Introduction:

Massive humanitarian crisis was occurring in British dominated South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka & other countries) from 1765 to 1947. Resistance to foreign rule began mid-19th century, even though the first War of Independence failed in 1857, the dreams and sacrifices of its leaders inspired the generations to come. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, political aspirations were shaped by solid work for the country’s social reform of the Congress Party founder Surnendranath Bannerjee and his team leaders. First Indian National Congress meets in Bombay. Great writer Bankim Chandra Chattopadhay wrote “Vande Mataram,” the wonderful national Song - that soon became the famous among several generations that bravely fought the British Crown. It defied India, its fertile soil, beautiful landscape and relegated its governance and defense to no emperor or general but its masses.ii Logic is: if there is foreign rule, we have to fight for Home Rule (Swaraj). Arabian and Turks Muslim soldiers and rulers conquered India and Islamic Mogul Empire was established in South Asia before the British took over it. Is Muslims’ rule foreign in India? Was there Home Rule in Moghul Empire? In Sonar Ga Bengali Nawab Isha khan was revolt against the Emperor Akbar’s Commander- in -Chief Man Singh and fought against of Mogul crown. There are two main faces (Hindu & Muslim) of India. Alongside “Allah ho Akbar” with Vande Mataram was the slogan of the Khilafat movement in 1920. Might is Right. Today’s
Taliban, Al-Qaeda and Pakistan’s Red mosque problems are the results of blind Islamic radicalism. Even Mohammad Ali Jinnah banned the Bengali language in 1948 to save Pakistan brand Islam. Such a great man (Mr. Jinnah, National Father of Pakistan), forgot the universality of Islam. Mr. Jinnah did not get any lesson from the non-violence movement. He had sinister conspiracy to rob Bangladesh (East Pakistan). Gandhi came to Noakhali to stop Hindu – Muslim riot. Mr. Jinnah came to Dhaka to confiscate Bangladesh people’s mother tongue in the name of Islam. Bangladesh people express shame on him. The people of Bangladesh have been suffering by the Jamat and Islamic Fundamentalists ages after ages.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869 – 1948) fought to defend the East Indians at home and South Africa. He was combined brilliance, humanism and courage with indomitable will brought a revolutionary change in the East Indian Community in South Africa and India. He became an icon of world peace and India. He brought a dignity of Man to the East Indian Community. Gandhi encouraged us that the triumph over prejudice and ignorance is a triumph for us all. Humanity is like the ocean. Nobody could divide it in a name of politics and religion. Greed and hatred are roots of many problems, it is necessary to bring greed and hatred under control. This is message of Gandhi for his Swaraj or Home Rule. It is remarkable that the author Michael Adas writes, “In the long term interests of the peoples brought under European rule.” It quotes in his famous book (p. 200) entitled “Machines as the Measure of Men: Science, Technology and Ideologies of Western Dominance.” Gandhi protested against of Britain’s injustice.

Gandhi said, “Great as the Buddha’s contribution to humanity was in resorting God to His eternal place, in my opinion, greater still was his contribution to humanity in
his exacting regard for all life, be it ever so low. The Buddha said, if you want to do any sacrifice, sacrifice yourself, your lust, all your material ambition, all worldly ambition. That will be an ennobling sacrifice.”

**Setting the scene:**

Indian community at home and abroad truly amazed to see Gandhi’s commitments by dedicating his time, money and life. He was the supreme leader of the Congress Party of India years 1918 – 22, who could lead India as he wished. In simple words everyone is free in his home and country. We want our rule in our country. Gandhi discovered his country’s self rule (sawraj or home rule) and his leadership helped introduce to India and the world a completely new set of opinions to fight foreign rule, namely civil disobedience based on truth and non-violence and mass participation in peaceful, political action against colonialism. In “Gandhi” (through Richard Attenbourough’s 1982) film as we watched, “They (police) beat us, but should not beat them.” It is impossible for human nature. But Gandhi found the kingdom of God in human minds. So we respect Gandhi for his self rule (swaraj) relating to India’s freedom.

