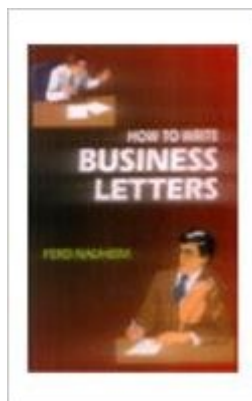


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Gandhi And His Critics



Synopsis

Written for all those whose curiosity about Gandhi was sparked by Richard Attenborough's film, or for anyone who would like to know more about this strangely enigmatic leader, this is a fascinating in-depth study of Gandhi's personality and thought. The book explores the evolution of Gandhi's ideas, his attitudes toward religion, the racial problem, the caste system, his conflict with the British, his approach to Muslim separatism and the division of India, his attitude toward social and economic change, his doctrine of nonviolence, and other key issues. Throughout, the author sheds new light on the mighty figure who initiated revolutions against racism, colonialism, and violence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is one of the Gandhi publications that came out as an answer to Richard Grenier's controversial article The Gandhi Nobody Knows which was published in a Jewish journal around the time Richard Attenborough's movie on Gandhi was released in 1982. Though not powerfully and directly, Nanda in his book was able to leverage his expertise on Gandhi to lay facts from history in an attempt to challenge some of the accusations Richard Grenier leveled against Gandhi. But, his response to such a controversial article was below the expectation especially since it came from an author of one of the most authoritative biographies of Gandhi. Seemed to be aimed at all the critics of Gandhi, Nanda's this short book is not very well challenging Richard on some of the seemingly contradicting stances and statements of Gandhi that were pointed out in the article. Some of the most pertinent accusations leveled against Gandhi by his critics are his obsessive adherence to

Hinduism and its implications on the national cause, his mixing of religion and politics, his exhibitionism, his contradictions, and his excessive appeasement to Muslims but not to the untouchables. Nanda was not providing adequate explanations to any of these but instead just providing facts from the history and letting readers decide the verdict on Gandhi. While it is true that a devoted Gandhi scholar could possibly not agree with his critics on many areas, a casual reader could easily find himself lost in critics' pretentious accusations and out of context references that support them. To aid such readers, a proper, to the point explanations to the accusations is what needed.

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