

WAAS Meditation on Peace

Dubrovnik 2017



Eladio Valencia

November 2017

Agenda



- The 1930 Salt March
- “The Disruptive Experience”

The 1930 Salt March



India was never a unified nation in the past. At the time it attained independence in 1947, it still included 500 princely states under British with a shared culture and diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic traditions.

The 1930 Salt March



Gandhi's goal was to gain **freedom** for India **without violence**. He understood that unification of a country is not just by winning a war, it requires forging a common **sense of identity** and emotional **solidarity** between its diverse people

The 1930 Salt March



Gandhi came up with a creative initiative to create common identity and unite India. He did it using the symbol of salt to challenge the authority of the British. The British had imposed heavy tax on salt, a staple food. Gandhi called on the Indian people to make salt in violation of tax law.

The 1930 Salt March



It was a brilliant original strategy with no apparent strategic value. The British understood that defiance of British authority by millions of Indians would be a powerful demonstration of the helplessness of foreigners to subdue and control an unwilling population.

The 1930 Salt March



When Gandhi announced his plan to start making salt with just 80 of his followers, even his lieutenants like Nehru and Patel never believed that it would be of any significance. However, millions of people marched to the country's 4,000 mile coastline to make their own salt.

The 1930 Salt March



1. This launched the massive act of symbolic civil disobedience that led to the overturning of the colonial government. It not only demonstrated their power, but also created a sense of identity among Indians.
2. The non-violent defeat of colonialism in India led within a few years to the collapse of colonial empires all over the world.

A creative symbolic act of emotional solidarity defeated colonialism

The Distruptive Experience



LEVEL	PREDOMINANT INTENTION	CHARACTERISTICS	% POPULATION
2	GETTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Dictatorship Government systems *no technology generated *conflicts solved through physical violence 	25%
Low 3	MOSTLY GETTING /RESPECTING SOME RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Democratic Government systems *technology is generated 	70%
High 3	MIXTURE OF GETTING AND SERVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *conflicts solved through verbal & mental violence 	
Low 4	SERVING GROWING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Consensus Government systems *technology is generated, if intended 	5%
High 4	SERVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *no conflicts to be solved 	0,3%