

Mohandas Gandhi



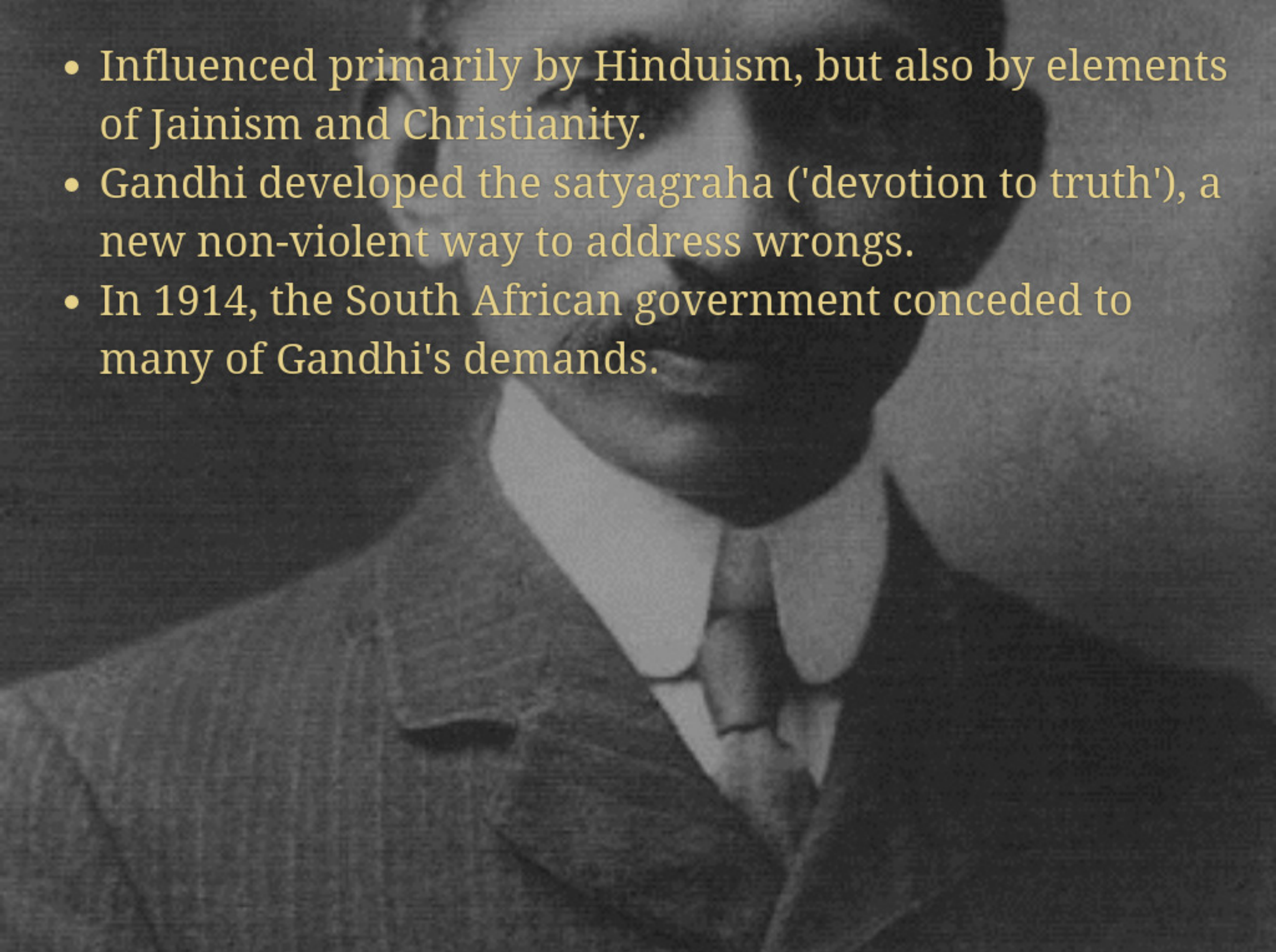
Open Ended Question

Who is Mohandas Gandhi?



