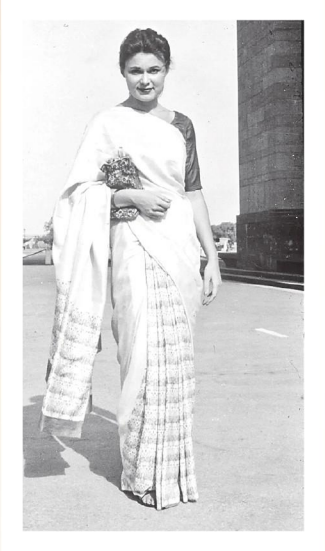


Gandhi, India and the Making of Steinem

Before Gloria Steinem became one of the defining voices of American feminism, she was a young woman learning to observe the world. Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1934, she spent much of her childhood travelling with her father, a travelling antiques dealer. She did not attend school regularly until around the age of 12. Instead, books, travel and encounters with people became her informal education — nurturing the curiosity that would later define her journalism.



A young Gloria Steinem in India in the 1950s, during the formative two-year period that exposed her to Gandhian philosophy, grassroots activism and a different way of understanding social change

The Making of an Observer

After graduating from Smith College in 1956, Steinem travelled to India on a Chester Bowles Fellowship, spending two formative years in the country. She travelled widely, wrote for Indian publications and worked as a legal clerk at the Supreme Court of India.

India exposed her to Mahatma Gandhi's



Gloria Steinem, whose formative years in India, early journalism and encounter with Gandhian ideas helped shape the observer, reporter and feminist leader she would become

philosophy of non-violence and, particularly, to grassroots activism. She encountered followers of Gandhi and the Bhoodan movement, witnessing how social change could be pursued through community mobilisation, dialogue and persuasion rather than conventional political power. The experience profoundly influenced her approach to journalism and activism. India taught her to listen closely, look beyond official narratives and understand social issues through ordinary people's experiences. Her observations eventually became *The Thousand Indias* (1957), one of her earliest published works.

From Reporter to Investigative Journalist

Back in the United States, Steinem entered journalism at a time when women were largely steered towards fashion, lifestyle and society reporting. She wanted to cover politics and social issues.

