

Mohandas

Gandhi-

1869-1948

- most famous of several leaders who "fought" for the independence of India from the British Empire

- he was not founder

of the movement

- - he was not main political leader at time of independence in 1947

- Nonviolent Civil

Disobedience

- - peaceful resistance to make reforms

- purposefully disobeying laws viewed as unfair or unjust

- - he was not the inventor of this concept

- besides Non Violent Civil  
Disobedience, the concepts  
he is most associated  
w/ are...

- absolute pacifism

- passive resistance  
(being arrested)

- mass non-cooperation  
(boycotts)

- self-sufficiency

- fasting

- anti industry and  
technology

- harmony between religions

- Do concepts work?

- India granted independence in 1947 after ~200 years of British rule

- some argue a more forceful approach might have sped up process

- Concept has not been accepted worldwide

- since 1947, India & Pakistan (both part of India under British) have fought 3 border wars

# importance

his concepts w/in India made population realize that they could do things on their own, especially...

1) hand-spinning of thread

- "home made" clothing  
not British

- teach manual labor

- restore self-respect

2) the Salt March 3-12-1931

3) despite never being appointed or elected to any political office or title,

he was recognized as the major "leader" of India's independence effort  
(British negotiated w/him)

4) however...

his greatest triumph,  
(India gaining freedom in 1947)

was also an "hour of defeat"

as India was split into  
2 countries based on  
religion, Hindu India &  
Muslim Pakistan

5) and...

India has maintained  
many British traditions  
since 1947, especially in  
government and law

5) but...

- Gandhi influenced  
Others - most notable...  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Nelson Mandela  
Dalai Lama