

Veer Savarkar

I am bringing this article back online on May 28th 2011, celebrating the birth anniversary of Veer Savarkar. Enjoy, and do visit my [Hinduism Pages](#) too.

Swatantrya Veer Savarkar: The Eternal Hero

Here is brief summary of just Savarkar's 'firsts'. These excerpts are from 'Veer Savarkar' by Dhananjay Keer. Incidentally Mr. Keer was conferred Padma Bhushan in 1971 for this and other biographies. Mr. Keer himself of a former 'untouchable harijan' caste, worked with Savarkar on the first Pan-Hindu temple in Ratnagiri.

Veer Savarkar By Dhananjay Keer, Sangam Books Ltd, London,
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Please note the real title is Swatantrya Veer -Hero of the freedom struggle and not just Veer.

Savarkar - The crown prince of revolutionaries, has many firsts to his credit, here is the list:

- He was the first Indian political leader to call for Swadeshi, and the first Indian leader who publicly performed a bonfire of foreign clothes (1906). (MANY YEARS BEFORE GANDHIJI)
- He was the first Indian student who was rusticated from a hostel of an institution aided by British Govt (reason was the bonfire).
- He was the first Indian leader of India to daringly proclaim absolute political independence of India as her goal (EVEN BEFORE LOKMANYA TILAK called Swaraj a birth right)
- Savarkar was the first barrister who was refused the degree on account of his political line of thought by the British Government.
- He was the first graduate to lose the degree from an Indian University (Bombay University) for his love of independence.
- (The same University rescinded its 1911 decision after 49 years in April 1960 and reconferred the degree. Meanwhile Pune and Nagpur had conferred honorary Doctorates on Savarkar).

- Savarkar was again the first Indian leader to invest the problem of Indian independence with international importance.
- Savarkar was the first Indian leader who cleared the myth British historians propagated and showed that 1857 war of independence was not a mutiny of sepoys in few regiments but a revolt of Indian population against the British sustained over for 2 years. He also highlighted the cruelty of British Generals during that period who slaughtered outright ordinary Indians on flimsiest pretexts. He was the first Indian leader to celebrate 50 th anniversary of 1857.
- Savarkar was the first Indian leader to organize revolutionary movement in the 'enemy's camp' right in the heart of London.
- He was the first author whose work was proscribed by the governments of two countries (India & UK) even before it was printed or published. (his book 'War of Independence of 1857' which was published clandestinely in US and India Thanks to Dr.Kurien, an Indian christian)
- Savarkar was the first rebel leader of India who refused to recognize the authority of the British Court of Law.
- He was the first political prisoner in the history of world the issue of whose arrest was fought out in the International Court at the Hague.
- Savarkar was the first political prisoner in the political history who was sentenced to 50 year's transportation.
- Savarkar was the first poet in the world, who deprived of pen and paper, composed and wrote his poems on the prison walls with thorns and pebbles, learnt with Vedic tenacity more than ten thousand lines of his poetry for years till they reached his country thru the mouth of others, and showed how since dawn of humanity sacred Vedas were kept circulating from generation to generation.
- Savarkar also designed the first Indian flag to be unfurled overseas (by Madam Cama, in Stuttgart Germany, on August 22, 1907 at the International Socialist Congress, where British and French socialists moved a resolution to call India an oppressed country).
- He was the first Indian political leader to build a pan-Hindu temple where former 'untouchable' was a priest.
- He was the first president of Marathi Sahitya Parishad (Council of all Marathi writers and poets)
- He was the only Hindu leader honored by SGPC (Sikh religious body)

Some interesting facts about Savarkar

Some interesting facts you should know :

