

## A Revolution Without Appeal To Arms, Free Of Blood, And A Peaceful Reign

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The Daily Times, as is the rest of the world, is impressed with this unusual man—Gandhi—over here in India, where a Huntsville boy now returning home has been for some three or more years. No doubt he will have something interesting to tell us when he gets here. In the meanwhile in the thought of bloodless revolution which Mahatma Gandhi is leading in India, we observe, advance another long step the other day when he swung the all-India national congress in favor of his creed of non-resistance and made it probable that India's struggle for freedom will continue to go forward without resort to violence.

It is hard to understand just how amazing an achievement this is unless the revolution in India is compared with other great revolutions.

When the American colonies broke away from Great Britain there was an instant appeal to arms. Beginning with the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord, a costly and bloody war progressed for seven years, and American, English, French and German soldiers died by the hundreds before a decision could be obtained.

A little bit later came the French revolution. Wise leadership, according to most historians, could have made this a peaceful affair; but wise leadership was not forthcoming, and months of wrangling finally led to the September massacres, the reign of terror and the repeated foreign invasions that finally brought Napoleon to the top. To this day no one knows how many lives were lost. The number was appallingly high.

In more recent times the unforgettable example is the Russian revolution—the bloodiest of all revolutions, perhaps, since the first slave revolted against his masters. For years the fighting dragged on. It has been said that more Russians were killed in the revolution than in the World War; and it is just possible that the end is not yet.

But Gandhi has handled things differently in India. He has had, luckily, the advantage of dealing with rulers who were far more intelligent than those involved in these other revolutions; but the tension has been quite as high, and the possibilities for prolonged and desperate fighting have been quite as good.

India contains more than 300,000,000 people. The demand for freedom is probably as widespread and intense there as it was in the American colonies in 1776; at the same time the retention of India within the empire is more important to England today than the retention of the American colonies was in 1776. All the "makings" of a frightful catastrophe are present in full measure.

But Gandhi sticks to his doctrine of peace, and it begins to look as if he would carry the day. The importance of this achievement can hardly be overestimated. In a world that has almost invariably used force to gain its ends, Gandhi has demonstrated that other means can be more effective. A revolution without an appeal to arms, is, indeed, something new under the sun.

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