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- Mohandas Gandhi, often called the Mahatma or “Great Soul” was born in India on October 2, 1869.
- After college, he went to London to train as a lawyer. He returned to India in 1891 and in 1893 accepted a job at an Indian law firm in Durban, South Africa.
- There he experienced how badly the white South Africans were treating people of color. Indians like himself .
- Gandhi was appalled by the treatment of Indian immigrants there, and joined the struggle to obtain basic rights for them.
- During his 20 years in South Africa he was sent to prison many times

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- Influenced primarily by Hinduism, but also by elements of Jainism and Christianity.
 - Gandhi developed the satyagraha ('devotion to truth'), a new non-violent way to address wrongs.
 - In 1914, the South African government conceded to many of Gandhi's demands.

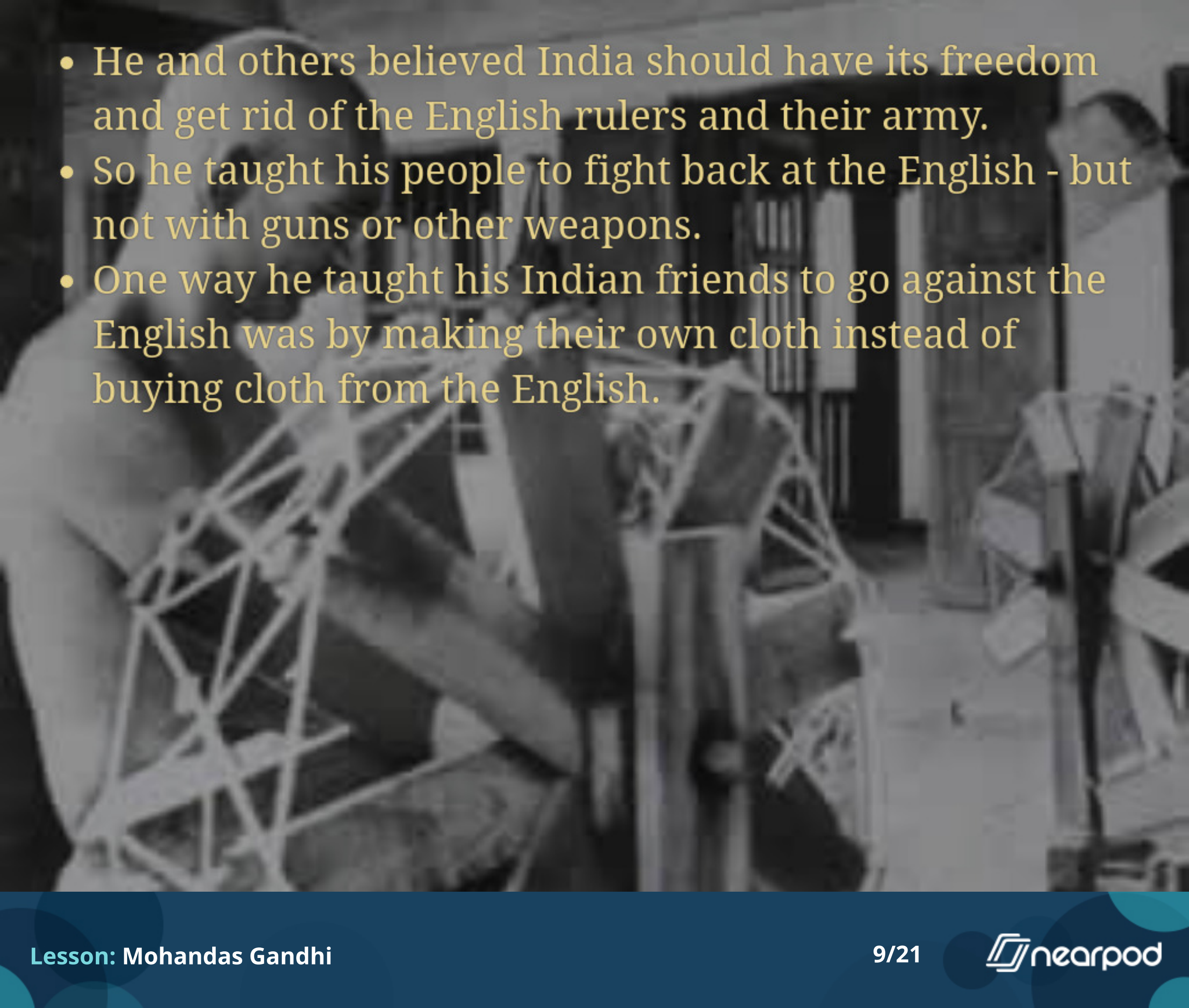


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C B Arun Kumar / 360cities.net