1. Savarkar at the age of 15 took a vow in front of Goddess Durga to drive out British from his Motherland to make her free and great once again.
2. At age 14 he wrote ballads of Tanaji Malusare and Shivaji.
3. At the age 17 he started a Mitra mela which in four years sprouted into Abhinav Bharat Society, the foremost revolutionary group, which later led to a web of revolutionaries in Bengal, Punjab and other states.
4. It was on Lokmanya Tilak's recommendation that got Savarkar a scholarship by India House (by Shri Shyamji Krishna Varma who later became Savarkar's follower)
5. During his stay in London, Savarkar shipped bomb recipes and pistols in books with hollow cavities carved out from the pages.
6. Unlike Gandhi and Nehru who were given Class A prisoner status, Savarkar was given Class C and was made to drive an oil mill He had to make mulch coir and make ropes out of it with bare hands. Even in prison forcible conversions of poor Hindus to Islam were taking place. Savarkar fought for the prison reforms and put a stop to these conversions. He eliminated untouchability among Hindu prisoners in the Andamans.
7. After the arrest of his brother, who also was given a life term in Andamans, and banning of his books in 1909, the British confiscated all his family's personal property. The utensils, clothes were thrown out on the street. His family's belongings were nothing but the clothes they were wearing at the time. All this while he was in Europe. This victimization of his family made him return to London where he was arrested.

On this sacrifice Savarkar's poetic words are;

We have not taken this vow to go "Sati", to jump into the burning fire knowing the pain it may cause, blindly. This enlightened sacrifice comes naturally to Hindus. (Many thousands of Hindu women committed Jouhar and many many Hindus have donned kesariya before).

Many youths those days had this poem of Savarkar and the preface his book on Mazzini by heart, and they used to recite it every day. (One such then youth is Rev. Pandurang Shastry Athavale, Leader of Swadhayay movement, a parivar of 6 million plus Hindus).

Now compare that to Nehru. Indira Gandhi writes in her autobiography that Nehru

made her give away a "foreign made" doll Nehru had bought her from London. That's a BIG sacrifice, HAH ..

8.Savarkar wrote Mazzini's biography, The history of 1857 war of independence, epic poems Kamla, he wrote news reports from UK, he wrote Hindutva - a unique contribution to Hindu philosophy he wrote novels, he wrote plays, he wrote a grand study of Indian history. He wrote songs, he wrote 'stotras'. One of his song " praise of Goddess Liberty " is in 10 th grade texts in Marathi.

9.Unfortunately for us, Savarkar's manuscript on Sikh history was lost and was never found.

10.Savarkar's followers in London also worked with the Gadhar Party in USA mobilising American support for Indian independence movement. Theyorked worked with other European leaders also. The 1912 demands by Wilhem Kaiser's German govt from the British included that India be given independence.

11.In 1960 Savarkar exhorted India to make atomic bombs.

12.Savarkar is the only author who tried to put "Kundalini" and sapta chakra experience of a yogi in modern medical terms. Flag Savarkar designed for Hindus has the lotus Kundlini and kripan (a sword) for the defence

13.The book Savarkar worked the longest on is 'Six Glorious Epochs of Indian History'- This book has nearly thousand references. This is the true Indian history, not the canned 'british' version of history. If you are a Hindu, you should atleast read this book to know your side of the history.

Judge the man by his words and his actions before you pass an opinion based on British/Nehru inspired rumors passed on by the nitwits and their followers the netwits.

Veer Savarkar's 'prophecies' which came remarkably true.

Savarkar's political realism and foresight has proved to be correct and unflinching.

In 1925 Savarkar predicted that the separation of Sindh from Bombay province for appeasing Moslems would be disastrous precedent, would destroy Sindh Hindus and would pique the appetite of Pan-islamists.

We know it snow balled into creation of Pakistan. Plight of Hindus in Sindh keeps getting even worse.

Savarkar foretold (in his speech on Aug 2, 1942 a week before the start of Quit India movement) that the political leadership of Gandhi and Nehru which according to him lacked historical perspective, would end up dividing

India on the basis of religion.

It came true.

Savarkar said that if once Pakistan came into being it would raise an army and always disturb the peace, industrialisation and the progress of India.

It came true. 3 wars with Pakistan. We have Punjab, Kashmir terrorism supported by Pakistan, Bombings in Bombay at sensitive strategic locations. It is still coming true.