Under Mahatma Gandhi, a unique mass mobilization was started to take shape. The foundation of Gandhi’s advocacy for freedom and self-rule was based on the truth and Ahimsa or non-violent protest revolution against the British Government. India’s independence movement is also characterized by largely nonviolently methods of resistance to the British rule. The Indians adopted the West minister parliamentary model as their ideal. It reminds me the 1916 Rising and the Irish War of Independence. When I
study Gandhi’s self rule in India, then I discover similarity relating to Northern Ireland and IRA terrorism, political prisoners and hunger strikes.

**Gandhi is a Challenge to Violent World:**

Many freedom fighters became terrorists in India, Ireland and other countries who dedicated their lives for the sake of their mother lands or home land’s home Rule (Swaraj). The purpose of this essay is to give a short outlines of “Mahatma Gandhi’s (1869 – 1948) freedom struggle was started with Home Rule (Swaraj) movement in South Africa and Non-cooperation movement (Satyagraha) including Crime and Society in British India. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Sanskrit word Mahatma means in English language great mind) ever to have walked on the planet who is one of the most famous Indians who followed Buddha, Jesus and Tolstoy. East India Company and British corrupt bureaucrats made irregularities and corruption in the administration.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) designed a campaign which came to known as the “Rowlatt Satyagraha” the first experiment with non-violent resistance on a national scale. I have to define Gandhi’s Sawraj or Indian Home Rule in the British India. As we study on Michael Collins (1890 – 1922) leader of Irish Revolution and watched his (M. Collins) movie in our class, feelings of freedom in Ireland and India alike. British Government tortured us (Indians and Irish people). Our events and modes of expression of freedom are parts and parcels.

**Crime and Society in British India:**

Native East Indians are over represented as victims, offenders, and prison inmates, due to (1) unemployment and homeless create higher rtes of criminal activity and (2) discrimination in the system of colonial criminal justice. There are hypocrisy of
British Justice, Law and order. There was the Mutiny of the Indian soldiers of the army of the East India Company and revolt of Oudh and of some Indian princes. 

**Gandhi in South Africa (1893 -1914) & ‘self rule’**

In May 1893 Gandhi arrived in Cape Town, South Africa. Later in Durban, South Africa, Gandhi wore a turban and entered into the Court and the British judge ordered him (Gandhi) to remove the turban. Gandhi refused to do so and left the chamber in protest. Due to racism a British ticket master insulted Gandhi and he was ejected from the train at Pietermaritzburg Railway station despite holding a first class ticket. Gandhi was insulted by the South African Government and he became the victim of racism as he discovered the ‘deep disease of color prejudice’ in British dominated South Africa.

Deeply influenced by the South Africa’s racism toward East Indians, Gandhi founded Natal Indian Congress to agitate for Indian Rights in 1894. In retaliation British Government imprisoned Gandhi and he was harshly beaten several times and he was twice imprisoned. During the Boer War in 1899 Gandhi raised an ambulance corps and sincerely he served the South African British Government. There were thousands of Indians joined him in civil disobedience campaign.

**In India Swaraj (home Rule or Independent, May 1921) in one year:**

There were Gandhi’s “the Rowlatt Satyagraha (Resistance of tyranny through civil disobedience)” and Swaraj (Home Rule) are adding fuel to the fire in the Crown of British India. The leadership of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) helped introduce to India and the world a completely new set of weapons to fight foreign
rule, namely civil disobedience based on Truth and Non-violence and mass participation in peaceful political action against colonialism.