- He led huge non-violent protests to change the laws so that people working for the railroads would be treated more fairly.
- Started dressing in plain, white clothing that wrapped around his body and lived very simply.
- Gandhi returned to India shortly afterwards.
- By 1920, Gandhi was a dominant figure in Indian politics. He transformed the Indian National Congress.
- His program of non-violence with the British included boycotts of British goods and institutions.

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- He and others believed India should have its freedom and get rid of the English rulers and their army.
 - So he taught his people to fight back at the English - but not with guns or other weapons.
 - One way he taught his Indian friends to go against the English was by making their own cloth instead of buying cloth from the English.

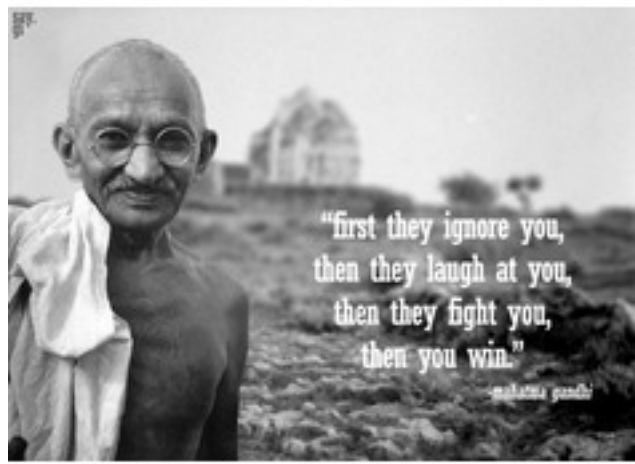
- Soon the English couldn't make money off the Indians buying their cloth anymore. The English said they had to buy the English cloth. But Gandhi and his followers refused.
- In 1922, Gandhi was sentenced to six years' imprisonment. He was released after two years and withdrew from politics, devoting himself to trying to improve Hindu-Muslim relations.

- In 1930, Gandhi proclaimed a new campaign of civil disobedience in protest at a tax on salt, leading thousands on a 'March to the Sea' to symbolically make their own salt from seawater.
- They did this instead of buying the expensive English salt with its extra tax.
- The English army beat up Gandhi and his followers and threw them in jail when they tried to make their own salt from the sea.
- But Gandhi and his friends kept coming back and back until the English gave up.



- Finally, after years and many, many non-violent protests, Gandhi and his hundreds of thousands of followers forced the English to leave India.
- In 1945, the British government began negotiations for the Mountbatten Plan.
- It was completed in June 1947
- formed two new countries, India and Pakistan.

Open Ended Question



What does this quote mean to you?

- Massive amounts of violence marred the months before and after independence. Gandhi was opposed to partition, and now fasted in an attempt to bring calm in Calcutta and Delhi.
- On 30 January 1948, he was assassinated in Delhi by a Hindu fanatic.

County News

Y 30, 1948

Official City Paper — Official County Paper

\$3.00 Per Year

Mohandas K. Gandhi Assassinated by Fanatic

Boastful

**Death of India's Great Spiritual Leader
Causes Rioting to Break Out Immediately**

BOMBAY, Jan. 30 (UP)—Rioting broke out in Bombay tonight on receipt of word that Mohandas K. Gandhi had been assassinated, and shortly before midnight six persons had been killed and 26 injured.

