

Inspiration & Legacy

African Nationalist Movements



Dated Block from Chad.

Became independent in 1960. Power is polarized between the southern nationalists and northern rebels, resulting in cycles of civil rebellion, *coup d'état* and political assassination.

Long civil war began as a tax revolt in 1965. Set the Moslem north and east against the southern-led irrational and brutal government. Military coup in 1975. Internal dissent- northern Prime Minister sent forces against the national army in 1979.

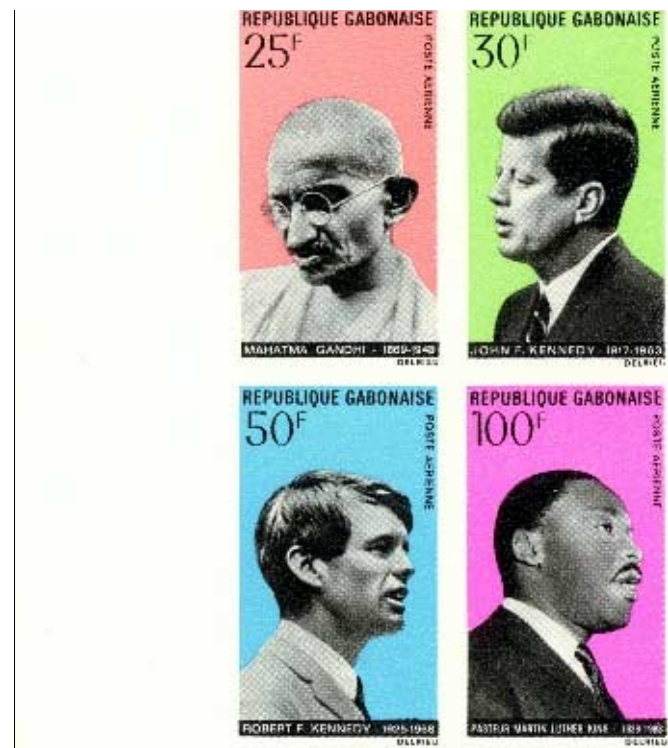
New decentralized constitution and first multiparty presidential election held in 1996.



4 Oct 1968

Former French colonies in Africa pursued the model of free association with France, similar to the model espoused by Gandhi for a British Dominion in India before WWII.

Unfortunately, their varied tribal history [ignored by the creation of modern nation states] and richness in mineral resources has led to human greed and constant military intervention. Shown here are countries with such a post-colonial history that have commemorated Gandhi in their stamps.



15 Jan 1969

Deluxe souvenir sheet from Gabon.

Voted to become an autonomous republic in the French Community in 1958. Declared independence in 1960. Military coup overthrew President in 1964. French troops, in accordance with a Franco-Gabonese defense agreement, intervened and restored him to power.

Multiparty political system introduced only in 1990. After elections in 1993, a "state of alert" was declared, banning all demonstrations. President from 1967 is back in power in 1996, to continue the exploit of Gabon's Uranium and petroleum resources!

Deluxe sheet from Niger.

Declared independence in 1960. *Hausa* tribes were blamed for a brief rebellion in 1964, crushed in a matter of weeks with French military assistance.

Elected president was overthrown in a military coup in 1974. Military rule until 1987- was golden age fueled by Uranium mining. Disenchanted *Tuareg* and *Toubou* tribes fled to oil-rich Libya and Algeria to rebel.

Held first free & open elections in 1993. Peace accord in 1995 ended 5-year tribal rebellion. Another military coup in 1996.

Deluxe Sheet from Upper Volta

Part of the “French Community” in 1958 and independent in 1960. Continuing cycles of poverty and suffering, despite enormous natural resources of gold and silver.

Military coup in 1966, after less than 6 years of elected government. This government was ousted by another military coup in 1980, followed by two others in less than 3 years! Renamed Burkina Faso (“Land of the Upright Men”) in 1984.

A 1987 coup established the current regime, which instituted a multiparty democracy in 1992, after surviving two coup attempts in 1989.



16 Dec 1968

Deluxe Sheet from Congo [formerly French Congo].

Became a republic within the French Community in 1958 independent in August 1960.

Two major parties existed at independence. The two parties pitted the north against the south, an opposition that stemmed from the privileged place occupied by the southern Congo in the colonial era.

The two parties also had different political philosophies. One favored a powerful state and a partially publicly owned economy; the other advocated private ownership and close ties with France.