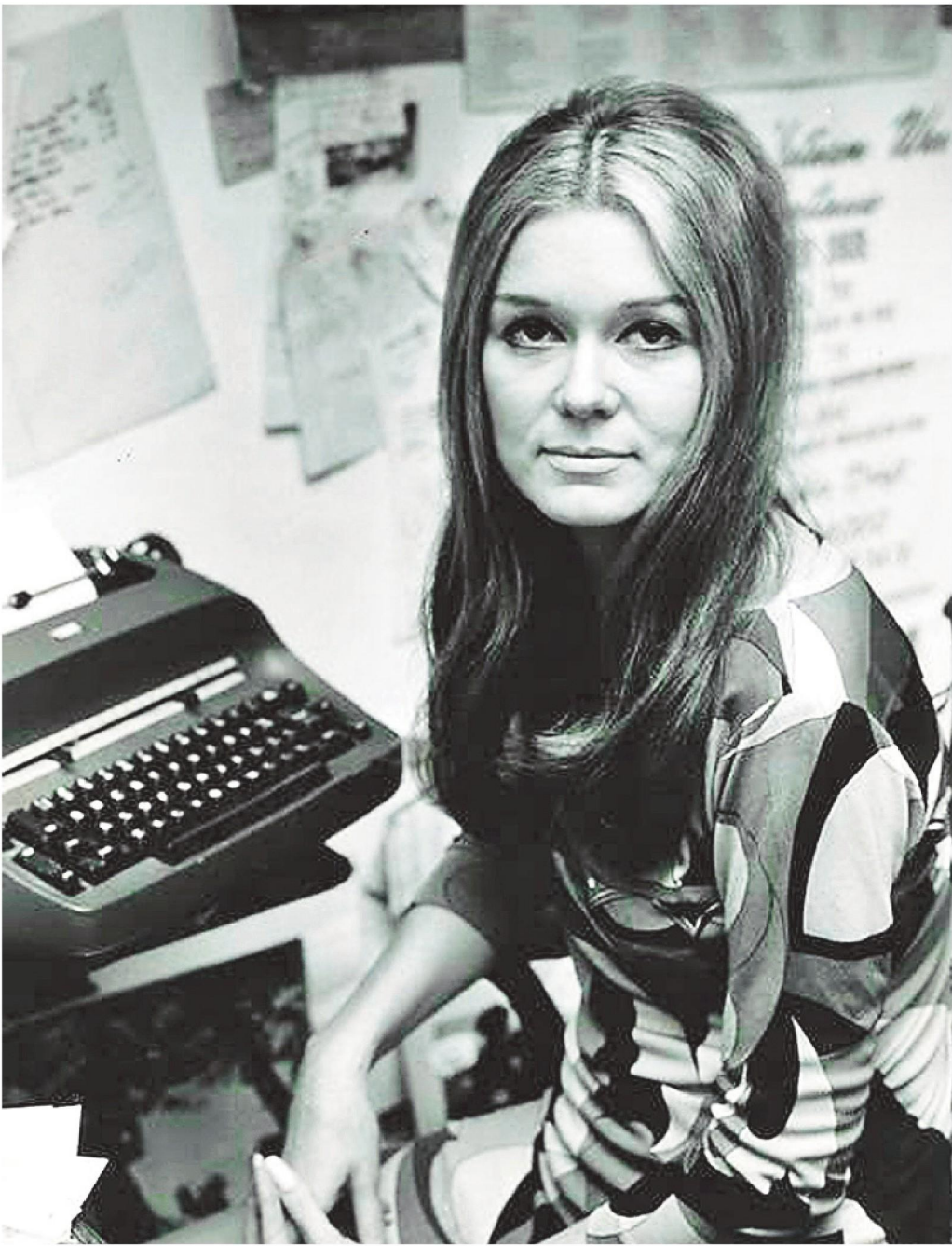
Her breakthrough came in 1963, when she went undercover as a Playboy Bunny for *Show* magazine. Her investigation, *A Bunny's Tale*, exposed the poor wages and humiliating working conditions faced by women at the Playboy Club. The story brought her national attention and established her as a journalist willing to investigate the realities behind polished public images.

By the late 1960s, her reporting increasingly focused on women's rights. Covering an abortion-rights speak-out in 1969 became another turning point, prompting her to speak publicly about her own abortion and become more deeply involved in the women's movement.

Gloria Steinem's books include *The Thousand Indias* (1957), *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions* (1983), *Marilyn: Norma Jean* (1986), *Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem* (1992), *Moving Beyond Words: Age, Rage, Sex, Power, Money, Muscles: Breaking the Boundaries of Gender* (1994), *Doing Sixty & Seventy* (2006), *My Life on the Road* (2015), and *The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off!* (2015). She has also published works for younger readers, including *My Life on the Road: Young Readers Edition*. Her official website identifies *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, *Moving Beyond Words*, *Revolution from Within*, *My Life on the Road*, and *The Truth Will Set You Free...* among her principal books.

1971: The Journalist Builds a Platform

Steinem's transition from reporter to movement organiser accelerated in 1971. She helped establish the National Women's Political Caucus and, alongside



Gloria Steinem, the pioneering journalist and feminist activist whose decades-long career helped transform the conversation around women's rights, equality and social justice

feminist activists including Dorothy Pittman Hughes, helped launch *Ms. magazine*.

Ms. first appeared as a preview insert in *New York* magazine in December 1971, followed by its first standalone issue in 1972. It transformed women's journalism by treating abortion, domestic violence, workplace discrimination, reproductive rights and political representation as serious public issues rather than private concerns.

For Steinem, journalism had become more than a profession. It had become a tool for social change.

A Career Written in Books

Steinem's ideas also found expression in books. Her works include *The Beach Book* (1963), *Marilyn: Norma Jeane* (1986), *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions* (1983), *Revolution from Within* (1992), *Moving Beyond Words* (1993), *Doing Sixty & Seventy* (2006), *My Life on the Road* (2015), *The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off!* (2015), and *As If Women Matter: The Essential Gloria Steinem Reader*.