The historic movement in 1920 Gandhi launched a non-cooperation movement against British Government and urging Indians to spin their own cotton and boycott British goods, courts and government. He was arrested and confined in jail from 1920 – 1924. In the history of man so many conflicts and persecutions have been provoked and so many wars precipitated in the name of politics or religions. Gandhi researched and found all human beings equally worthy of dignity and respects. Another important in protest of a salt tax movement was launched by Gandhi and thousands of Indians on the 200 miles (320 k.m.) march to the Indian Ocean to make their own salt. British Government arrested him again. Lord Irwin’s declaration on ‘Dominion status’ does not satisfy Indian Congress. vii

Gandhi conquered hearts of East Indian people by his highly compassion, sincerity and honesty. Relating to the Sawraj (Indian home Rule) Gandhi explained, “My countrymen impute the evils of modern civilization to the English people and, therefore, believe that the English people are bad, and not the civilization they represent. My countrymen, therefore, believe that they should adopt modern civilization and modern methods of violence to drive out the English. ‘Hind Swaraj’ has been written in order show that they are following a suicidal policy, and that, if they would but revert to their own glorious civilization, either the English would adopt the later and become Indianized or find their occupation in India gone.” viii

“I (Gandhi) have written some chapters on the subject of Indian Home Rule which I venture to place before the readers of Indian Opinion. …
He added. “I should prefer to be killed by the arrow of a tribal person (Bhil) than to seek unmanly protection. Macaulay betrayed gross ignorance when he labeled Indians as being practically cowards.”ix (Hind Swaraj, p.

Gandhi writes to J. Nehru, (first prime minister of India), “The real question, according to you, is how to bring about man’s highest intellectual, economic, political and moral development. I agree entirely. (2) In this there should be equal right and opportunity for all. (3) In other words, there should be equality between the town dwellers and the villagers in the standard of food and drink, clothing and other living conditions. In order to achieve this equality today people should be able to produce for themselves the necessaries of life, i.e. clothing, foodstuffs, dwellings, lighting and water. (4) Man is not born to live in isolation but is essentially a social animal independent and interdependent. No one can or should ride on another’s back. If we try to work out the necessary conditions for such a life, we are forced to the conclusion that the unit of society should be a village, or call it a small and manageable group of people who would, in the ideal, self sufficient (in the matter of their vital requirements) as a unit and bound together its bonds of mutual cooperation and inter-dependence.”).x

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**Abuse was wrong in British India (1757 – 1947)**

East Indian people had been abused by the rulers of East India Company, British Army & its Government for 200 hundred years. The abuse could be physical, sexual,
emotional, psychological or financial. Indian people experienced more than one type of abuse. Examples of physical abuse were (1) hitting (2) pinching (3) slapping (4) pushing (5) punching (6) kicking (7) burning (8) shooting (9) stabbing and (10) cutting.

According to the British law Gandhi could not enter into Punjab state due to the general strike (haratal). There were about 10,000 people gathered on the 13 April 1919 in the Jalianwala Bagh square, Amritsar, Punjab. Without any warning suddenly Brigadier General Reginald Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the unarmed crowd. There was no moral value in British Army. There were 379 civilians were killed and 1000 wounded. British Government wanted India for money and its wealth, not its people. Gandhi’s social movements are enduring collective attempts to change all of the social order by means of non-violence.

It is also remarkable that military’s demands get articulated and implemented, while public demands get ignored and suppressed. It is abundantly clear that British Government made a mockery of civilization and its principles by hypocritical actions through out India and the World. It was no exaggeration to say that the concept of British democracy has been one of the most tossed about misused, confused, misunderstood and abused terms ever since it came into use and applied specially to governance.

1906 – 1907 Recording companies recorded the first national song (Vande Mataram) in the voice of Rabindranath Tagore and other artists released a version commercially in 1907. Police destroy the factory, as well as the disc, however, survived in Belgium and Paris, where the record was released. (Desi Talk, Indian Community News Weekly, Toronto, May 11, 2007).

