

DR. CLAYBORNE CARSON

Recipient of the International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India - 2018

Born: June 15, 1944

Dr. Clayborne Carson is currently the Martin Luther King, Jr. Centennial Professor of History at Stanford University, where he also serves as the founding director of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute. Since receiving his doctorate in 1975 from the University of California, Los Angeles, he has also taught as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, Emory University, American University, Morehouse College, and l'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris.

In 1985, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. and founder of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Changes in Atlanta, invited historian

Dr. Clayborne Carson to direct a long-term project to edit and publish a comprehensive edition of her late husband's speeches, sermons, correspondence, publications, and unpublished writings. The King Papers Project directed by Dr. Carson has published seven volumes of The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.

During his student years, Dr. Clayborne Carson participated in human rights and antiwar movements, and many of his subsequent scholarly writings based on his experiences with these movement have stressed the importance of grassroots organizing and nonviolent resistance to injustice. His award-winning first book, *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s* (1981), examined the rise and decline of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the most dynamic and influential group to emerge from the struggle against racial discrimination and segregation in the United States. In addition to editing *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1998) and other collections of King's speeches, sermons, and public statements, Dr. Carson co-authored a textbook, *The Struggle for Freedom: A History of African Americans* (3rd ed., 2018), and wrote a memoir, *Martin's Dream: My Journey and the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (2013).

Because of his desire to reach the popular as well as academic audiences,

Dr. Carson has helped produce more than two dozen documentary films, including the acclaimed *Eyes on the Prize* (1986, 1989) series on the American civil rights movement and *Have You Heard from Johannesburg?* (2010), on the international campaign against apartheid in South Africa.

In 2008, he created an online social network – *The Gandhi-King Community: For Global Peace with Social Justice in a Sustainable Environment* – with more than 1600 members, and he currently teaches a free online course called "American Prophet: The Inner Life and Global Vision of Martin Luther King, Jr."

Dr. Carson has also brought King's ideas to the world by lecturing in more than twenty European, African, and Asian nations. In 2007, the international premiere of his play, *Passages of Martin Luther King*, was performed in Beijing by the National Theatre of China. The Palestinian National Theatre's 2011 production of the play was featured in the documentary *Al Helm: Martin Luther King in Palestine* (2013).

His longstanding interest in the impact of Gandhian ideas on King and the African-American freedom movement led him to teach a course on Gandhi and King in 2008. During the fall of 2008, Dr. Carson traveled to India to lead a seminar for Stanford students on Gandhi and his legacy. The following year, he helped organize and lead an American delegation to India to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of King's 1959 pilgrimage to the nation King called "the land of Gandhi." Dr. Clayborne Carson traveled through India with former Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, Congressman John Lewis, Martin Luther King III, and other prominent Americans. During his trips to India, Dr. Carson has lectured at various institutes such as the American Centre in New

Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Gujarat Vidyapith University, the University of Madras, the Gandhi Memorial Museum, and the Centre for Contemporary Studies in Chennai, the Merchants' Chamber in Mumbai, and the 2009 International Seminar on the Centenary of Hind Swaraj.

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