



Gandhi & Churchill: The Epic Rivalry that Destroyed an Empire and Forged Our Age

By Arthur Herman

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In this fascinating and meticulously researched book, bestselling historian Arthur Herman sheds new light on two of the most universally recognizable icons of the twentieth century, and reveals how their forty-year rivalry sealed the fate of India and the British Empire.

They were born worlds apart: Winston Churchill to Britain's most glamorous aristocratic family, Mohandas Gandhi to a pious middle-class household in a provincial town in India. Yet Arthur Herman reveals how their lives and careers became intertwined as the twentieth century unfolded. Both men would go on to lead their nations through harrowing trials and two world wars—and become locked in a fierce contest of wills that would decide the fates of countries, continents, and ultimately an empire. Here is a sweeping epic with a fascinating supporting cast, and a brilliant narrative parable of two men whose great successes were always haunted by personal failure—and whose final moments of triumph were overshadowed by the loss of what they held most dear.

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Download and Read Free Online **Gandhi & Churchill: The Epic Rivalry that Destroyed an Empire and Forged Our Age** By Arthur Herman

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Historian Herman (*How the Scots Invented the Modern World*) paints a forceful portrait of the emergence of the postcolonial era in the fateful contrast—and surprising affinities—between two historic figures on opposite sides of the struggle for Indian independence. Churchill and Gandhi, both elites in their respective milieus, began their careers with remarkably similar perspectives and trod intersecting paths across India, South Africa and England. They shared an obsession with physical courage (albeit channeled in different ways) that tied conceptions of masculinity to larger ideas of racial identity and moral superiority—and India loomed large in their triumphal careers, ultimately frustrating both men's idealism. While Herman's dual biography artfully depicts the personalities of the two men, he gives short shrift to the more complex forces of British imperial decline, Indian nationalism and the emergence of the postwar order (for example, Herman helpfully but also too neatly explains the dogged centrality of India and the British raj in Churchill's worldview as an act of filial loyalty to his beloved father) But the author also takes careful account of the constellation of modern and antimodern currents of late Victorian thought in situating these vastly influential figures in a fascinating narrative of their times. (*May*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Popular historian Herman (*How the Scots Invented the World*, 2001) dramatizes the end of Britain's rule of India through the lives of Mohandas Gandhi and Winston Churchill. The barrister met the politician once, in 1906, and each man's subsequent relation to the issue of independence, up to its realization in 1947, guides Herman's narrative. The tenor of the author's presentation is that both Gandhi and Churchill's visions of India's future were illusory, and bear some blame for the convulsions of 1947 (partition, communal violence, and a Pakistani-Indian war). Rooted in his youthful experiences in India, Churchill's stout imperialism became an ever more impractical stance as Gandhi's advocacy of independence gained momentum over the decades. Descriptive about the latter's revered methods of nonviolence, Herman discerns an implied forcefulness behind them should, for example, a Gandhi fast touch off riots. If uncomplimentary toward Gandhi's political acumen, Herman presents his criticisms subtly, without impeding the brisk narrative flow. Showing history eluding Gandhi and Churchill, Herman provocatively presents their efforts to shape it. -- Gilbert Taylor

Review

“**Gandhi & Churchill** is a powerful tale of the monumental clash between two of the giants of the twentieth century. Set against the backdrop of war and conflict, this brilliant dual biography of strong-willed visionaries locked in a struggle each believed in makes for compelling reading. Arthur Herman has written a masterful and superbly well researched account of the lives of two men who have had a profound influence on the world in which we live in today that will long stand as a testament to their legacy.”—Carlo D'Este, author of *Patton: A Genius For War* and *Eisenhower: A Soldier's Life*

“A fast-paced narrative history...Herman brings to life the twilight of the British Empire and reminds us how the twists and turns of fate helped propel these two men to their places in history. He shows us that there was more common ground between the two than most realize and that the seemingly simple tale of the imperialist and the nationalist is far more nuanced than it seems.” — Prmit Pal Chaudhuri, *The Hindustan Times*, Bernard Schwartz Fellow, Asia Society

"Cutting through decades of narrow or shallow reporting, Arthur Herman offers a balanced and elegant account which captures both Churchill's generosity of spirit and Gandhi's greatness of soul. While recognizing their faults, he shows what motivated them and made them great—with impressive research that in Churchill's words leaves "no stone unturned, no outlet uncooked." The last two chapters, and the author's Conclusion, are alone worth the price of what must become the standard work on the subject."—Richard M. Langworth, Editor, *Finest Hour*

"The rivalry between Winston Churchill and Mohandas Gandhi could hardly have been played for higher stakes. The future of British India hung upon the outcome of their 20-year struggle.... As one might expect from the author of *To Rule the Waves*, a fine history ... Mr. Herman has researched **Gandhi & Churchill** meticulously and written it fluently."—*Wall Street Journal*

"An amazingly interesting and perceptive presentation of these two titans of the 20th century.... I learned so much."—Deirdre Donahue, *USA Today's* book reviewer, on the NPR program "On Point"

"A forceful portrait of the emergence of the postcolonial era in the fateful contrast—and surprising affinities—between two historic figures.... Fascinating."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Herman's book focuses on two imposing figures who epitomized the clash he has probed beneath the stereotypes... [and] tells their stories stylishly and eloquently."—*Washington Post Book World*

"The perfect summer book... You finish **Gandhi & Churchill** knowing that you can evaluate the world today, particularly modern India, with more knowledge and insight—*USA Today*

"Herman's storytelling style is engaging, giving new life to stories we have already heard and even forgotten.... Then there are the surprises.... Provocative, intriguing, even controversial."—*India Today*

"Scrupulous, compelling, and unfailingly instructive.... A detailed and richly filigreed account that introduces the Anglo-American reader to many facts and vivid if little-known personalities, both English and Indian."—*Commentary*

"Brisk narrative flow.... Showing history eluding Gandhi and Churchill, Herman provocatively presents their efforts to shape it."—*Booklist*

"Exhaustively detailed."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marie Michael:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Gandhi & Churchill: The Epic Rivalry that Destroyed an Empire and Forged Our Age, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you

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