

Advance Recommendations



Professor Dr.
Douglas Allen

Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King, Jr. are often extolled as the most admired figures of the 20th century.

Yet, Gandhi, Mandela and King scholars as well as devotees and other admirers, as well as numerous critics, frequently offer oversimplified, decontextualized, stereotypical views that misinterpret the deep complexities, contradictions, and profound significance of Gandhi, Mandela, and King during their lifetime and continuing today.

This impressive book avoids such stereotypical and oversimplified approaches and views and instead presents a Gandhi, Mandela, and King that continue to challenge us in the most meaningful ways.

This remarkable book offers a very diverse and wide range of Gandhi-informed, Mandela-informed, and King-informed values, perspectives, interpretations, and applications from peace, justice, and nonviolent scholars and activists. The contributors are multigenerational, ranging from scholars and activists who knew and worked with Gandhi, Mandela, and King to the unusually large number of contributions by youth in the Youth Symposium volume.

The inspiring vision behind the *Peace and Justice for All* book and its successful realization in this publication is dynamic, relational, open-ended, challenging and engaging, interactive, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary. It presents us with a Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King, Jr. who remain alive today. They are presented as extraordinary human beings, but who are profoundly relatable and so relevant. Gandhi, Mandela, and King serve as indispensable catalysts challenging us to understand and resist war, violence, injustice, and oppression. They challenge us to construct alternative paradigms, values, and practices of building real peace, *ahimsa* nonviolence, love, compassion, and justice. This book will further our appreciation and gratitude for the gift of the Gandhi, Mandela, and King legacies that are so necessary for our personal lives, our contemporary world, and a future in which we not only

Advance Recommendations

survive, but in which all human and nonhuman beings have the opportunities and means to flourish.

Douglas Allen is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine, USA. He has authored 18 books, many with a Mahatma Gandhi focus, as well as writings with a Martin Luther King, Jr. and a Nelson Mandela focus. As a peace and justice activist scholar, he was deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam Anti-war Movement, and the Anti-Apartheid Movement.



Professor Dr.
Roderick Hewitt

This publication by the *Alternation* African Scholarship Book Series features the keynote papers from the main conference, celebrating peace and justice for all through the peacebuilding and non-violent legacies of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King, who are symbols of resistance in the history of thought, practices, and values.

The diverse scholars who presented keynotes and contributed papers to this publication offer insights into the conference's dynamics.

Their intellectual, analytical, philosophical, ethical, practical, and incisive historico-political arguments present perspectives on the key themes of the conference.

This publication is highly recommended as it addresses a world where the political, religious, economic, and security landscape is enduring deep stress caused by dehumanising autocratic forces of death that have seized many nations. It will serve as a valuable resource to empower agents of nonviolent resistance.





Professor Dr.
Chammah J. Kaunda

How beautiful upon the mountains of non-violent imagination are the minds that dare to step into the vast moral landscapes of three of the twentieth century's most luminous beacons – Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr.

This volume gathers voices from across continents –scholars, activists, and practitioners – who converged to breathe new life into the moral, political, and spiritual imaginations that animated these giants of non-violence.

Born from the conference *Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King: Peace and Justice for All – Mobilising for Nonviolent Change (Ahimsa)*, these essays refuse to treat Gandhi, Mandela, and King as frozen relics of history. Instead, they are summoned here as living mobilizing discourses – restless, provocative, and insistent.

They are reclaimed as *oases* of irreducible meaning and as *loci of enunciation*, from which the weary and the committed alike may draw water of life for revitalisation and strength for the long march toward justice and peace.

Here, Gandhi, Mandela and King are remembered not as safe, domesticated icons, but as ‘dangerous memories’ capable of unsettling the present, igniting moral urgency, and compelling a radical reimagining of what it means to inhabit an equally very dangerous nonviolent life.

This is not a book of polite remembrance. It is a work of resistance – against the violence of forgetting and against the docility of de-radicalized memory. It calls out the commodification and weaponization of Gandhi, Mandela, and King, reclaiming their legacies as insurgent resources for transformative action. Here, nonviolence is not mere sentiment but a rigorous, disruptive, and courageous praxis.

In this volume we encounter Gandhi, Mandela, and King anew – not as distant saints, and beautiful icons, but as relentless companions in the unfinished

Advance Recommendations

struggle for a just and peaceful world. It is an invitation to be moved, provoked, and mobilized.

Prof Dr. Chammah J. Kaunda is Academic Dean: Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, and Extraordinary Professor: University of South Africa.

