

# Organization for Minorities of India

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## Gandhi's Wars

Although Gandhi is described as the "Father of Nonviolence," he actually supported every major war of his lifetime.

### Second Boer War

April 18, 1900: "As soon as war was declared, irrespective of their opinions as to the justness or otherwise of the war, the Indians to a man made up their minds to give their humble support to the British Government during the crisis." [CWMG, Vol. 2, p. 353]

Gandhi also raised an Indian Ambulance Corps to nurse wounded British soldiers during the Boer War and was even awarded a medal for his war-time service.

### Bambatha Rebellion

As previously noted, in 1906, Gandhi again recruited an Indian stretcher-bearer corps to nurse wounded British and wrote propaganda to support the war effort. He agitated for weapons and arms training for his corps of Indians. Although he ultimately settled for an unarmed status, he continued to demand that weapons be provided to the Indians even after the war ended. After returning to India in 1915, he was rewarded for his participation in the war with a Kaisar-i-Hind medal, the highest civilian honor provided for service to the British Raj. [*Gandhi Under Cross-Examination*, G. B. Singh and Tim Watson, pp. 167-204]

### World War I

April 30, 1918: "I would like to do something which Lord Chelmsford would consider to be real war work. I have an idea that, if I became your recruiting agent-in-chief, I might rain men on you." [CWMG, Vol. 17, p. 12]

July 6, 1918: "I am absolutely right as things are in calling upon every Indian to join the army. My refrain is, 'Let us go and die for the sake of India and the Empire.'" [CWMG, Vol. 17, p. 123]

### Other Wars

Gandhi also supported World War II, telling Hitler that he was not "the monster described by your opponents" and encouraging the British (but not the Germans) to "stop fighting." [CWMG, Vol. 79, pp. 453-56] His pro-war attitude extended to India's forcible annexation of Hyderabad and Kashmir, the latter of which still bleeds today.