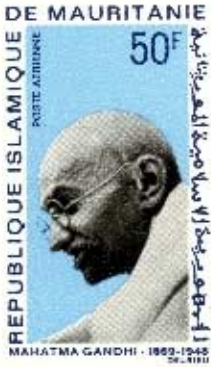
Corruption, incompetence, mass disapproval, general strikes, and lack of French support led to the President’s ouster in 1963. Military took power from single-party state in 1968. Military leader assassinated in 1977.

New military leader in 1979 tried a brief stint at a parliamentary system in the mid-90s and took full military control again in 1997!



IMPRIMERIE des TIMBRES-POSTE - PARIS

21 Apr 1967



4 Nov 1968

Deluxe sheet from Mauritania.

Voted to become a member state of the French Community in 1958. Full independence declared November 1960. King Hassan of Morocco recognized Mauritanian independence in 1969, as part of his plan to gain control of Spanish Sahara. Single party control was upset in 1976 due to rebel action in the Mauritanian controlled Spanish Sahara.

Military coup in 1978 and again in 1984. First Multi-party elections in 1992.

Deluxe sheets from Mali.

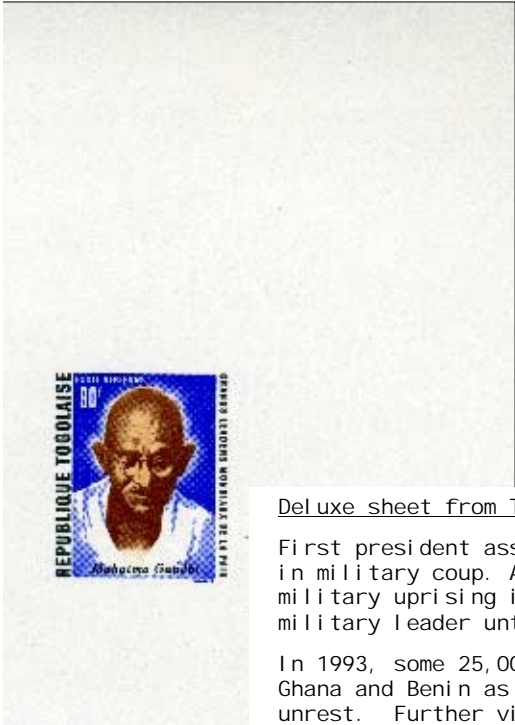
Proclaimed the Sudanese Republic in 1958. Formed the Mali Federation with Senegal in 1959. Senegal seceded in 1960 and independent Republic of Mali declared.

Military junta overthrew government in 1968. New constitution adopted in 1974, but military junta declared intention to rule for five more years. Military dictator continued until overthrown in a military coup in 1991.

New constitution was approved by referendum in 1992. Provides for multi party, democratic political system.



29 May 1978



9 Jan 1970

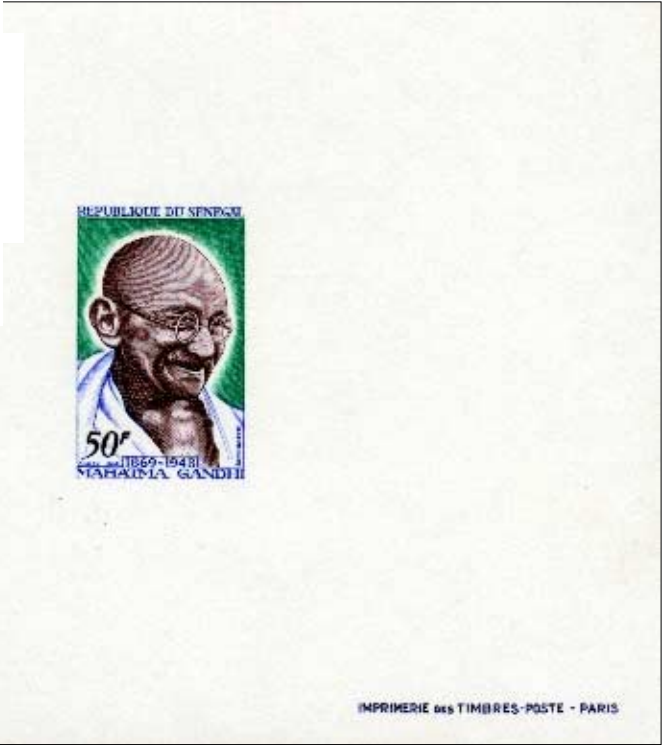
Deluxe sheet from Togo.

First president assassinated in 1963 in military coup. After a second military uprising in 1967, single military leader until 1991.

In 1993, some 25,000 people fled to Ghana and Benin as a result of civil unrest. Further violence marred Togo's first multi party legislative elections, held in 1994.



24 Nov 1969



2 Oct 1969

Deluxe sheet from Senegal.