NEW DELHI, Jan. 30 (UP)—Mohandas K. Gandhi was assassinated today by a Hindu extremist whose act plunged India into sorrow and fear. Rioting broke out immediately in Bombay. The 78-year-old Indian whose people had christened him the "Great Soul of India" died at 6:15 a. m., Russell time, with his head cradled in the lap of his 16-year-old son, Mani. Just half an hour

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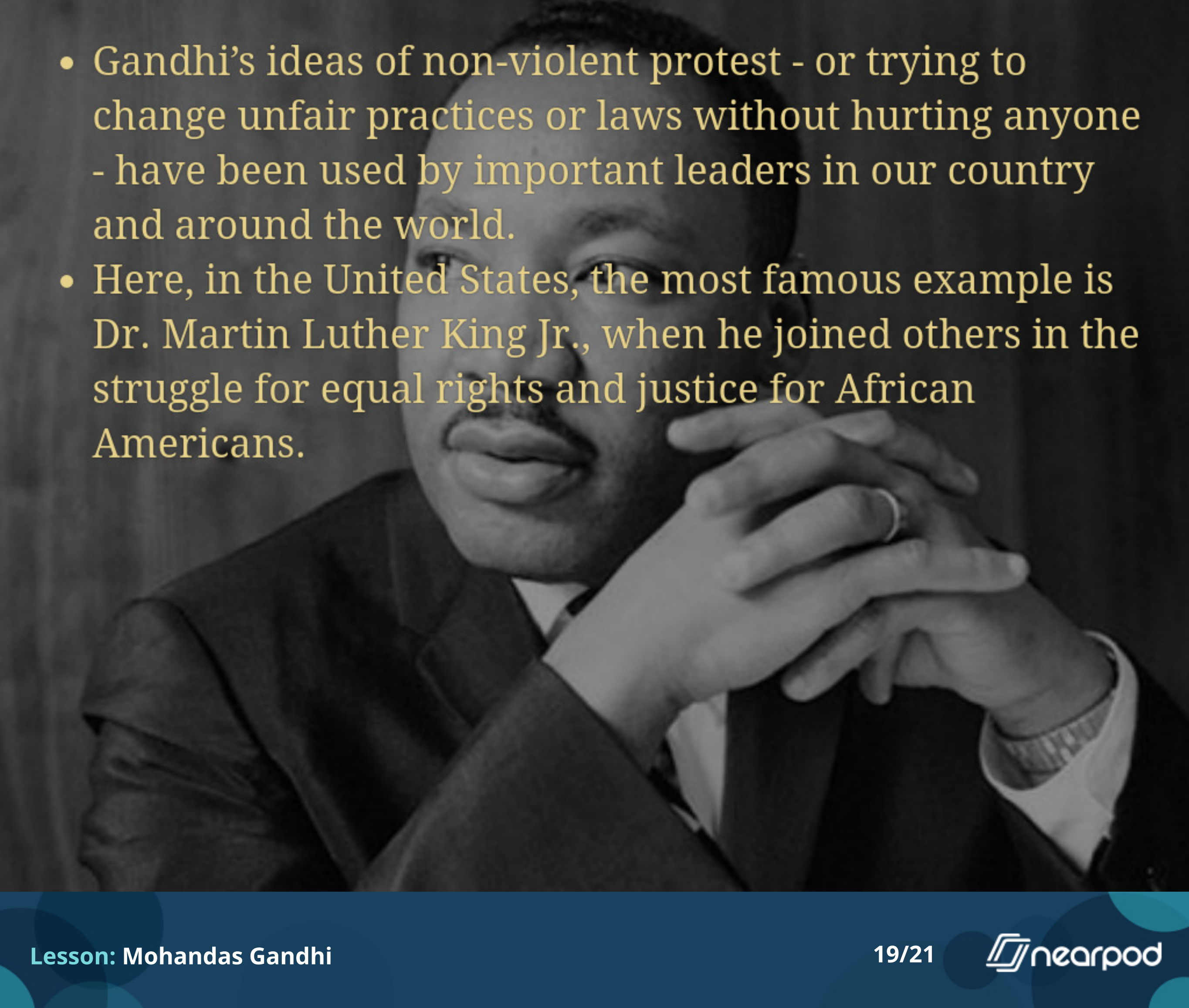
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- Gandhi's ideas of non-violent protest - or trying to change unfair practices or laws without hurting anyone - have been used by important leaders in our country and around the world.
 - Here, in the United States, the most famous example is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., when he joined others in the struggle for equal rights and justice for African Americans.

Open Ended Question

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