



Quelle

Gandhi, Mahatma: Hind Swaraj [Indiens Freiheit] (1909)¹

[...] The English have not taken India, we have given it to them. They are not in India because of their strength, but because we keep them. Let us now see whether this proposition can be sustained. They came to our country originally for purposes of trade. [...] They had not the slightest intention at that time of establishing a kingdom. Who assisted the Company's officers? Who was tempted at the sight of their silver? Who bought their goods? History testifies that we did all this. In order to become rich all at once we welcomed the Company's officers with open arms. We assisted them. If I am in the habit of drinking *bhang* and a seller thereof sells it to me, am I to blame him or myself? By blaming the seller, shall I be able to avoid the habit? And, if one particular retailer is driven away, will not another take his place? A true servant of India will have to go to the root of the matter. [...]

We have already seen that the English merchants got a footing in India because we encouraged them. When our Princes fought amongst themselves they sought the assistance of (the Company). That corporation was versed alike in commerce and war. It was unhampered by questions of morality. Its object was to increase its commerce and to make money. It accepted our assistance and increased the number of its warehouses. To protect the latter it employed an army which was utilised by us also. Is it then not useless to blame the English for what we did at that time? The Hindus and the Mahomedans were at daggers drawn. This, too, gave the Company its opportunity and thus we created the circumstances that gave the Company its control over India. Hence it is truer to say that we gave India to the English than that India was lost.

Eine Druckversion dieser Quelle findet sich in Hohls, Rüdiger; Schröder, Iris; Siegrist, Hannes (Hg.), *Europa und die Europäer. Quellen und Essays zur modernen europäischen Geschichte*, Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag 2005, S. 286.

Auf diese Quelle bezieht sich ein einführender und erläuternder Essay von Rothermund, Dieter, *Mahatma Gandhi und die britische Fremdherrschaft in Indien* im zuvor genannten Sammelband, S. 283-286.

¹ Gandhi, Mohandas K., *Hind Swaraj* (first published 1909), in: *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*, Vol. X, Ahmedabad 1983, S. 22.