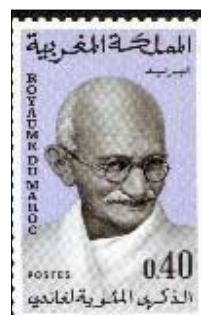
Since independence in 1960, Senegal is the only former French colony in west Africa that was not subject to military coups and assassinations.

Restrictions on free political activity were lifted in 1981 and elected transfer of power has occurred since then.

Pan-Arab Nationalism to Fundamentalism



These countries
recogni zed
Gandhi ' s and
Indi a' s support
of the Khilafat.



16 Oct 1969



29 Dec 1969

Even Iran under the brutal regime of the Shah
i ssued a Gandhi stamp!



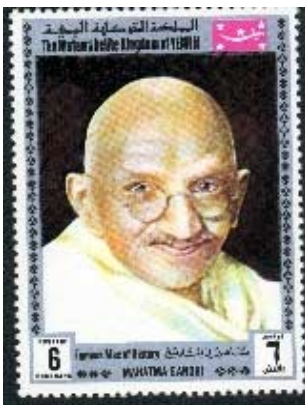
10 Sep 1969



18 Aug 1968

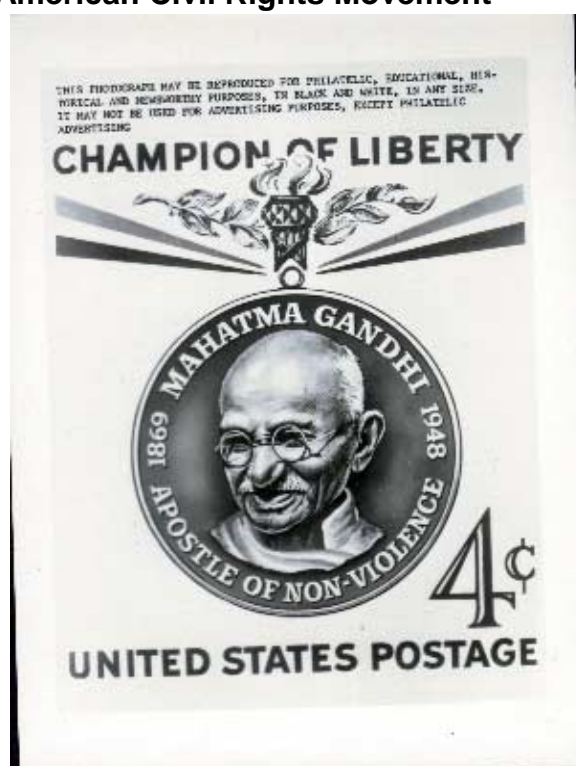
Egypt was close to Gandhi ' s heart-
he visited it on his way to
England and supported and followed
its nationalist movement.

Yemen, of course, was closely
associated with Indi a, as were the
emi rates i n the Gul f.



2 Oct 1972

American Civil Rights Movement



4 Feb 1992

Only stamp with the image of both Gandhi and King in it, with a backdrop of the peace symbol and burning American flag.

Pre-release publicity essay of the 1961 Champion of Liberty issue from the US.

It is ironical that Martin Luther King and the entire Civil Rights movement was in dire straits when the US issued these stamps honoring Gandhi.

Perhaps the greatest contribution to the memory of Gandhi ever came from Hollywood, USA! Sir Richard Attenborough's epic film on the Mahatma took decades to get financed by Hollywood producers, but will serve as a lasting memorial to his life.



