

## **2007 GANDHI AWARD ESSAY ENTRIES**

**Middle School**

**Second Prize**

**Shashwat Chugh**

**Grade - 7**

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Woodrow Wilson Middle School

Over a half-century ago one man inspired a nation to face seemingly insurmountable odds and fight for their country. What's truly admirable about this achievement is not that he led his nation to independence from one of the world's greatest powers; but that he did this without raising a single weapon. He showed the entire world, that true justice is delivered not by bloodshed, but by faith and peaceful protests. He defied the British Empire and defeated a great army not with guns, but with peace. The man that I speak of is one who is celebrated throughout the globe and whose example has moved so many others to do the same. The man of course is Mahatma Gandhi.

Though Gandhi died long ago, his legacy still lives on in the hearts and minds of millions of people. His demonstrations not only saved his own country but also spurred several others to follow suit. He showed that violence was neither the easiest way nor the most efficient way to resolve problem. He preached that justice must be lived. That all of us must search inside ourselves and think if what we do is morally right, instead of waging war mindlessly. Express yourself and fight for what you believe, but not with arms because eventually, with patience and persistence, justice shall be delivered.

Also, what was so miraculous about Gandhi's revolution was the overwhelming odds that he faced. Defying a massive army and defeating an immensely powerful monarchy is a daunting task. But the desperation and impossibility of this situation only goaded the flames that Gandhi sparked. The more the odds seemed against him, the more determined he and his followers became. Their resoluteness is incredibly admirable. When one should have felt great fear, they only wanted freedom more. When the flame

rose, it could not be doused. No matter what force the British sent they remained unwavering because they believed that they truly deserved freedom and that carried them through. The story of India's independence is one worthy of epic stature. The great nation of India would not have even come to be were it not for the courage and brave heart of one man. And today we still acknowledge him for creating an independent India, as well as imparting an everlasting message of peace.