Mohandas K. Gandhi is widely admired for having led India’s independence struggle, and for having pioneered techniques of non-violent resistance since successfully used all over the world, from the civil rights movement in the USA to the Arab Spring. This talk focuses on a little-known aspect of Gandhi’s legacy — his precocious environmentalism. Gandhi urged India to adopt a more sustainable path of development than that followed by the industrialized west, deplored chemical agriculture, and promoted recycling and reuse of scarce materials. After outlining Gandhi’s environmental philosophy, Guha outlines how it has influenced contemporary social movements in India.

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