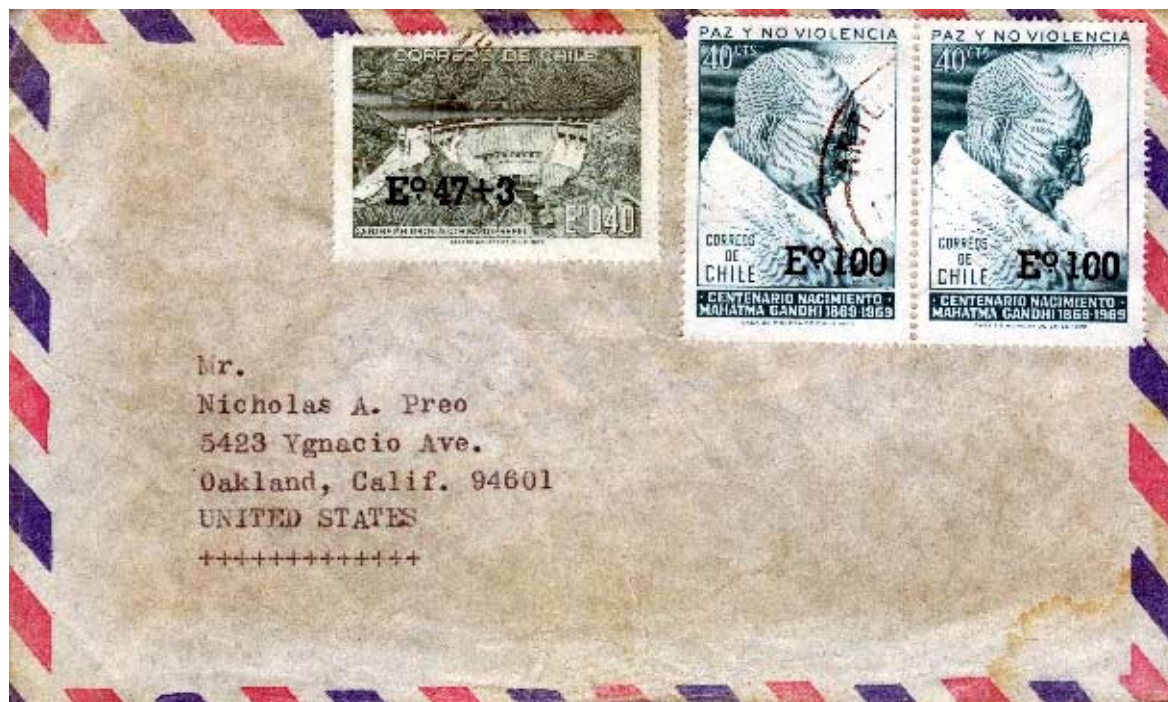
26 Jan 1961

One of five known copies of first day legitimate rate use of the Nicaragua Gandhi cinema issue from the Managua post-office.



Human and Workers' Rights Movements in Latin America

Chile was along the right path with the socialist government's land reform in 1969, when it issued these stamps.



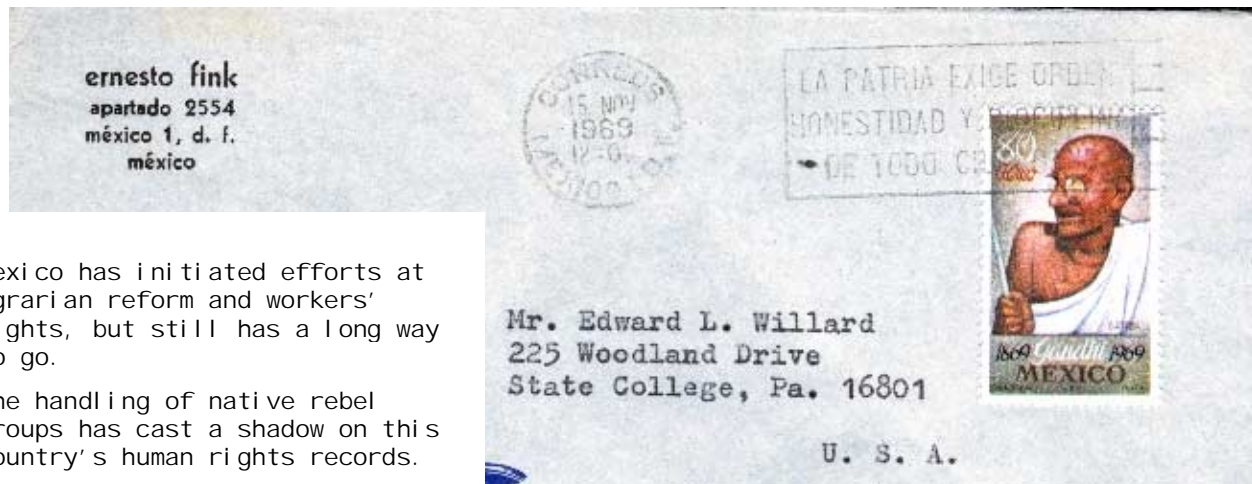
Unfortunately, more than the stamps were defaced when the postal rates and government changes to the repressive regime of Pinochet and the army two years later!

WAYMAN
737
SE
Rica



Costa Rica is a classic example of a Gandhian Utopia, with the only country in the western hemisphere that has constitutionally rejected a standing army.

High value multiple usage of large registered package to the USA.



Mexico has initiated efforts at agrarian reform and workers' rights, but still has a long way to go.

The handling of native rebel groups has cast a shadow on this country's human rights records.

Commercial cover to USA.

Brazil has instituted several social reform programs, but suffers from many of the social evils that plague India.

FDC commercial use by registered mail.



