The Life, Work, & Legacy of Mohandas K. Gandhi: A Basic Bibliography

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There is an enormous amount of literature on Mohandas K. ('Mahatma') Gandhi, and Gandhi's own writings have been collected in some ninety plus volumes. So I thought it would help to recommend a comparatively short reading regimen, culling what I immodestly think is the *crème de la crème* (forgive the mixed metaphor in the name of alliteration), although I've hardly come close to reading all of the available literature. By way of background, readers fairly innocent of most-things-Indian (or 'Indic') could do worse than consult, first, A.L. Basham's classic, *The Wonder that was India*.... (3rd ed., 1967), followed by Wendy Doniger's *The Hindus*: *An Alternative History* (2009), Gerald J. Larson's *India's Agony Over Religion* (1995), Werner F. Menski's *Hindu Law*: *Beyond Tradition and Modernity* (2003), Sunil Khilnani's *The Idea of India* (1998), and Ramachandra Guha's *India after Gandhi*: *The History of the World's Largest Democracy* (2007). The brilliant economist Amartya Sen provides us with "a profound and stimulating collection of essays" (William Dalrymple) that "smashes quite a few stereotypes and places the idea of India and Indianness in its rightful, deserved context" (Soumya Bhattacharya), in *The Argumentative Indian*: *Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity* (2005).

Well short of tackling the many volumes of his collected writings, I recommend the manageable selection edited by Raghavan Iyer: *Moral and Political Writings of Mahatma*

Gandhi, 3 Vols. (1986). There's also a one volume edition for those who seek something yet shorter: Raghavan Iyer, ed., *The Essential Writings of Mahatma Gandhi* (1993). Iyer is the author of a nonpareil examination of Gandhi's moral and political views: *The Moral and Political Thought of Mahatma Gandhi* (1983 ed.; 1st ed., 1973). Iyer's book might be read in conjunction with Bhikhu Parekh's two important volumes: *Colonialism, Tradition and Reform*: *An Analysis of Gandhi's Political Discourse* (1989) and *Gandhi's Political Philosophy*: *A Critical Examination* (1989).

The first list of titles fall under the rubric, "Gandhi: Life and Work," while the second, "Nonviolence after Gandhi," covers nonviolent theory and praxis, much of it directly or indirectly inspired by Gandhi's ideas and his corresponding attempts to "purify" politics.

For a companion compilation, please see "The Life, Work, and World of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar: A Basic Bibliography."

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