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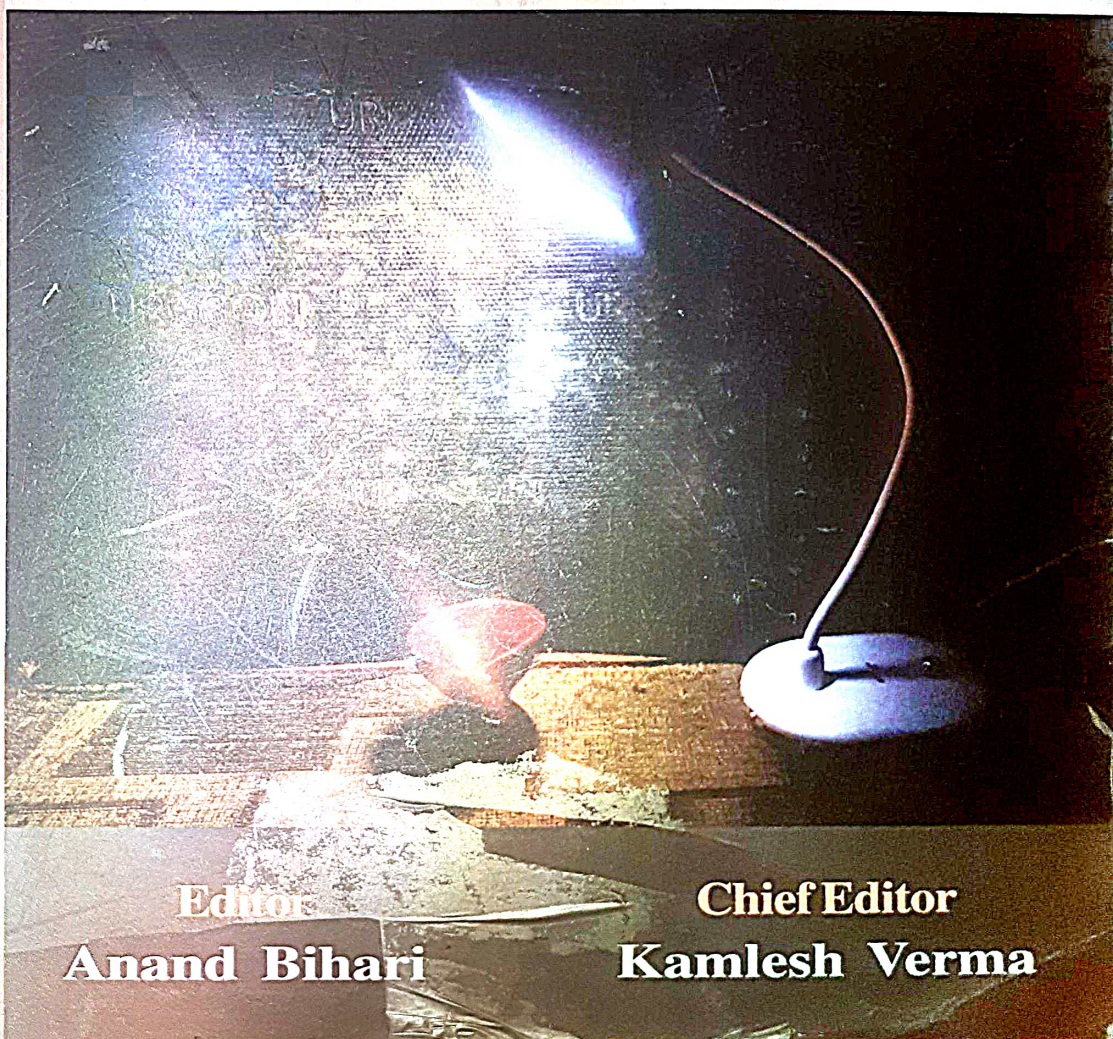
# SATRAACHEE

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## सत्राची

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# A Brief Study of Mahatma Gandhi's Economic and Political Thought

○ Shyamal Chandra Sarkar<sup>12</sup>

## *Abstract:*

Mahatma Gandhi was a man who always emphasized his role as a citizen of the world. He worked in India for the sake of the country's freedom. His moral and political philosophy was influenced by the teachings of Lao-Tse and Confucius. According to Gandhi, truth and non-violence are not his own inventions but are 'as old as the hills'. Gandhi wants to apply ethical principles in the political life of man and also believes that the highest ideal of human life can be achieved only by practicing truth and avoiding violence. Gandhi wants to apply the principle of non-violence to man's economic life. He accepts economic equality and gives importance to implement Charkha and the allied industries which would go a long way to bring about social and economic equality. In the field of economic, he gives importance in decentralization method in village industries and cottage industries and opposes large-scale industrialism and mechanization, and condemned western commercialism, imperialism and secularism, but not even opposed to rural electrification. Gandhian political philosophy makes a new era in the history of political thought that the greatest political problems could be solved only by making personal sacrifices and making the opponent realize the excesses and mistakes committed by him. Gandhi seeks to establish an ideal society in which Panchayati Raj based on real democratic principles was to flourish. He does not separate religion from politics. According to him, satyagraha is a method of action, cultivated as a result of continuous experiments with truth through a long life of suffering, sacrifice and service to the nation. He says that all communities should live together like brethren forgetting all their differences and tries to establish a casteless society where all get equal wages for equal work. Gandhi says that "Politics without morality is a thing to be avoided".

**Key words:** Mahatma Gandhi, Economic Thought, Political Thought.

## *Introduction*

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) was not a systematic academic thinker in the field of metaphysics and political philosophy. He was an inspired teacher and prophet. He was neither a Samkara nor a Kant. Instead he is akin to Socrates and Buddha pouring forth the results of his deepest feelings and his most sincere realizations of truth. In all the writings of Gandhi from 1908 onwards, one finds a unity of theme with the minimum amount of contradiction. Gandhi always emphasized his role as a citizen of the world. The South African and Indian politics had been the laboratory in which he experimented with his formulas of truth and non-violence. It is