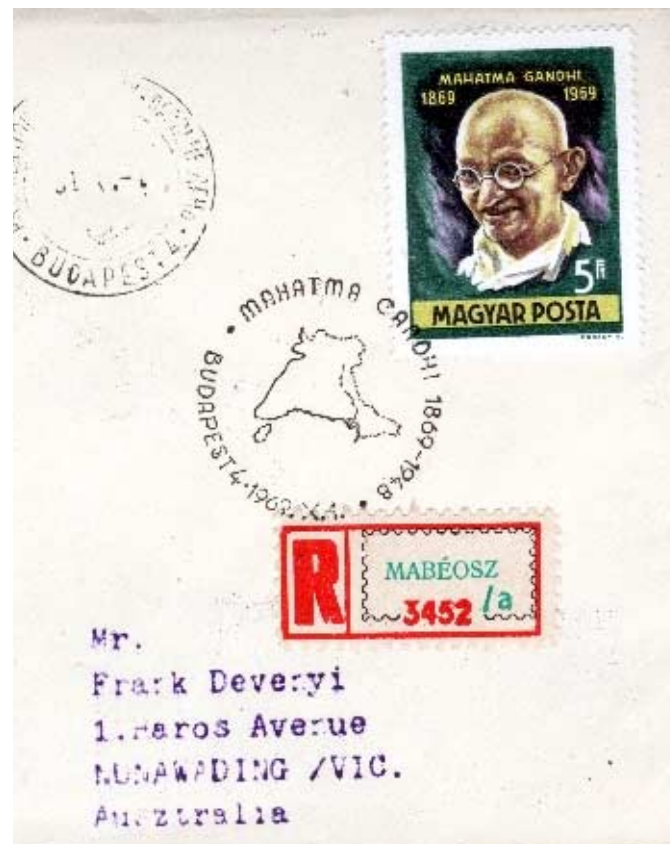
Special commemorative pictorial cancel of Gandhi - to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Independence.



Anti-Communist Movements in Central Europe

Poland issued this Gandhi postal card in 1969 while it was repressed by "big brother" next door in the Soviet Union.

Commercial use
to USA.



B. M. Kempner
112 Lansdowne Court
LANSDOWNE, PA
19050 USA

Hungary tried unsuccessfully to extricate itself from Soviet domination in the 1960s and 70s, when this stamp was issued.

FDC with unusual destination.
Registered to Australia.

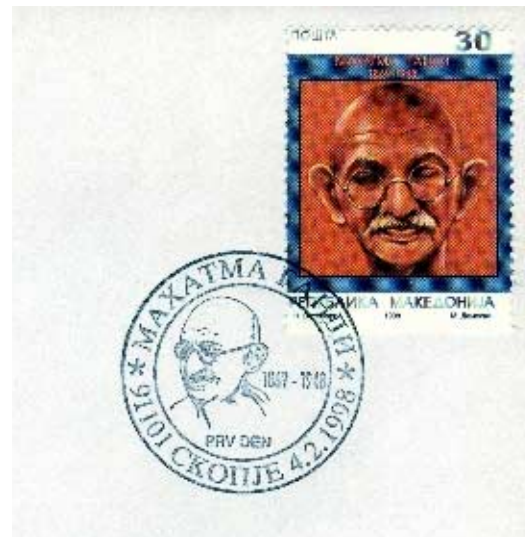
The Prague Spring is famous in modern European history. The spirit of the Czechs has lived on and popular movements have restored civil rule.

Special Gandhi
cancel.

