Gandhi was an inspirational philosopher that changed the lives of his country through his teachings of non-violence and dreams of a peaceful world. He used his ability to lead and influence others to his advantage in order to free India from the rule of the British. Few people have implemented his teachings into their lives, but those who did have helped make the world a more surreal and loving place.

Gandhi’s teachings of non-violence were inspirational to many other freedom seekers, and greatly influenced what society is like today. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man who used Gandhi’s philosophies to his advantage during the 1960’s. Through the use of boycotts and “sit-ins” he was able to lessen the amounts of racism in our country and gain some rights back to the black community. Many, if not all, of Martin Luther King’s philosophies were derived from Gandhi’s teachings. Although Mr. King was able to integrate these lessons into his life, the country in which he lived has not accepted these ideologies.

In the United States, the use of violence has been ingrained into our cultural mindset as the “go-to” way to solve one’s problems. Whether it’s a foreign or domestic dispute, we immediately adopt the “shoot first and ask questions later” mentality. For example, President Truman, at the end of WWII, ordered to have atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki although he had many other alternatives. He used this period of war to show the world the true power of the United States at the cost of thousands of Japanese lives rather than accepting the victory and moving forward. Because of the awe-inspiring advances in military
technology, the use of violence as a problem-solver could possibly have extreme consequences: a nuclear holocaust. Non-violent actions and peaceful resistance are important milestones that our country needs to work towards in order to reduce the number of war-related deaths in the world.

As Gandhi once said, “We may never be strong enough to be entirely nonviolent in thought, word and deed. But we must keep nonviolence as our goal and make strong progress towards it.” Unless we stop trying to be on the top-tier of life, we can never be truly happy. Unless we accept the truths of life, we can never move from the past into a better future. And unless we make an effort to change our ways, we can never expect to live in the peace-filled world that Gandhi believed in.