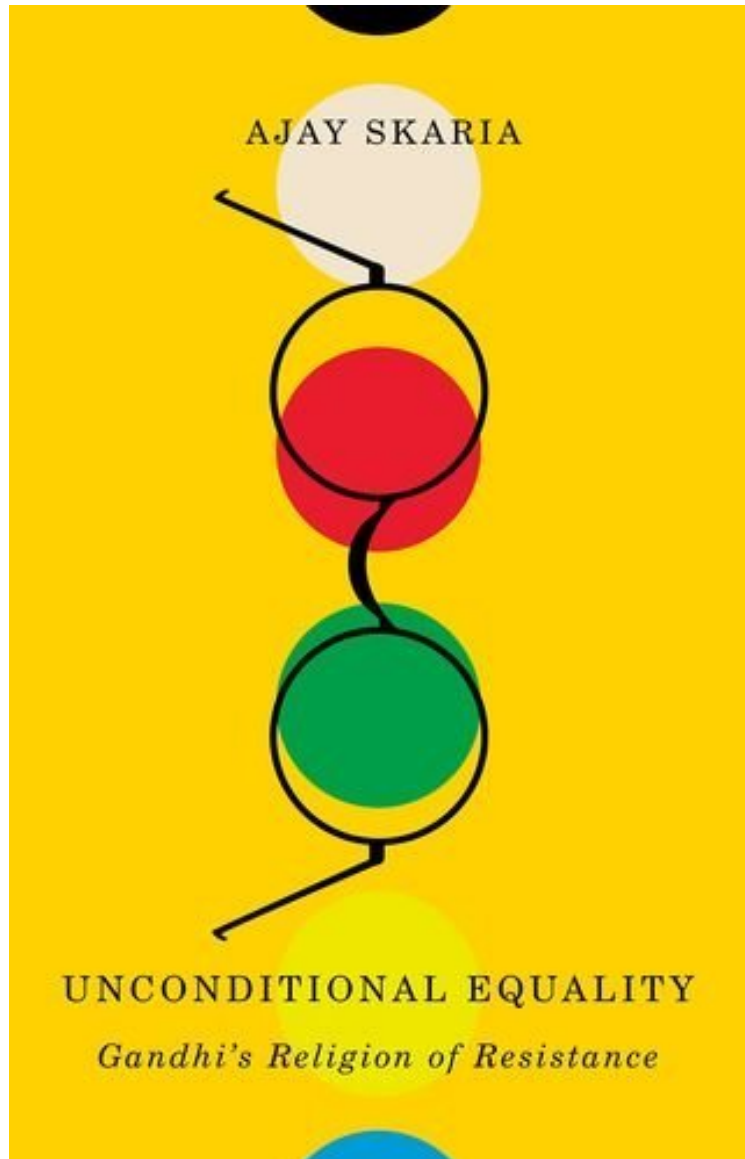


(Mobile book) Unconditional Equality: Gandhi's Religion of Resistance (A Cultural Cirtique Bok)

Unconditional Equality: Gandhi's Religion of Resistance (A Cultural Cirtique Bok)

Ajay Skaria

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Ajay Skaria : Unconditional Equality: Gandhi's Religion of Resistance (A Cultural Cirtique Bok) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unconditional Equality: Gandhi's Religion of Resistance (A Cultural Cirtique Bok):

Unconditional Equality examines Mahatma Gandhi's critique of liberal ideas of freedom and equality and his own practice of a freedom and equality organized around religion. It reconceives satyagraha (passive resistance) as a politics that strives for the absolute equality of all beings. Liberal traditions usually affirm an abstract equality centered on some form of autonomy, the Kantian term for the everyday sovereignty that rational beings exercise by granting themselves universal law. But for Gandhi, such equality is an equality of swordprofoundly violent not only because it excludes those presumed to lack reason (such as animals or the colonized) but also because those included lose the power to love (which requires the surrender of autonomy or, more broadly, sovereignty). Gandhi professes instead a politics organized around dharma, or religion. For him, there can be no politics without religion. This religion involves self-surrender, a freely offered surrender of autonomy and everyday sovereignty. For Gandhi, the religion that stays in all religions is satyagraha (the agraha (insistence) on or of satya (being or truth)). Ajay Skaria argues that, conceptually, satyagraha insists on equality without exception of all humans, animals, and things. This cannot be understood in terms of sovereignty: it must be an equality of the minor.

"The field of Gandhi-studies has taken off in refreshing ways in the last decade or so. Ajay Skaria's book offers the most important recent historico-critical reading of and commentary on Gandhi's major text, *Hind Swaraj*, and some other related writings by the Mahatma. He cleaves closely to Gandhi's words, comparing Gujarati originals with their English translations while engaging, simultaneously, several noted commentators on Gandhi as well as liberal, communitarian, and deconstructive traditions of thought. Not everybody will agree with every conclusion of Skaria's, but no one interested in the Mahatma will be able to ignore this book." Dipesh Chakrabarty, University of Chicago

"Unconditional Equality spells out nothing short of a total reevaluation of Gandhi's political thought, systematic, comprehensive, and authoritative. Ajay Skaria brings a depth of understanding to the material that will be hard to duplicate. This is a tour de force." Mrinalini Sinha, University of Michigan

"Skillfully deconstructing the Gujarati and English versions of Gandhi's writings, Skaria argues that Gandhi's most original philosophical contribution lies not so much in his political views but a new conception of religion that disavows all claims to sovereignty, even over oneself. It is surrender without subordination, compassion without limit; there is only the unconditional equality of the pure gift and the pure example. This is a brilliantly original book, provocative and controversial, that engages not only with Gandhi's admirers and critics but with contemporary debates in moral philosophy." Partha Chatterjee, Columbia University