

Grade: 8

Name:

Subject: Humanities-History

Class:

Reading: 2

KEY PRINCIPLES OF GANDHI

1. Satyagraha (Holding onto Truth):

Satyagraha was one of Gandhi's most important ideas. It means standing strong in truth and fighting against unfair laws, but without using violence. Gandhi started this in South Africa and used it to help India become free. Satyagraha can include things like fasting (not eating), praying, protesting, or not following unfair rules. Gandhi believed that the most powerful weapon we have is **truth**, and that human life is about finding truth. Satyagraha is for strong people who can fight unfairness without hurting others.

2. Ahimsa (Non-Violence):

Ahimsa means **not hurting anyone**. Gandhi believed that everyone, even ordinary people, could use non-violence to make changes. It helped people from different backgrounds come together to fight for freedom from British rule. Gandhi borrowed the idea of Ahimsa from religions like Buddhism and Hinduism. He used it not only to fight the British but also to stop bad things like untouchability (treating some people as lower) and racism.

3. Swaraj (Self-Rule):

Swaraj means **self-rule**, or people ruling themselves. Gandhi wrote about this in his book called *Hind Swaraj* in 1909. He believed the real enemy of India was not just the British rulers, but also modern ways that were making people forget India's traditions. He did not like things like railways and modern habits because he felt they hurt India's ancient culture. He wanted Indians to follow their own ways and traditions to feel truly free. Gandhi also worked to improve villages and help the poor.

4. Swadeshi (Using Local Goods):

Swadeshi means **using things made in your own country**. Gandhi encouraged people to spin their own clothes at home using the **charkha** (spinning wheel) to avoid buying things from the British. This helped people in villages make extra money and stop sending money to Britain for imported goods. Gandhi also believed that rich people and workers should work together and help each other. He did not like conflict between different groups.

5. Sarvodaya (Well-being of All):

Sarvodaya means **progress for everyone**. Gandhi wanted a world where everyone is happy, where wealth is shared fairly, and where each person is free. He started the Sarvodaya movement to bring these ideas into his work on non-violence. He believed in hard work, fair treatment, and communities helping themselves.

6. Shramadan (Gift of labour):

In Gandhi's words it means the **voluntary work** done for the community. Gandhi believed that everyone, no matter how rich or poor, should contribute to society by offering their time and effort to help others. Gandhi hoped to create a society where everyone worked together for the common good, without relying too much on material wealth or outside help. It was a way to **promote equality, unity, and self-reliance**.