



महात्मा गाँधी केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय

MAHATMA GANDHI CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

(Established by an Act of Parliament)

Temp Camp Office, Zila School Campus, Motihari,

District: East Champaran, Bihar - 845401

[www.mgcub.ac.in](http://www.mgcub.ac.in)

## GENE SHARP

Course Code: GPS4009 (Major Gandhian Thinker)

DR. JUGAL KISHOR DADHICH

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

GANDHIAN AND PEACE STUDIES

# GENE SHARP : THE JOURNEY



- Gene Sharp (1928-2018) was the world's foremost expert on nonviolent revolution and has been described as the "Machiavelli of nonviolence".
- In a lifetime of academic work, he has established nonviolent action and people power as a successful instrument of political change. Sharp's writings on nonviolent struggle have been used by social movements around the world.

-To be continued



➤ Gene Sharp (born January 21, 1928) was a researcher at the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, for nearly 30 years.

➤ In 1983, Gene Sharp founded the Albert Einstein Institution, to promote the study and strategic use of nonviolent action in conflicts.

➤ While continuing his studies in Norway from 1957-60, Sharp began to analyse how nonviolent action operates in conflict, and to list specific methods of resistance. He studied Gandhian actions, looking for factors determining success and failure.

## **“A REFUSAL BY SUBJECTS TO OBEY” GENE SHARP’S THEORY OF NON-VIOLENCE**

Gene Sharp, the world's leading writer on non-violent action, uses a theory of power based on a division between rulers and subjects and on the withdrawing of consent as the main avenue for effecting political change. From the point of view of structural approaches to the analysis of society, Sharp's picture leaves out much of the complexity of political life, such as the structures of capitalism, patriarchy and bureaucracy which do not fit well with the ruler-subject picture. As a set of conceptual tools for social activists, however, Sharp's theory of power is far superior to structural approaches.

## GENE SHARP ON NON-VIOLENCE

- The maintenance of high standards of behavior in nonviolent action is necessary at all stages of the conflict.
- In some cases, however, limited violence against the dictatorship may be inevitable. Frustration and hatred of the regime may explode into violence. Or, certain groups may be unwilling to abandon violent means even though they recognize the important role of nonviolent struggle. In these cases, political defiance does not need to be abandoned. However, it will be necessary to separate the violent action as far as possible from the nonviolent action.



## GENE SHARP ON DEMOCRACY

- The fall of one regime does not bring in a utopia. Rather, it opens the way for hard work and long efforts to build more just social, economic, and political relationships and the eradication of other forms of injustices and oppression.
- Dictatorships usually exist primarily because of the internal power distribution in the home country. The population and society are too weak to cause the dictatorship serious problems, wealth and power are concentrated in too few hands. Although dictatorships may benefit from or be somewhat weakened by international actions, their continuation is dependent primarily on internal factors

## GENE SHARP ON HUMAN RIGHTS

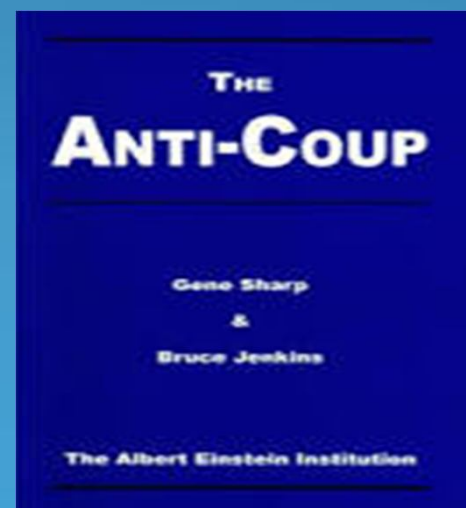
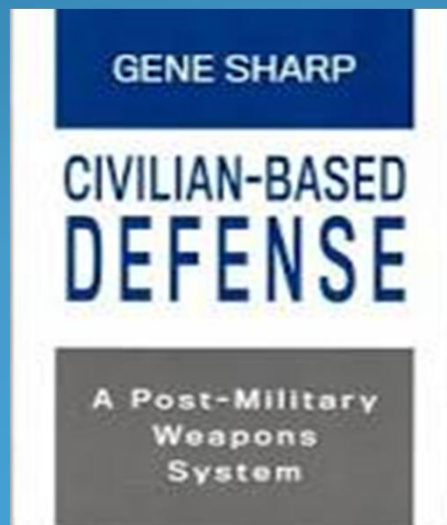
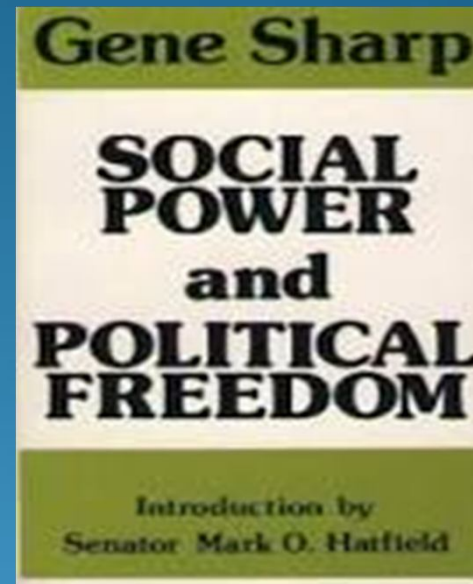
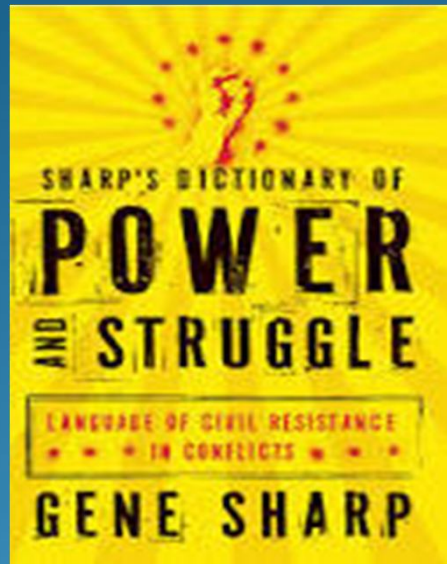
- The degree of liberty or tyranny in any government is in large degree a reflection of the relative determination of the subjects to be free and their willingness and ability to resist efforts to enslave them.
- It is our contention, to be explored later in more detail, that political defiance, or nonviolent struggle, is the most powerful means available to those struggling for freedom.

## GENE SHARP ON SOCIETY

- There should be no romanticism that international public opinion or even international diplomatic and economic pressure can defeat a coup without determined and strong defense by the attacked society itself.
- The development of a responsible and effective strategic plan for a nonviolent struggle depends upon the careful formulation and selection of the grand strategy, strategies, tactics, and methods.
- Dictators require the assistance of the people they rule, without which they cannot secure and maintain the sources of political power.



# GENE SHARP'S BOOKS



The background is a solid blue color with a gradient. At the top, there are several thin, wavy lines in shades of blue and teal, creating a sense of movement or a horizon line. The text "THANKS !" is centered in the middle of the image.

**THANKS !**