He said in January 1954, that Mao hoodwinked Nehru over Tibet and China would pull down the pillars of Panchsheel any moment. (He also commented "In the very six years (after 1947) we criminally wasted, China had equipped her whole nation with most modern and upto date arms and without caring the least for feelings of India, had completely overrun Tibet and destroyed the only buffer state.") (Only otyher Indian leader to protest vehemently against China's take over of Tibet was Dr.Ambedkar).

It came true and China invaded India in 1962.

He warned in 1941 about Moslem infiltration to Assam from East Bengal.

It came true and is coming true even now. We have 15 to 20 million illiegal Moslems (100,000 of them in Bombay itself is acknowledged by the Maharashtra Govt). Thanks to Sayyad Shahbuddin and Ghani Khan Choudhari, Kishan Ganj, Malda districts of Bihar and Bengal are open havens for BD Moslems who are being made into voters of India overnight. Lately Hiteshwar Saikia is after Moslem voters in Assam, ad you know more voters for Congress can be created by importing Moslems from across the border.

In 1910, on the way to Andamans to India Savarkar envisioned a naval base guarding this southeastern gate of India.

Guess what Chinese are getting active at a nearby port in Burma.

In 1937 Savarkar expressed fear that Congress would one day throttle Vande Mataram.

Within a few years Congress did sacrifice Vande Mataram to appease Moslems (prior to Partition).

Savarkar sounded a warning about the fate of kashmir in 1938.

We have paid for ignoring his warnings in the 3 wars, 300,000 Kashmiri who are made refugees in their own country are paying for it now.

A comparison of Savarkar with other contemporary leaders.

Savarkar was a rebel and revolutionary to the last breath (Times of India, Feb. 27, 1966)

Savarkar was the first Indian leader to give the message of absolute political independence and unity to the nation. But the tragedy of Savarkar was that although he was a secularist to the backbone, a great lover of science and a sturdy nationalist, he was cruelly represented as an orthodox leader by those partial to Gandhi and Nehru. (Savarkar said in June 1963 that it was ridiculous and irrational to follow astrology when Russians and Americans are striving to land on the Moon and Mars. Earlier Savarkar refused to consider a cow as holy and chose to call it only as a very useful animal). Savarkar was the first Indian leader to give India the message of secularism and modernism before the advent of Nehru and MN Roy. Savarkar was more rational than Gandhi, Cripps or Jayprakash Narayan and as rational as Nehru and Roy. He was an epic poet and a great rationalist. He was a great author and the Demosthenes of his age in India. His political realism and foresight proved to be correct and unflinching (examples given in part 3).

Great men are sometimes obsessed with one idea. Likewise Savarkar was obsessed, his critics say, with the idea of Hindu Militarisation. He was not an imperialist or a militarist. It was his sincere desire that having suffered slavery often, India should not fall a prey to any militarist and aggressive country. So many times in the history the holy land of Hindus was devastated and sacked by hordes of barbarians (Huns, Scythians, etc), so inferior to them in language, religion, culture, philosophy, mercy and all the soft attitudes of man and God; but superior to them in strength alone - the strength that summed up in two words - Fire and Sword! It is in this sense Savarkar wanted Hindus to militarise so never again shall their country be devastated.

Savarkar was the foremost Indian leader to welcome the machine age and he understood that economic equality is the inevitable outcome of the machine age. As regards the social equality, none of his great contemporaries except Dr. Ambedkar, not even Jawaharlal Nehru fought orthodoxy with such ruthlessness as did Savarkar.

Savarkar was dubbed a communalist because he said that the principle of one man one vote should be followed (then opposed to by Muslim leadership) and because he opposed Muslim Maulavis and Christian Missionaries trying to convert illiterate, ignorant and poor Hindus.

In every age the nation that had access to superior force defeated the nations that did not have that advantage. Savarkar was the only leader in India who openly said that India should have accession to a superior device, weapon or force. Savarkar held that justice would go down if not backed by a superior force. A nation, however tolerant, just and cooperative would go down if it did not go match (approximate) the power of surrounding nations (Lesson taught to India by China war the hard

way). India should believe in noble principles for the progress of humanity but keep her superior weapon ready for her own survival. This was the message of Savarkar to India.

