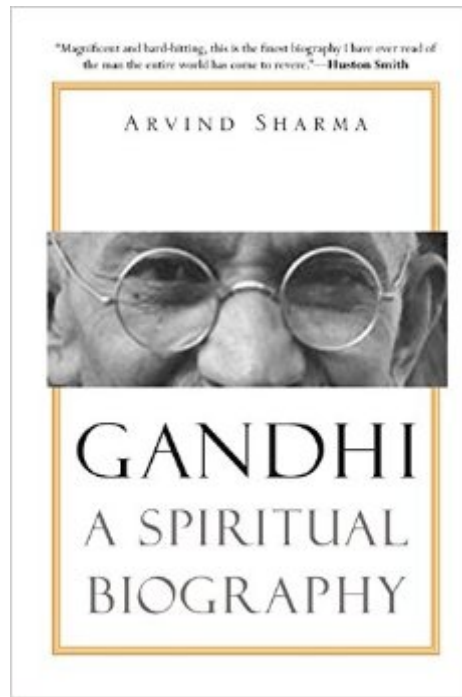


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Gandhi: A Spiritual Biography



Synopsis

Shifting the focus to the understudied subject of Gandhi's spiritual life, the author retells the story of Gandhi's life through this lens. He enlarges our understanding of one of history's most profoundly influential figures, a man whose trust in the power of the soul helped liberate millions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Avant-Garde Politician: Leaders for a New Epoch This book is a good introduction to one of the great unknowns of leadership, namely what makes a spiritual-political leader and how do she or he function and, in some cases, become a major maker of future history, for better or worse. Leaving aside mythical models, however significant, such as Moses, examples from recent history include Martin Luther King and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Gandhi is a most significant positive example, thanks to his highly moral beliefs, in part based on Indian traditions, such as Satyagraha (insistence on truth), love also for one's enemy and efforts to change them for the better, Ahimsa (compassion and not to injure), and especially Satyagraha ("the need to oppose injustice but to oppose it nonviolently" [p. 203], simplified in the widely used term "passive resistance"). These made him an Indian and in some respects even more so a global spiritual leaders. Gandhi was also a top political leader of India, formally or by force of his personality, who exerted much influence on the way in which it achieved independence (including the partition between India and Pakistan, which may have been a serious mistake resulting, paradoxically, in a nuclear confrontation which contradicts all that Gandhi believed in). Thus, Gandhi is a prime case of spiritual-political leadership characterized by regarding itself and being widely accepted by followers as having a transcendental basis. This

type of leadership is quite different from ideological this-worldly leadership, a distinction underrated by the author who partly compares Gandhi with Churchill, Mao and Stalin (pp. 190-193). Nearly all the study of leadership neglects spiritual-political leaders as a distinct type of the highest importance. Hence the importance of the book and the insights it provides into the spiritual aspects of Gandhi and their development. In addition to its monographic significance, it can also serve as a good starting line for developing a theory of spiritual-political leadership throughout history. This is all the more urgent because the emerging metamorphosis of humanity, as discussed in my recent book, requires spiritual-political leaders of the highest quality. Accordingly I strongly recommend this book to all interested in public leadership, in addition to students of India and its history and of Gandhi. Professor Yehezkel Dror The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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