

Who Was Gandhi? The Life and Legacy of a Revolutionary



Who Was Gandhi? (Who Was?) by Dana Meachen Rau

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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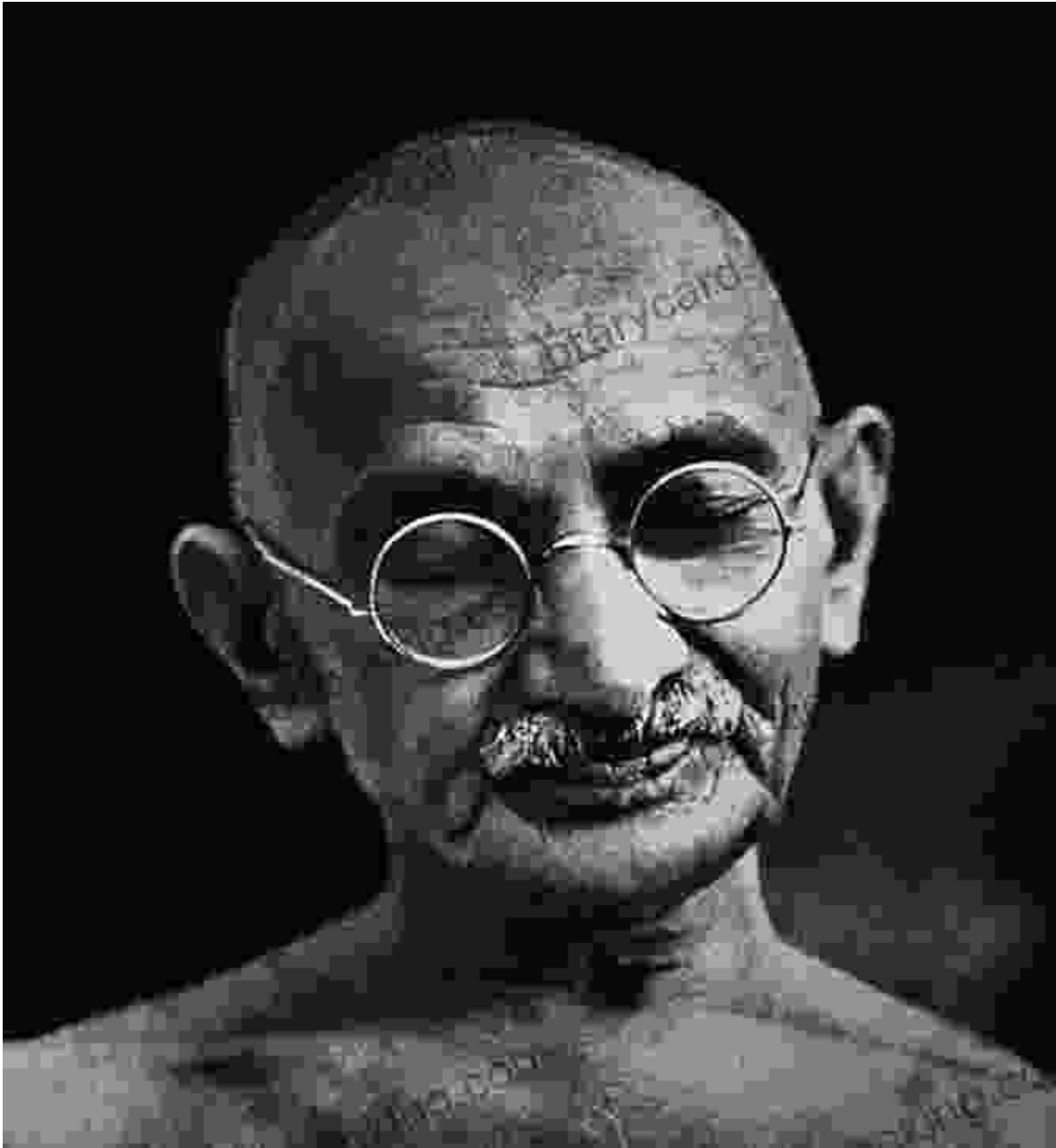
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Mahatma Gandhi, also known as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, was a preeminent leader of India's independence movement and a global advocate for nonviolent resistance. His teachings and philosophy, known as Gandhianism, have had a profound impact on civil rights and peace movements worldwide.



Early Life and Education

Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, India. His parents were devout Hindus, and he received a traditional Hindu upbringing. Gandhi studied law in England and was called to the bar in 1891. After practicing law in India for a few years, he traveled to South Africa in 1893.

Life in South Africa

In South Africa, Gandhi faced discrimination and racism against Indians. He experienced firsthand the harsh treatment of Indian workers on the plantations and was appalled by the segregation and prejudice that prevailed. Gandhi's experiences in South Africa transformed him into a political activist, and he began to develop his philosophy of nonviolent resistance.

Return to India and the Independence Movement

Gandhi returned to India in 1915 and quickly became a prominent figure in the Indian National Congress, the main political organization fighting for India's independence from British rule. Gandhi led several major nonviolent resistance campaigns, including the Salt March in 1930 and the Quit India Movement in 1942.

Philosophy of Nonviolence

Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence, known as ahimsa, was central to his political and social activism. Gandhi believed that violence and hatred only lead to further violence and destruction. He advocated for peaceful resistance, civil disobedience, and dialogue as the best means to achieve social and political change.

Independence and Partition

Under Gandhi's leadership, India achieved independence from British rule in 1947. However, the independence was marred by the partition of India into two separate nations, India and Pakistan. Gandhi was deeply saddened by the partition and worked to promote peace and reconciliation between the two countries.

Assassination and Legacy

Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist on January 30, 1948. His death sent shockwaves around the world and was mourned by people of all faiths and backgrounds. Gandhi's legacy continues to inspire peace and social justice movements around the globe. He is remembered as one of the most influential and revered leaders of the 20th century.

Mahatma Gandhi was a visionary leader, a tireless advocate for nonviolence, and a symbol of peace and reconciliation. His teachings and philosophy continue to guide and inspire people worldwide. Gandhi's legacy is a testament to the power of nonviolent resistance and the belief that even the most deeply rooted injustices can be overcome through peaceful means.

References

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