United Nations can opt for Gandhian principles of nonviolence for the peace that the world wants.

Conclusion

Nonviolence is a universal phenomenon of enormous importance and impact. It is the ultimate solution to all of society's, nation's, and world's issues and conflicts. Its outcome, on the other hand, is dependent on understanding and proper implementation. The current global situation of violence and exploitation has raised an essential concern. Any country that has suffered from communalism, dictatorship, corruption, or power struggles should return to Gandhi's purpose of nonviolence and truth. Social, political, economic, and religious problems will be eliminated if nonviolence is practiced. Without the need for a doubt, Gandhi's social concept of nonviolence has now become the key to forging and maintaining the new social and political order. To solve all kinds of problems and establish a peaceful atmosphere, it is necessary to adopt Gandhian philosophy and ideology throughout the world today. Gandhi is not a figure from the past; he is a figure from the future. He is a foreshadowing of what we can become. Truth, sacrifice, nonviolence, selfless service, and cooperation are all part of Gandhi's agenda. The weapons of truth and nonviolence should be used to fight a conflict. Non violence, according to Gandhi's beliefs, is the ultimate solution to all of the world's problems. As the United Nations is working for a peaceful and war threat free world can surely and must opt Gandhian non violence ideas as he was the who used non violence techniques in the Freedom Movement of India and was succeeded. It can be concluded that though Gandhi's and United Nations's goals/ends are different in a way but their means aren't, and thus Gandhi's nonviolence principles are still relevant in the United Nation's context.

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