



## GANDHI "A LIFE FOR PEACE"

*A famous figure against racism and discrimination*

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (his name was Sanskrit for "great soul") was born in India, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1869.

His family belonged to the caste of traders. When he was 18 he took a degree in law at London University. After that he lived for twenty years in South Africa where he fought for the civil rights of Asian immigrants and local African people and was sent to prison for his struggles against apartheid.

When World War One broke out in 1914, Gandhi went back to India and became president of the Indian National Congress. He promoted many campaigns of civil disobedience to force the British to leave the country. One of the most famous non-violent campaigns became known as the "**March of Salt**". In 1930 Gandhi and his followers began to gather salt without paying taxes to the imperial authorities.

After his discharge from prison, Gandhi began a series of hunger strikes to convince the British government to grant more rights to the Indian people. After many years of hunger-striking, civil disobedience and long negotiations with the British government, on August 15, 1947 the British King renounced the title of Emperor of India, so India obtained independence.

Gandhi was murdered in Delhi by a Hindu extremist on January 30, 1948.

This Indian thinker was thus instrumental in leading his country out of the British Empire. The non-violent ideas of Gandhi spread all over the world. Nowadays his non-violent methods are considered an example by many people who are fighting for freedom and their rights.