

PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD



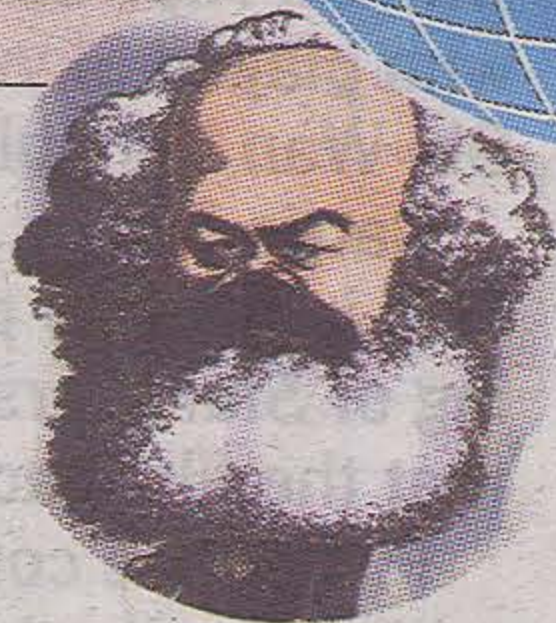
1 Christopher Columbus (1451-1506, Italian) In 1492 he set sail across the Atlantic Ocean and landed on the islands now known as the West Indies. His discoveries led to the European exploration and settlement of the Americas.

2 William Shakespeare (1564-1616, English) He wrote at least 154 love poems and 37 plays, including *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*. He introduced more than 1,700 new words to the English language.



3 Charles Darwin (1809-82, English) Established the theory of evolution. When his famous book *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was published in 1859 there were violent reactions against it. Darwin explained that human beings are descended from an ape-like ancestor.

4 Karl Marx (1818-83, German) He was a social philosopher who attacked the state and predicted a future in which everyone was equal. He explained his theories in the *Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital*. His ideas eventually led to the Russian Revolution and communism. By 1950 almost half of the world's population lived under communist regimes.



5 Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928, English) She was the most famous of the women who campaigned for the right to vote in Britain. From 1905 she fought for the vote and was frequently arrested and imprisoned. She died in 1928 shortly before her aims were realised where every woman over 21 was granted the vote.



6 Adolf Hitler (1889-1945, Austrian) He was Germany's leader from 1933 to 1945, during which time he led the world into its most devastating war. His hatred of Jews and desire for a master race led to the murder of six million people.



7 Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948, Indian) He began his career as a lawyer but became a great political and spiritual leader. He led the peaceful disobedience of Indians against British rule in India and negotiated with the British Government until 1947, when India was granted independence. His simple lifestyle and belief in religious tolerance made him a symbol of decency and peace.



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8 Albert Einstein (1879-1955, German/American) He was one of the greatest physicists. His theory, the *General Theory of Relativity*, was proven in 1919. He won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921. Einstein was a firm believer in pacifism, but his theories helped his adopted country, the USA, develop the atomic bomb. Before he died he urged all countries to give up their nuclear weapons.



9 Mao Zedong (1893-1976, Chinese) He was one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party and the first chairman of the People's Republic of China in 1949. He had an enormous influence on his country. His later policies were less successful.

10 Nelson Mandela (1918- , S. African) Dedicated his life to fighting apartheid – a policy which kept black and white South Africans apart and denied black citizens the vote. He was imprisoned in 1964 for 26 years. In 1990 after his release, he was elected president of the African National Congress. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for his work to end apartheid.



11 Martin Luther King, Jr (1929-68, American) He was a Baptist minister who campaigned against the segregation of blacks in the USA. He was influenced by Gandhi and believed in peaceful protest. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. In 1968 he was assassinated. He will always be remembered for his dignified, passive resistance to injustice.

12 Bill Gates (1955- , American) Created his first computer while still at high school, co-founded Microsoft in 1977, and by 1993 was the richest man on Earth. In 2000, he and his wife formed the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. One of its aims is to rid the Third World of polio and other deadly diseases.

