

Resistance To Civil Government: On Civil Disobedience and other Essays Annotated

Henry David Thoreau

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"At the time of the abolition of slavery movement, [Thoreau] wrote his famous essay "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience". He went to [prison] for the sake of his principles and suffering humanity. His essay has, therefore, been sanctified by suffering. Moreover, it is written for all time. Its incisive logic is unanswerable." - [Mahatma] Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi "I became convinced that noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. No other person has been more eloquent and passionate in getting this idea across than Henry David Thoreau. As a result of his writings and personal witness, we are the heirs of a legacy of creative protest. The teachings of Thoreau came alive in our civil rights movement; indeed, they are more alive than ever before. Whether expressed in a sit-in at lunch counters, a freedom ride into Mississippi, a peaceful protest in Albany, Georgia, a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, these are outgrowths of Thoreau's insistence that evil must be resisted and that no moral man can patiently adjust to injustice." - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Resistance to Civil Government is an annotated reference to Thoreau's three core literary works regarding civil disobedience; ON THE DUTY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, SLAVERY IN MASSACHUSETTS, and A PLEA FOR CAPTAIN JOHN BROWN. Both America and Thoreau were born into civil disobedience; it is in our blood as a free people. In over one hundred and fifty years since its first printing, Resistance to Civil Government continues to offer fresh insight to historians and activists alike. Few themes offer greater resonance to the human outcry against the vagaries of injustice, human bondage, and oppressive taxation. Thoreau provides eloquent testimony and cognitive dissonance in all three accounts...

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