

P R E F A C E

The aim of this study is to see how far the Indian Constitution, especially Parts III and IV of the Constitution, were influenced by the ideas of Gandhi. Gandhi had been the undisputed leader of India's freedom movement for long three decades. After his death the task of constitution-making fell to the lot of his disciples and such members of the Constituent Assembly who had for years participated in the struggle for freedom under his leadership. Therefore, it was normally expected that they would work out a constitution basically permeated with his ideas and principles. But, it remains a fact of history that the Indian Constitution, as it finally emerged from the tug and pull of opposing forces in the Constitution-making body, was a substantial deviation and departure from Gandhian ideas and principles. The reasons were many and varied, and must be traced if the air of confusion and misunderstanding has to be cleared for the sake of historical truth. The present study endeavours not only to identify the small areas of marginal approximation of the Constitutional provisions in Parts III and IV to the basic tenets of Gandhian thought, but, what is more important, seeks to unfold Gandhi's chequered relation with the Congress and the architects of the Indian Constitution, as well as other factors and forces, which caused such wide divergence of the constitutional principles from his ideas and thoughts.

In preparing this work, I have relied heavily on the

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Constituent Assembly Debates, a Government of India publication. For Gandhian thoughts and ideas, I had to depend on the collected Works of Gandhi, a Government of India publication 'Selected Works of Gandhi' (Navajivan Publication) in six volumes, Young India and Harijan files, and on 'Mahatma' by D.G. Tendulkar in eight volumes. Besides, I have used materials exhaustively from three published articles of mine—one in 'The Modern Review' Dec. '73 (Calcutta) another in 'Gandhi Marg', January 1974 (Journal of the Gandhi Peace Foundation - Delhi), and third one in Journal of Gandhian Studies, Jan., '77 (Allahabad).

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