Also beautifully worded by National poet Ramdharisingh "Dinkar" 'Kshamaa shobhati oos Bhujang ko Jis ke paas garal ho' forgiveness befits only that Cobra that still carries the venom.

Savarkar on revolution (Nov.1909) - "Whenever the natural process of national and political evolution is violently suppressed by the forces of wrong, then revolution must step in as a natural reaction and therefore ought to be welcomed as the only effective instrument to reenthroned Truth and Right. You (the British) rule by bayonets and under these circumstances it is a mockery to talk of constitutional agitation when no constitution exists at all. But it would be worse than a mockery, even a crime when there is a constitution that allows the fullest and freest development of a nation. Only because you (British) deny us a gun, we pick up a pistol. Only because you deny us light, we gather in darkness to compass means to knock out the fetters that hold out Mother down."

What others said about Savarkar.

Rajagopalachari -Savarkar to him was a national hero, a symbol of courage, bravery and patriotism , an 'abhitirth' in the long battle for freedom.

Subhash Chandra Bose wanted Savarkar to join the Congress after Savarkar' s release in 1937.

M.N.Roy wanted Savarkar to devote his life again to the emancipation of India on Savarkar's own line of thinking.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr.Radhakrishnan, YB Chavan felicitated Savarkar on Dec.1960

S.M.Joshi (the socialist leader) said he was inspired by Savarkar's call for absolute political independence.

General Cariappa India's first Commander in Chief (C-in-C) in Dec. 1962 after the defeat of Indian Army in the China war said " Had India listened to Savarkar and adopted his policy of militarization and prepared herself she would not have been placed in this predicament.

Gyanpith award winner V.S.Khandekar said that Savarkar was great not only the field of politics but also in the fields of poetry, courage literature. His greatness had the colors of the rainbow. We are all Lilliputians before Savarkar.

On Feb 3. 1966 Savarkar decided to surrender to death and simply stopped taking any food or drink other than water. He had stopped taking any medicine a month before that.

Congress MPs Violet and Joachim Alva (on Feb 5, 1966) wrote to Savarkar "We humbly salute your unforgettable daring achievement - Swimming the ocean and regaining freedom- will be long cherished in the pages of freedom struggle"

Among the people who wrote concerned about his health were Jagjivan Ram and then home minister Gulzarilal Nanda.

After 22 days on barely 5 to 6 teaspoonfuls of water a day, on February 26 1966, Savarkar happily surrendered to Death whom he had challenged since his youth. He was conscious to the last hour and did not suffer any serious complications whatsoever.

S.A.Dange (Chairman of the Communist party) said of Savarkar " He was one of the great anti-imperialist revolutionary".

PM Indira Gandhi said " Savarkar was a great figure of contemporary India and his name is by-word for daring and patriotism. He was cast in a mould of a classic revolutionary and countless people drew inspiration from him."

Defence minister YB Chavan " Savarkar displayed a unique combination of nationalism, bravery and social unity ".

Haribhau Pataskar ex Gov. of MP and congress leader said " Savarkar was India's bravest son, a great literary genius, an inspiring poet and a great orator."

M.C.Chagla (the then Education minister) said " Savarkar was a great patriot and an illustrious son of India" he added " anyone living in in this country who loved and drew inspiration from the great heritage of India and was loyal to India was a Hindu. Revolutionaries like Savarkar created an atmosphere which made it possible for Mahatma Gandhi to succeed. It would be unpatriotic if the people of India failed to give Savarkar a prominent place in the history of India".

(By the way 'Muslim' Chagla's definition of Hindu is close to Savarkar's definition of a Hindu).

Savarkar in his will asked that nobody should observe hartal or close his business to mourn over his death. This to avoid inconvenience to common people.

He was cremated in electric crematorium per his wish because he considered it more

clean, efficient (eco-friendly in modern terms).

Extracted from alt.hindu, a moderated group for discussion related to Hindu dharma (including, philosophy, religion, culture etc.), Hindu issues, current events and announcements.

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