## Close Read: Gandhi's Letter to the Viceroy

Read the letter that Gandhi wrote to Britain's viceroy Lord Irwin on March 2, 1930 and answer the questions.

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<ul> <li>6-11 that demonstrates that Gandhi believin nonviolence.</li> <li>Before embarking on Civil DisobedienceI would again</li> <li>approach you and find a way out.</li> <li>My personal faith is absolutely clear. I cannot intentionally</li> <li>hurt anything that lives, much less fellow human beings,</li> <li>even though they may do the greatest wrong to me and</li> <li>mine. Whilst, therefore, I hold the British rule to be a curse, I</li> <li>do not intend harm to a single Englishman or to any</li> <li>legitimate interest he may have in India.</li> </ul>			
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29 It has reduced us politically to serfdom. It has sapped the	28		
	29	It has reduced us politically to serfdom. It has sapped the	
30 foundations of our culture. And, by the policy of disarmament	30	foundations of our culture. And, by the policy of disarmament	
31 [taking away of weapons], it has degraded us spiritually.	31	[taking away of weapons], it has degraded us spiritually.	

32	Lacking the inward strength, we have been reduced, by all	
33	but universal disarmament, to a State bordering on cowardly	
34	helplessness.	
35		
36	I have been recently telling the public what Independence	
37	should really mean.	
38		
39	Let me put before you some of the <b>salient</b> points.	4. Write a synonym for the word "salient."
40		
41	The terrific pressure of land revenue, which furnishes a large	<ol><li>What does Gandhi mean by "land revenue" in line 41?</li></ol>
42	part of the total, must undergo considerable modification in	
43	an Independent India The ryot [Indian peasant] has	
44	remained as helpless as ever But the British system	
45	seems to be designed to crush the very life out of him The	
46	tax [specifically a tax on the making and selling of salt]	
47	shows itself still more burdensome on the poor man when it	
48	is remembered that salt is the one thing he must eat more	
49	than the rich man both individually and collectively. The drink	
50	and drug revenue, too, is derived from the poor. It saps the	6. According to Gandhi, identify three ways
51	foundations both of their health and morals If the weight of	British rule harmed the Indian economy.
52	taxation has crushed the poor from above, the destruction of	
53	the central supplementary industry, i.e. hand-spinning, has	
54	undermined their capacity for producing wealth.	
55		
56	This transformation is impossible without Independence	
57		
58	Not one of the great British political parties, it seems to me,	
59	is prepared to give up the Indian spoils to which Great	
60	Britain helps herself from day to day, often, in spite of the	
61	unanimous opposition of opinion.	
62		
63	if India is to live as a nation, if the slow death by starvation	
64	of her people is to stop, some remedy must be found for	
65	immediate relief Great Britain would defend her Indian	
66	commerce and interests by all the forces at her command.	
67	India must consequently evolve force enough to free herself	

68	from that embrace of death.	7. Circle the metaphor in the passage to the
69		left. What two things are being compared?
70	the conviction is growing deeper and deeper in me that	
71	nothing but unadulterated non-violence can check the	
72	organised violence of the British Government. Many think	8. According to Gandhi, how can Indians
73	that non-violence is not an active force. My experience,	defeat the British?
74	limited though it undoubtedly is, shows that non-violence can	
75	be an intensely active force. It is my purpose to set in motion	
76	that force as well against the organised violent force of the	
77	British rule as the unorganised violent force of the growing	
78	party of violence. To sit still would be to give rein to both the	
79	forces above mentioned. Having an unquestioning and	
80	immovable faith in the <b>efficacy</b> of non-violence, as I know it,	9. Define <b>efficacy</b>
81	it would be sinful on my part to wait any longer.	
82		
83	I know that in embarking on non-violence I shall be running	
84	what might fairly be termed a mad risk. But the victories of	
85	truth have never been won without risks, often of the gravest	
86	character. Conversion of a nation that has consciously or	
87	unconsciously preyed upon another, far more numerous, far	
88	more ancient and no less cultured than itself, is worth any	
89	amount of risk.	
90		
91	I have deliberately used the word conversion. For my	10. Why does Gandhi use the word
92	ambition is no less than to convert the British people,	"conversion" (l. 86) to describe the effect he hopes to have on the British people?
93	through non-violence, and thus make them see the wrong	
94	they have done to India. I do not seek to harm your people. I	
95	want to serve them even as I want to serve my ownIf the	
96	people [of India] join me as I expect they will, the sufferings	
97	they will undergo, unless the British nation sooner retraces	
98	its steps, will be enough to melt the stoniest hearts	
99		
100	I remain	
101	Your sincerely friend	
102	M.K. Gandhi	
L	Sou	l ırce: Letter from Gandhi to the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, 2 March 1930.