Biography


Quotes

Non-violence is ‘not a resignation from all real fighting against wickedness.’ On the contrary, the non-violence of my conception is a more active and real fight against wickedness than retaliation whose very nature is to increase wickedness. I contemplate, a mental and therefore a moral opposition to immoralities. I seek entirely to blunt the edge of the tyrant’s sword, not by putting up against it a sharper-edged weapon, but by disappointing his expectation that I would be offering physical resistance. The resistance of the soul that I should offer would elude him. It would at first dazzle him and at last compel recognition from him, which recognition would not humiliate him but would uplift him.

—Gandhi, Young India, October 8, 1825

Action

The following excerpt appeared in the March 13, 1930, issue of the Guardian in an article titled “Gandhi’s March to the Sea.”

At 6.30 yesterday morning “Mahatma” Gandhi left Ahmedabad on foot at the head of a band of civil resistance volunteers on a 100-mile march to the sea at Jalalpur, on the Gulf of Cambay.

He thus signalled the beginning of civil disobedience or non-violent defiance of the British administration, and brought into action the new Congress policy of Purna Swaraj, or complete independence.

For a fortnight Gandhi's march is intended to be only a demonstration. Then, when he expects to be at the sea, he will begin to produce salt from brine, and so infringe the Government salt monopoly, defying the Government to arrest and punish him. At the same time his supporters everywhere have been incited by him to refuse to pay local taxes.

There were sympathetic demonstrations yesterday in various parts of India, but apparently little excitement, and no reported incident of serious disorder. Gandhi, of course, represents a section of
India only. His campaign has found no support in the National Assembly, while the Moslems are definitely opposed to it.

Additional Links

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