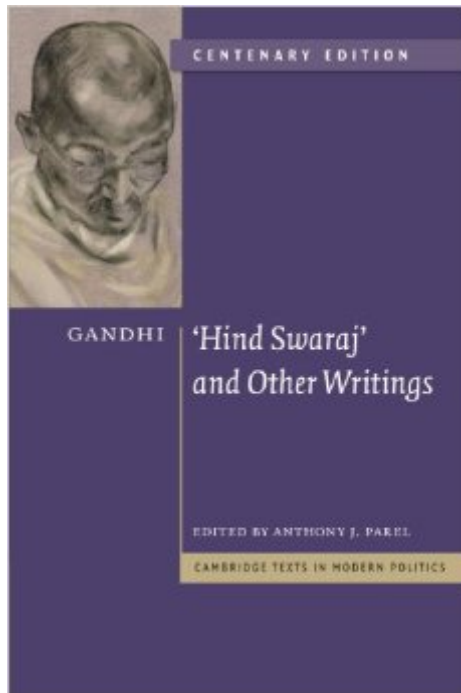


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Gandhi: 'Hind Swaraj' And Other Writings Centenary Edition (Cambridge Texts In Modern Politics)



Synopsis

Hind Swaraj is Mahatma Gandhi's fundamental work. Not only is it key to understanding his life and thoughts, but also the politics of South Asia in the first half of the twentieth century. Celebrating 100 years since Hind Swaraj was first published in a newspaper, this centenary edition includes a new Preface and Editor's Introduction, as well as a new chapter on 'Gandhi and the 'Four Canonical Aims of Life''. The volume presents a critical edition of the 1910 text of Hind Swaraj, fully annotated and including Gandhi's own Preface and Foreword (not found in other editions). Anthony J. Parel sets the work in its historical and political contexts and analyses the significance of Gandhi's experiences in England and South Africa. The second part of the volume contains some of Gandhi's other writings, including his correspondence with Tolstoy and Nehru.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gandhi explains in Hind Swaraj some of his fundamental ideas on how to obtain Home Rule in India. One aspect of Indian society Gandhi criticizes is the relationship between Muslims and Hindus. Gandhi tries to convey the idea that religious identity does not constitute for nationality. He feels that in order to obtain swaraj, India's people must unify themselves as a nation. By disbanding disagreements between the two religions, with acceptance and without imposition, Gandhi implies that what is important- Mother India- can be saved. Both Hindus and Muslims should stop seeking concessions from the British, begin the swadeshi movement (Indian-made goods), and that a

universal language (Hindi) would also help the cause. Another factor which will lead to swaraj is passive resistance. (Gandhi launched the Civil Disobedience Movement 1931-34). Unlike Nehru, Gandhi opposed modernization/industrialization. These views, as well as views about education and economic reform are also included.

This excellent new edition of Hind Swaraj fulfills the needs of all readers, either for private and academic purposes. Extraordinary is especially the introduction which covers all major subjects which should be taken into account for understanding "Hind Swaraj", e.g. western and eastern influences on Gandhi's thoughts, the London & South African years etc. The text itself is issued with a lot of explaining footnotes which also refer to the original (written in Gujarati). It's so far the first edition I know which compares between the English and Gujarati text! The only, minor, drawback might be the fact that the South African years are treated rather short, but the bibliography and advice for further reading lead the ambitious reader to new sources.

This book is simply awesome. I call this one of the best books I've ever read. It presents Gandhi's views lucidly and you understand the clarity of thought and spirituality of a person who led India to freedom. To all Indians who are unaware of their own civilization, this book also contains portions where Gandhi gives reasons for why he regards Indian civilization to be the best. (I accept that I'm being chauvinistic). However, this book is not meant for Indians alone, it is for people who wish to be open-minded, who dare to think outside the box, who wish to understand the world, mainly who wish to search for the all-pervading truth. Satyameva Jayate (Truth always wins)

This is an excellent book in which Gandhi presents his critique of Western civilization, his thoughts on passive resistance, his belief that love wins over power and force and his belief that to govern yourself politically requires that you have the discipline to first govern yourself personally. A great addition to the book are the editor's introduction and many footnotes. These help to explain not only Gandhi's argument and key points but also the historical context in which Gandhi wrote.

The book was in excellent condition. No dog-eared pages nor tears, and it was a great read!
Thanks for the transaction!

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