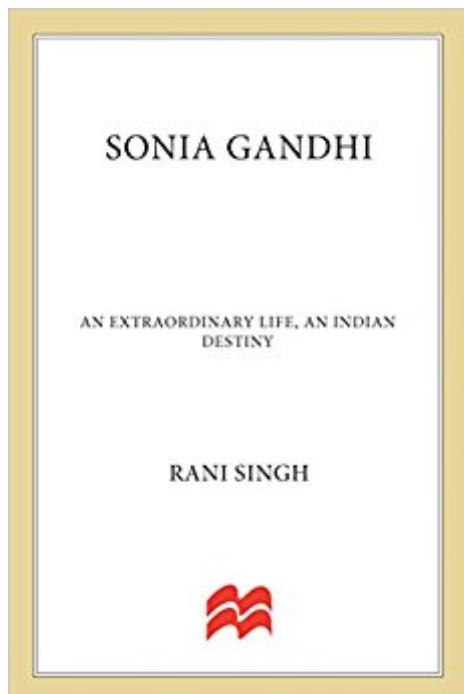


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Sonia Gandhi: An Extraordinary Life, An Indian Destiny



Synopsis

Sonia Gandhi's story represents the greatest transformational journey made by any world leader in the last four decades. Circumstance and tragedy, rather than ambition, paved her path to power. Born into a traditional, middle-class Italian family, Sonia met and fell in love with Rajiv Gandhi, son of future Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi and grandson of Jawaharlal Nehru, while studying English in Cambridge. Cruelly tested by the assassinations of her mother-in-law and of her husband, Sonia grew into a strong, authoritative but always private figure, now president of a coalition ruling over a billion people in the world's largest democracy. Through exclusive interviews with members of Sonia's party, political opponents and family friends, Rani Singh casts new light on Sonia. In the first mainstream biography of this inspirational figure, the author's compelling narrative retraces the path of the brave and beautiful Sonia Gandhi, examining what her life and legacy mean for India.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Rani Singh's biography of Sonia Gandhi is an intimate and insightful portrait of an extraordinary woman... a compelling and important story of tragedy, family and a nation on an upward trajectory."

- Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State "Rani Singh has opened the door on one of the most powerful yet surprisingly little-known women in the world." - Jon Snow, UK Newscaster "A biography that isn't only carefully researched but offers new details about Sonia Gandhi's extraordinary emergence from obscurity to most powerful woman in Asia (and arguably in the world). Rani Singh tells Sonia's story in remarkably vivid prose - tough but fair, critical but empathetic... an enormously

readable work of scholarship and journalistic endurance." - Pranay Gupte, author of *Mother India: A Political Biography of Indira Gandhi* "Rani Singh's book draws back the curtain, allowing the reader to encounter Sonia as the person behind the larger-than-life figure that she is for India's millions. It is a highly readable and rewarding work for anyone interested in modern India and its contemporary politics." - Ashley Tellis, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace "Rani Singh weaves a compelling love story into the complexities of Indian politics with skill and sensitivity... If you want to understand modern India, you need to understand the Gandhis. Ms Singh has made an important and timely contribution." - Tim Marshall, Foreign Affairs Editor at Sky News "A moving tribute... sets the scene for a thorough understanding of the fast-moving undertow affecting political life in India today, and of the critical influence of Sonia Gandhi." - James Brewer, business journalist and former editor of global insurance coverage for *Lloyd's List* "A book of human scope that reveals an intriguing political history and a life of compassion" - Kirkus Reviews 'Sonia Gandhi's progress to the influential position she now holds would be remarkable for anyone. In her case, given her particular background, it is a truly amazing story. Rani Singh's telling of it brings it vividly to life.' - Bill Kirkman, Wolfson College, Cambridge, *The Round Table*

Rani Singh is a London-based journalist who has worked with BBC television and radio for over 15 years. She is known for her investigative reports and documentaries from India and Pakistan. She commented on the region for CNN and NBC News, and has written for *The Observer News Service*, *The Spectator*, *Lloyd's List*, and *The Huffington Post*. Rani is an Ambassador for the Prince's Trust, which helps disadvantaged young people.

great book great price . came on time in great condition .

I have just finished this book which was given to me whilst in India in March of this year. I was born in India and am exactly the same age as Sonia. I grew up being close childhood friends with Sunil Nehru mentioned in the book and his two brothers; I new Rajiv and Sanjay briefly when we were teenagers. Several of the people quoted in the book are known to me or I have met them or interacted with them. It was enjoyable because of that background but sadly it is very deferential which is the fault most associated with Indians and their politics and aspirations. The English is truly appalling which is disappointing as the author apparently has a BBC provenance as well and working out of London. Rahul Gandhi the heir apparent in a political dynasty allegedly said 'It is undemocratic that the Congress is still led by a Gandhi. But it's the reality...My position give me

certain privileges. It is a fact of life in India that success in politics depends on who you know or are related to. I want to change the system.' Well get on and do so. Again I quote 'The level of rottenness, bribery and dishonesty does not abate and it is pretty evenly spread across the political spectrum. A spate of corruption scandals almost paralyzed a whole winter session of parliament.' Rahul and Sonia continue apparently to rail against corruption... add to that pure bad governance, lethargy and self aggrandizement amongst geriatric ministers who no longer have vision for India or know how to steer her into the 21st century and that is the sad state of affairs and I just have to ask What has Sonia Gandhi achieved, other than supreme continuance of her family in power and influence? I felt genuine sorrow when Rajiv was so cruelly killed but here are three, maybe four people including the son in law who increasingly sports the attention seeking stage and what have they achieved? I was in India for six weeks this year and heard nothing positive about the Government, the Gandhi Family and confidence in India's future. That is the real tragedy that people with so much power and influence who should be custodians of India because of their legacy should take the country to a new level of development....fine aspiration of Rahul to have everyone with food in their mouths, clean hospitals and literate but yet 8 States in India exceed the poverty and deprivation in 26 states in Africa? The great Mahatma Gandhi who was no relation is often invoked in the book as someone the Family reveres for his huge contribution to the freedom of India. They would do well to recall some of his famous words...one that I love is: We must teach the Rich to live more Simply so that the Poor may Simply live...' His other advice is timeless: 'Be the change you wish to see in the world....' Well this Gandhi Family could use that advice themselves and seriously work towards being the change they wish to see in India and not just posture. This book is however an easy read though with some lazy errors as well and would inform someone who was not fully up to date with the subject of developing India and her great challenges. India: The Peacock's CallIndia: The Tiger's RoarIndia: The Elephant's Blessing: 1

Most of the stuff is just fluff and completely false. looks like its written by a sycophant. The fact that this family just can't let go of india and treats it as if its their personal property is breathtaking.

I loved this book. I didn't know very much about Sonia Gandhi before I read it but I was pulled right in at the beginning by the fated love story and kept interested by the fascinating stories of the different characters made all the more compelling by how decent and good Sonia Gandhi seems to be (and her drive for good needs to be recognised). I understand that Sonia Gandhi is a very private person but this book remains interesting despite the author's respect for her subject. But this is no

sycophantic Gandhi piece - it does not shirk from the mistakes made by the family and leaves room for the reader to make his/her own judgement about the family's legacy.

She is a private person. I have never seen her debating with her political opponents or discussing with her political friends. Indian Democracy is a Mockery! She is the president of the party, not elected but placed on the throne. We do not know her beliefs on Indian major religion - Hinduism. We know only one thing that she wants to make her son the next Leader of India and continue Nehru- Gandhi Dynasty. And it is a nasty Idea. The author is a great "Chamcha" of Sonia family.

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