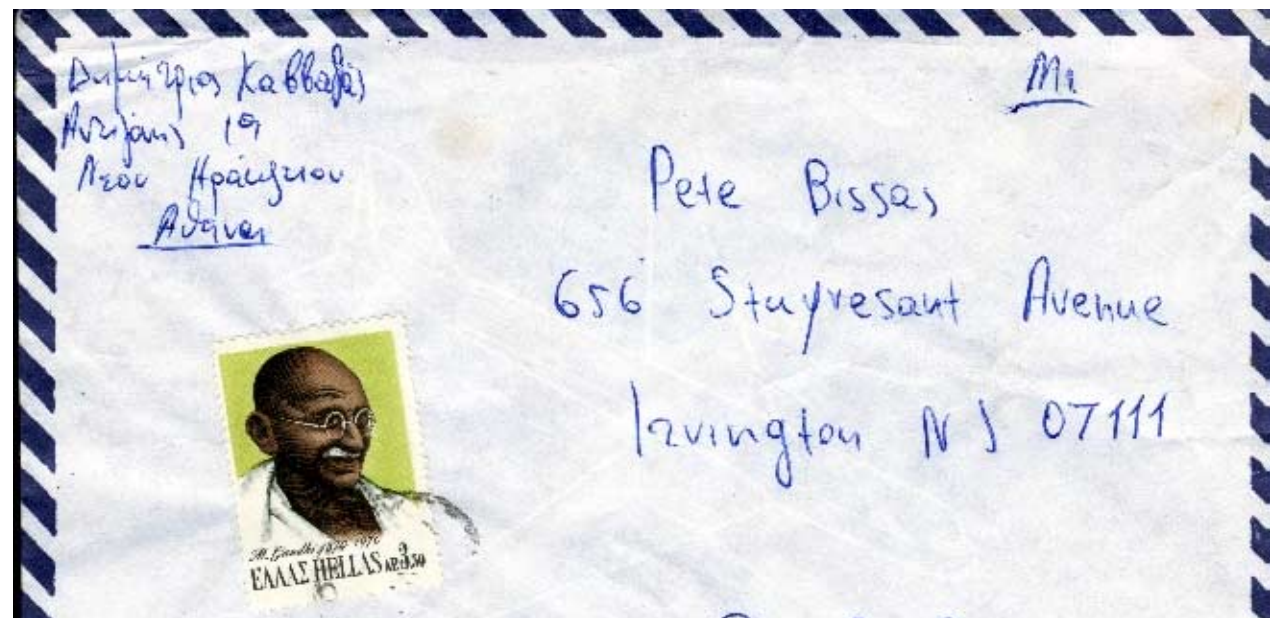


Modern anti-communist movements in Europe were all popular uprisings in the street. Romania rid itself of its dictator before it issued this stamped envelope.

Local commercial usage.



Macedonia joins the ranks of the other Central and Eastern European nations in its struggle to establish its identity as a free democratic state, amidst the chaos in the Balkans. FDC with special pictorial cancel.



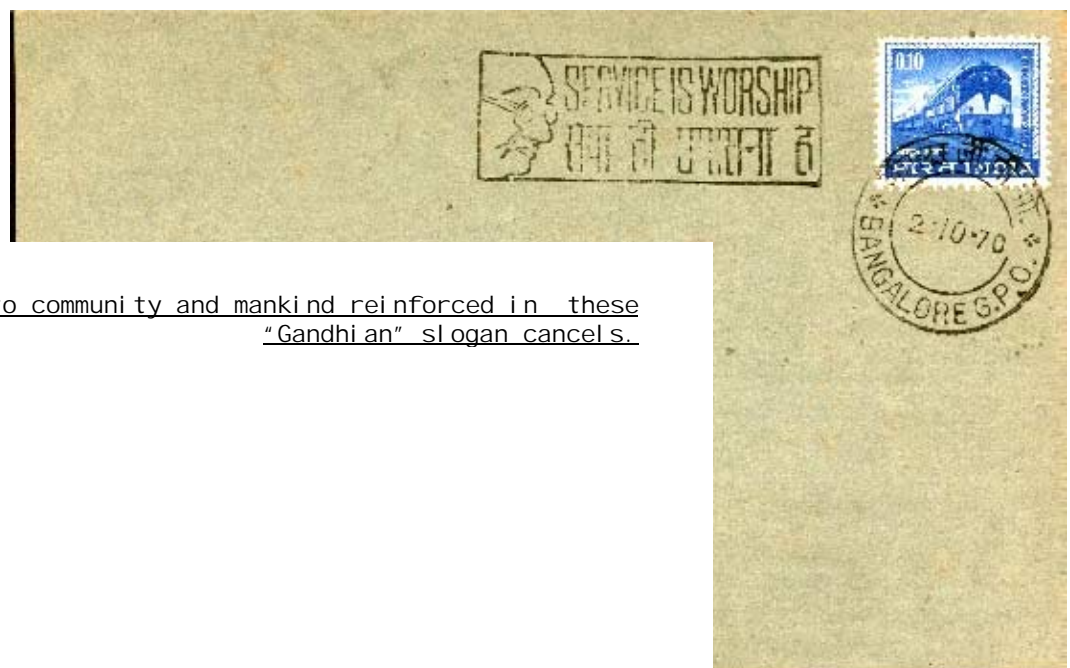
Greece successfully staved off communist influence, except to suffer for decades under a repressive conservative state.

Commercial cover to the USA.

Community and Social Service



Gandhi always insisted on duty to community above self indulgence. He also stated that there are no "rights" without associated duties.



Service to community and mankind reinforced in these "Gandhi an" slogan cancells.

