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SAGES: Imagining India

Lecture Questions: The Moment of Manouevre

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Gandhi and the Critique of Civil Society

General Question:

What do you think Chatterjee’s overall of opinion Gandhi’s nationalism is?

Progress Question: Quote on pp. 86

Chatterjee essentially describes *Hind Swaraj* as an attack on progress to “modern civilization” and that brings me back to something we talked about in the beginning of the course about nations being on a timeline of progression and that some were ahead or behind others.

Do you think that Gandhi believed in a timeline of progression for nations? What about Chatterjee? Does he agree with Gandhi?

Chatterjee compares Gandhi to Bankim a couple times and says there is a big difference between the two: Quote on pp. 87

What differences do you think there are between Bankim and Gandhi?

Modern Medicine Question: pp. 92-93

Do you remember what Chatterjee says about Gandhi’s reasoning for rejecting medicine? I found it very interesting and it gives us an answer to what we questioning on Wednesday, but what do you guys think of it? Do you actually think this could be true?

Gandhi does not use the same nationalist thought as most people; does not use historical references… pp 93

Chatterjee is saying that underneath the critique of Western civilization is a moral critique of the basis of civil society. Quote on pp. 93

Earlier in the book, Chatterjee discusses how Western and Eastern nationalism were based on material and spiritual connections, respectively. In this chapter he’s saying that Gandhi is not attacking the culture or religion of Western society and that he is criticizing the foundation and basis of Western ideals. What do you think of this?

One of the questions that Chatterjee poses is about Truth in the context of history. Quote on pp. 94

What was he saying about Gandhi’s view of using history as a basis for the Truth (with a capital “T”)?

Gandhi and religion, the controversy he upheld.

I think even more after reading this chapter I see some of the ridiculous claims Gandhi seemed to be making about religion, but I’m still torn between whether I agree with what he is saying or not. What do you think?

Chatterjee is trying to define the notion of Gandhi-ism and one point he compares it to romanticism. pp.98

Based on the events that actually happened, do you think that Gandhi’s goals were too unrealistic?

There was a great deal of talking about Satyagraha and Ahimsa in this chapter. pp.104-105

I was always unsure of what exactly *satygraha* meant, but after reading this chapter what do you guys think Gandhi’s basis was behind creating his idea of soul-force? And what is the soul-force itself?

What is Gandhi’s Utopia?