

Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian Freedom Fighter and so called “Father of the Nation” once claimed non-violence was the greatest force to ever be at the disposal of mankind. Mightier even than the mightiest weapon of destruction.

And of course he would say this, after all it was thanks to the nonviolent protests, which he led, that India won its freedom and independence. In those protests he and his followers would effectively sit down onto the street and deny any food until the British were gone.

Those protests were what made Gandhi a beacon of pacifism and nonviolence! Those protests even earned him the Nobel Peace Prize! At least that’s how the story goes...

And of course, look at the Divided Germany! In the east, in the GDR, were also protests, also nonviolent ones! And thanks to them the GDR finally opened its borders and made a most important step towards German reunification. And thanks to them I can now stand before you as, while my father was born in the west, my mother comes from eastern Germany. And without those protests we might still be living in a divided Germany!

And I could go on and on about peaceful protests and the change they brought with them. For example, I could also talk about Martin Luther King jr.

But most if not all those protests had no violence put against them and/or had free media. In the GDR for example no one was shot while protesting, this is what gave those who wanted change courage!

This is also why there still is a dictator in modern day Russia! Because if you want to protest, you’ll never know if you will come back! You can choose for yourself if you support this change think sth. needs to change, but you will never know how many people will also go out and protest! You will never know how many people will stay at home, scared for their life!

And in Russia you will never know who is actually a KGB agent and will kill you on your way back home! Thus, you will never even know who to trust!

And yes, India gained its Freedom while they were actually fighting violence, but at the end of India’s fight for Freedom there were so many violent and bloody protests, the British had to have stationed 8 battalions

worth of Infantry there! And this was simply too much trouble for the British!
This is the real reason why the British left!

Another example for peaceful protest, which I heard was the Soviet Union. Known for their prisoner camps and the killings of dozens and dozens of oppositionists, somehow it fell. But that too was because the violence-using-side, the oppressor, stopped using violence and let those who were oppressed choose!

As a summary I would say that in the fight against tyranny nonviolent protests may open the eyes and hearts of the masses, but that's useless when those same hearts are then pierced by the bullets of violence...

So, do I just stand here today, before you all, just to crush your every hope of a peaceful tomorrow? Is this what I want to do? Telling you that no matter what, those who use violence will always prevail?

No, I want to tell you something far more important...

(dramatic pause)

While there are certain things you **can** reach with nonviolent means. Other things cannot be reached.

And don't get me wrong there are plentiful goals which can be achieved through nonviolent means. And you **should always** use nonviolent measures, **when possible**. But that's the important part: **when** it's possible.

I probably like everyone here wish for a peaceful, a nonviolent tomorrow.

Ever since I watched Star Trek back when I was in primary school, I hoped that one day we as humanity could reach this utopia of a future, that was shown there!

But sadly, we aren't there yet!

But that brings me to the point I'm trying to make. I think it is far more important to fight for, to bring us closer to this future, we can all wish and maybe even hope for. And if not exactly this one at least a future akin to it!

But as long as there are those who wish only for their own power and profit to grow, we don't always have the luxury of keeping to our preferred, our nonviolent "weapons".

This is simply the sad reality we live in...

Sometimes you must fight for a brighter tomorrow.

But maybe then we can actually reach this future of peace and unity.

(long dramatic pause)

So, what do I hope you take from my speech?

Well, what I wish for you to remember is that right now we live in a world where we don't yet have the luxury of being a complete pacifist, but if we play our cards right, if we give our best to work for this perfect future, then we may just get to a point where we can call this specific future our own reality, and not just fiction.