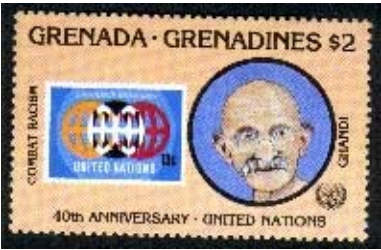


19 Nov 1984

John Kennedy's Peace Corps was a very good representation of Service to community. His statement "ask not what your country can do for you..." Sounds like a paraphrasing of what Gandhi believed in, regarding rights and duty.

Archival Kennedy-Gandhi Horizontal Gutter pair from Antigua.

Racial, Religious and Communal Harmony



22 Nov 1985

Gandhi tried time and again to instill religious and ethnic harmony. He dreamt of a world that was not race or class conscious, particularly in South Asia.



29 Oct 1998



30 Jan 1998

He visited Ceylon and Burma to help the Tamils understand and bridge their differences with the Singhalese and Burmese.

While both countries issued stamps and cancellations in his honor, they have to go a long way to achieve such harmony!

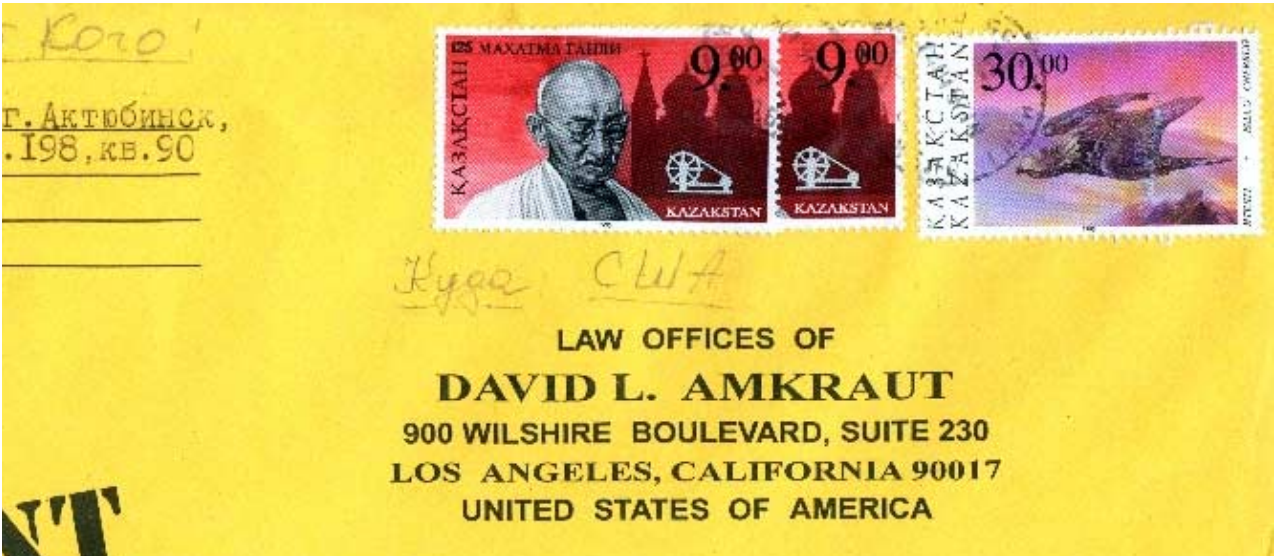


19 Nov 1984



Special cancel from Rangoon used only on one day, for the Gandhi centenary.

Gandhi’s statement: “I am a Hindu, a Moslem, a Christian and a Jew- and so are all of you”, can be represented by the artwork in the Kazakh stamps.
Commercial use to the US shown below.



“Apostle” of Truth, Peace and Non-Violence?

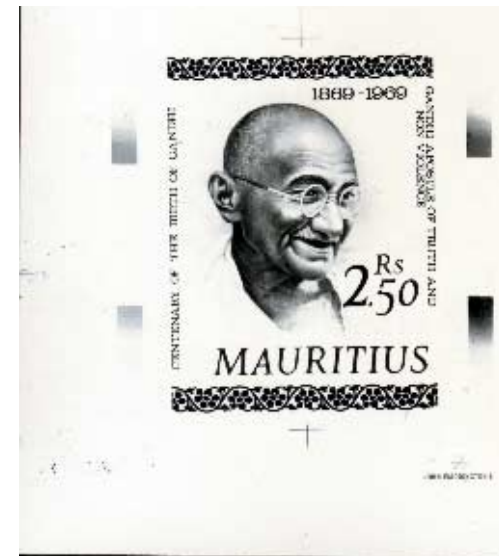
Several stamps have referred to Gandhi and King as such apostles, as shown here.



20 Jul 1969

What does the Lunar Landing have to do with the Apostle of Non-Violence? Your guess is as good as mine!

FDC with special cancel for King and Gandhi.