Gandhi in South Africa and India: comparative study.
To my mind, in South Africa Gandhi “Learned to see all Indians as one, regardless of class and caste, religion and regional origins.” xiii (p. 49, Gandhi, David Arnold). But in India when Gandhi demanded immediate Independence as India price for helping Britain during World War II. British Government imprisoned Gandhi from 1942–1947. Gandhi could not save in one India as Muslims created Pakistan by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Again Gandhi was started fasting for non-violence until Delhi rioters pleaded peace to him. On the January 30, 1948 while Gandhi way to prayer Nathuram Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi by three bullets. Life of Gandhi mirrors the fate of violence, “As war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace of must be constructed.” Gandhi said, “Hinduism absorbs the best in other religions and there is a scope for expansion in it.” xiv

**Conclusion:**

However, everyday we discover Gandhi’s dream of happiness for mankind in his thoughts. Gandhi said, “A time is coming when those who are in the mad rush today of multiplying their wants, vanity thinking that they add to the real substance, real knowledge of the world, will retrace their steps and say what have we done? Civilizations have come and gone and in spite of all our vaunted progress, I am tempted to ask again and again: To what purpose?” xv

Recently U.N. declares Gandhi’s birthday “International Day of Non Violence.” M.K Gandhi said, “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.” Mahatma Gandhi’s philosophy of brother hood and peace was immortalized when the UN General Assembly declared October 2, Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary as the International Day of Non-violence.” My interpretations of Gandhi’s Home Rule (or self rule Swaraj) and his
freedom struggle followed several books, experiences and exhibitions etc. I respect the
glorious remarks of Albert Einstein in 1944, “Generations to come, it may be, will scarce
believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth.”

Historians have judged India’s National Movement as a unique struggle by a
people, inspired by a shared vision. Mahatma Gandhi’s teaching inspired us according to
the International law, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention against torture
and crimes against humanity to which Britain is a signatory. Home Rule (Swaraj), Indian
and Ireland people’s rights had been severely violated by the British Government. We
have to recognize all human beings are endowed with dignities of equality and
uniqueness which makes each of us precious beyond measure. We are governed by our
compassion each other, our humanity and common family in our “Home Rule (Swaraj).”

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iii David Arnold, Gandhi p. 105
iv David Arnold, Gandhi, p.61.

v Autobiography by M. K. Gandhi, p. 114

vi Hermann Kulke and Dietmar Rothermund, A History of India, p. 358
vii H. Kulke and D. Tothermund, A History of India, p. 357
viii Instructor V. Ravindiran, History of India, Part II, Summer Term 2000, U of T. page.66 – 71
ix V.. Ravindiran, History of India, Tutorial 7, : Gandhi’s Vision of India, 12 – 57,
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He’s been called the “father of India” and a “great soul in beggar’s garb.” His nonviolent approach to political change helped India gain independence after nearly a century of British colonial rule. A frail man with a will of iron, he provided a blueprint for future social movements around the world. He was Mahatma Gandhi, and he remains one of the most revered figures in modern history.

Born Mohandas Gandhi in Gujarat, India in 1869, he was part of an elite family. After a period of teenage rebellion, he left India to study law in London. Before going, he promised his mother he’d again Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869 – 1948), popularly known as Mahatma (”Great Soul”) Gandhi, was an Indian political leader who led his country to independence from the British Empire. He began his career as a lawyer and rose to prominence while fighting racial oppression in South Africa. He returned to his country to lead the Indian Independence movement, starting several prominent campaigns including the Salt March and Quit India Movement.

Mahatma Gandhi is most famous for his successful application of non-violent methods, like civil disobedience. He was a source of inspiration for many world Mahatma Gandhi will be the first non-white person to feature on British currency. The Royal Advisory Committee have started work on a coin featuring Gandhi. Rishi Sunak backed a campaign to recognise the efforts of BAME individuals. Chancellor Rishi Sunak, who is of Indian origin, has offered his support to a campaign to help recognise the efforts of black and minority ethnic (BAME) people in shaping modern Britain. Mahatma Gandhi is set to become the first non-white person on British currency, as the Royal Mint Advisory Committee started work on a coin featuring the Indian independence leader.