

Excerpts from Hind Swaraj

1. Duties of a Newspaper

"One of the objects of a newspaper is to understand popular feeling and to give expression to it; another is to arouse among the people certain desirable sentiments; and the third is fearlessly to expose popular defects."

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. I]

2. Justice

"We who seek justice will have to do justice to others."

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. I]

3. Discontent and Unrest

"Unrest is, in reality, discontent. This discontent is a very useful thing. As long as a man is contented with his present lot, so long is it difficult to persuade him to come out of it. Therefore it is that every reform must be preceded by discontent. We throw away things we have, only when we cease to like <http://www.mkgandhi-sarvodaya.org/hindswaraj.htm> - topthem."

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. III]

4. India Is A Nation

"India cannot cease to be one nation because people belonging to different religions live in it. The introduction of foreigners does not necessarily destroy the nation; they merge in it. A country is one nation only when such a condition obtains in it. That country must have a faculty for assimilation. India has ever been such a country."

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. X]

5. Religion and Nationality Not Synonymous

"In reality, there are as many religions as there are individuals; but those who are conscious of the spirit of nationality do not interfere with one another's religion. In no part of the world are one nationality and one religion synonymous terms; nor has it ever been so in India."

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. X]

6. What Is True Civilization?

“Civilization is that mode of conduct which points out to man the path of duty. Performance of duty and observance of morality are convertible terms. To observe morality is to attain mastery over our mind and our passions. So doing, we know ourselves. The Gujarati equivalent for civilization means ‘good conduct.’”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XIII]

7. Indian Civilization – II

“The more we indulge our passions, the more unbridled they become. Our ancestors, therefore, set a limit to our indulgences. They saw that happiness was largely a mental condition.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XIII]

8. Indian Civilization Vs Western Civilization

“The tendency of Indian civilization is to elevate the moral being, that of the Western civilization is to propagate immorality.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XIII]

9. Freedom from England

“If the English become Indianized, we can accommodate them. If they wish to remain, in India along with their civilization, there is no room for them.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XIV]

10. Means and End – III

“fair means alone can produce fair results, and that, at least in the majority of cases, if not indeed in all, the force of love and pity is infinitely greater than the force of arms. There is harm in the <http://www.mkgandhi-sarvodaya.org/hindswaraj.htm> - top exercise of brute force, never in that of pity.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XV]

11. History A Record Of Wars

“History, as we know it, is a record of the wars of the world, and so there is a proverb among Englishmen that a nation which has no history; that is, no wars, is a happy nation.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XVII]

12. Brute Force vs. Love-Force

“A petition of an equal is a sign of courtesy; a petition from a slave is a symbol of his slavery. A petition backed by force is a petition from an equal and, when he transmits his demand in the form of a petition, it testifies to his nobility. Two kinds of force can back petitions. “We shall hurt you if you do not give this,” is one kind of force; it is the force of arms. The second kind of force can thus be stated: “If you do not concede our demand, we shall be no longer your petitioners. You can govern us only so long as we remain the governed; we shall no longer have any dealing with you.” The force implied in this may be described as love-force, soul-force, or, more popularly but less accurately, passive resistance. This force is indestructible.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XVI]

13. Satyagraha Explained – I

“Passive resistance is a method of securing rights by personal suffering; it is the reverse of resistance by arms. When I refuse to do a thing that is repugnant to my conscience, I use soul-force.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XVII]

14. Satyagraha Explained – III

“The real meaning of the statement that we are a law-abiding nation is that we are resisters. When we do not like certain laws, we do not break the heads of law-givers but we suffer and do not submit to the laws.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XVII]

15. Satyagraha Explained – IV

“it is contrary to our manhood if we obey laws repugnant to our conscience. Such teaching is opposed to religion and means slavery. Even the Government does not expect any such thing from us. They do not say: ‘You must do such and such a thing,’ but they say: ‘If you do not do it, we will punish you’.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XVII]

16. Satyagraha Explained – VIII

“Physical-force men are strangers to the courage that is requisite in a passive resister,”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XVII]

17. English-Knowing Indians Have Enslaved India

“English-knowing Indians have not hesitated to cheat and strike terror into the people. It is we, the English-knowing Indians, that have enslaved India. The curse of the nation will rest not upon the English but upon us.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XVIII]

18. Economic Enslavement Of India – I

“When I read Mr. Dutt’s Economic History of India, I wept; and as I think of it again my heart sickens. It is machinery that has impoverished India. It is difficult to measure the harm that Manchester <http://www.mkgandhi-sarvodaya.org/hindswaraj.htm> - top has done to us. It is due to Manchester that Indian handicraft has all but disappeared.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XIX]

19. Duty Is Service

“Let each do his duty. If I do my duty, that is, serve myself, I shall be able to serve others.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XX]

20. Real Home-Rule (Conclusion)

“I will take the liberty of repeating:

1.Real home-rule is self-rule or self-control.

2.The way to it is passive resistance: that is soul-force or love force.

3.In order to exert this force, Swadeshi in every sense is necessary. [*Swadeshi= self-sufficiency. Boycott British goods and produce what you need.*]

4.What we want to do should be done, not because we object to the English or because we want to retaliate but because it is our duty to do so.”

[M. K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, Chap. XX]