1 Jul 1969



Non-violence is also the theme celebrated in this San Marino issue.



Commemorating Years of Peace and Declaring Human Rights

We celebrate years of Rights, months of Peace, weeks of understanding...

And there is always a stamp issued to go with these events.

Gandhi is as convenient a place holder in these stamps as King and Eleanor Roosevelt.



9 Dec 1988



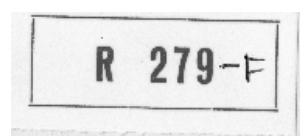
2 Oct 1969

Somalia could do with some real peace and harmony- like much of west Africa today.

The year of peace was celebrated and it was a watershed.

The cold war ended and now there are warm and hot wars in spots all over the world.

Interesting cover mailed registered from Sao Tome to England with transit marking in Portugal.



18 Nov 1998

We have to believe that our children can lead us to a better world... Gandhi always said that mankind has eternity on its side to mend its ways!

Statues, Street Names, even Stamp Shows!



Even Luxembourg’s central park has a Gandhi statue and this special cancel marked the event.

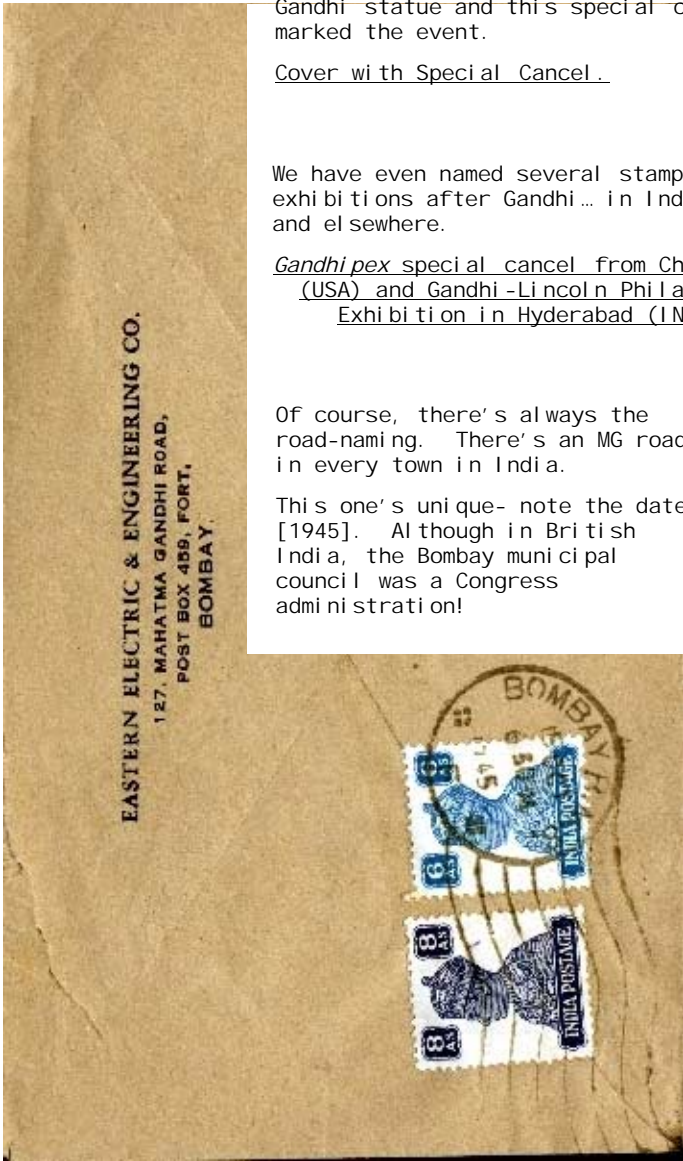
Cover with Special Cancel .

We have even named several stamp exhibitions after Gandhi... in India and elsewhere.

Gandhi pex special cancel from Chicago (USA) and Gandhi -Lincoln Philatelic Exhibition in Hyderabad (INDIA).

Of course, there’s always the road-naming. There’s an MG road in every town in India.

This one’s unique- note the date [1945]. Although in British India, the Bombay municipal council was a Congress administration!



We have erected his statues from Trinidad to Rio.

Trinidad Stamp with Gandhi statue shown on locally mailed cover above.





As we walk away from this exhibit, I hope that we can leave with more than just the image of a bald old toothless man with a big smile in our minds [as we see in most of the stamps depicting Gandhi].

What Gandhi experienced, came to believe and lived for is real - generations to come will prove that we can do more than just admire him!



Only known copy of approved bromide of the 1969 Mauritius Souvenir Sheet!



As Gandhi himself would have said:

Namaste!