

A TRILOGY OF NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENTS

Independence Movement

MAHATMA GANDHI

Gandhi led a successful nonviolent campaign, known as Swadeshi (self-sufficiency), to liberate India from British colonialism.

1928 Gandhi challenges the British to declare India an autonomous state or face non-cooperation. Britain did not respond.

1930 Protesting the British tax and monopoly on salt, Gandhi leads a 24-day, 248-mile march to Dandi. Once there, he breaks the law by producing salt with evaporated sea water. More than 60,000 people are imprisoned for protesting and violating salt laws.

1931 The Gandhi-Irwin Pact is signed, releasing all political prisoners in exchange for civil obedience.

Civil Rights Movement

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The U.S. Civil Rights Movement, led by Dr. King, ended state-mandated segregation in the U.S. Dr. King modeled Gandhi's efforts.

1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a city bus in Montgomery, Ala. Her subsequent arrest launched a 381-day bus boycott — and the Civil Rights Movement.

1959 Dr. and Mrs. King spend a month in India studying Gandhi's protest techniques of nonviolence.

1960 Four black college students from North Carolina A&T organize a sit-in at a segregated drug store lunch counter, launching a desegregation effort that spread across the South.

Farmworker Movement

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

The farmworker movement, led by Chávez, countered exploitation and abuse in the fields. His efforts were informed by Gandhi and King.

1965 The National Farm Worker Association joins the Filipino union in the Delano strike.

Growers and their allies in law enforcement harass strikers, many of whom are arrested and jailed. Strikebreakers continue the harvest.

1966 Acknowledging that the strike alone would not compel growers to act, Chávez leads a 250-mile protest march from Delano to Sacramento, Calif., to raise awareness of the farmworkers' struggle. As a result, one grower agrees to sign an agreement with the union.

1967 The national boycott of California table grapes begins. In the coming years, sales of California grapes decline drastically as shoppers across the U.S. and Canada stop buying them.

1932-1934 A new campaign of British control lands Gandhi in jail. While imprisoned, Gandhi protests the British government's treatment of India's lowest caste — the "untouchables" — through multiple fasts.

1939-1941 During World War II, Gandhi declares independence is "Do or Die" and that the British should "Quit India." During this time, more than 100,000 Indians are jailed, injured and killed by police for engaging in "Quit India" protest activities.

1942-1947 Muslims in India align themselves with the British, fearing their interests will not be protected by the Hindu majority. Fighting breaks out. Gandhi fasts to bring an end to the fighting in what is known as the "miracle of Calcutta."

1947 India gains independence from Britain after centuries of oppression.

Independence Movement
MAHATMA GANDHI

1961 Over a thousand student "Freedom Riders," black and white, take bus trips through the South to test segregation laws. Following mob attacks on riders, Dr. King renews calls for nonviolence.

1963 In Birmingham, Ala., nonviolent protesters — most of them children — are attacked by police dogs and knocked down by fire hoses. Many are jailed. The brutality shocks the nation and the world.

1964 President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the Civil War.

1965 Law enforcement officers beat hundreds of protestors as they attempt to march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery to demand voting rights. The march is completed weeks later when 25,000 arrive at the Alabama State Capitol. The march leads to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Civil Rights Movement
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1968 After property violence erupts, Chávez begins a 25-day hunger strike to rededicate his movement to nonviolence. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, along with thousands of farmworkers and supporters, join Chávez in breaking the fast by taking a public mass.

1969 After workers developed symptoms of pesticide poisoning, Chávez and union leaders picket the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to protest pesticide hazards.

1970 The grape strike and boycott ends with a three-year contract signed between the Delano growers and the United Farm Workers.

1975 California passes the Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA), the first law in the nation recognizing the right of farmworkers to unionize.

Farmworker Movement
CÉSAR CHÁVEZ