Her 2015 memoir, *My Life on the Road*, returned to the importance of travel, listening and personal encounters — themes that could be traced back to both her childhood and her years in India.

From the Road to the Women's Movement

Steinem's professional journey was therefore shaped by experiences long before she became a public feminist icon. The child who learned outside a classroom became an observant young traveller; the traveller became a journalist; the journalist became an investigative reporter; and the reporter became an organiser and movement-builder.

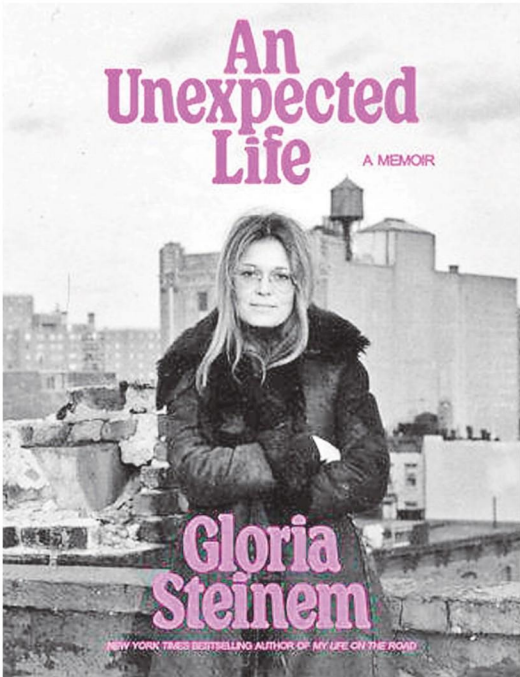
India was an important bridge in that transformation. Gandhi's philosophy, grassroots activism and her work at India's Supreme Court gave the young Steinem a different way of understanding power and social change.

Decades later, her career had grown into a body of journalism, books, organisations and activism that helped redefine the public conversation around

women's lives.

Steinem died peacefully on September 2, 2026, aged 92. Her forthcoming memoir, *An Unexpected Life: A Memoir*, is scheduled for publication on September 22, 2026 — a final reflection on a life that began on American roads, found a formative chapter in India and ultimately changed the course of modern feminism.

From Gandhi's India to the pages of *Ms.*, Steinem spent a lifetime turning observation into questions — and questions into change.



The cover of Gloria Steinem's final memoir, *An Unexpected Life*, scheduled for publication by Random House on September 22, 2026. The book traces her unconventional childhood, formative years in India and six decades as a journalist, feminist and activist

'The Future of Humans in the Age of AI' Review: Who Still Gets to Decide?

AI can automate the task. But who takes responsibility for the decision? Manish Ranjan's book looks beyond the technology to the human choices shaping an AI-driven future.

The most interesting question in Dr Manish Ranjan's book is not whether AI can make decisions. It is who remains accountable when it does. A public-benefit application arrives on an official's desk, already ranked by an algorithm. The official did not build the system and may not know how it reached its conclusions. Yet the final signature remains human. For Ranjan, that signature captures the central dilemma of the AI age: when machines influence judgment, can humans outsource responsibility too? A serving IAS officer, Ranjan approaches AI less as a technological revolution and more as a question of governance, work and human agency.

His basic proposition is compelling: steam multiplied muscle, computers multiplied speed, while AI is beginning to multiply cognition. A Wide-Angle Look at AI Across 24 chapters, the book moves from AI's possibilities to its risks and emerging frontiers. Healthcare, education, work and governance sit alongside deepfakes, privacy, algorithmic bias, cybersecurity and AI warfare. Later chapters explore semiconductors, geopolitics, regulation, quantum-AI and generative biology. The breadth occasionally comes at the cost of depth. Readers already familiar with AI literature may find some arguments familiar, while the chapters on frontier technologies move

quickly. But that sweep also makes the book's larger point: AI is no longer a technology-sector story. It is an institutional story. The Difference Between Automation and Authority The book is strongest when Ranjan distinguishes between automating a task and surrendering authority. An algorithm can process applications faster, identify patterns or recommend a course of action. But should it determine who receives a loan, healthcare or a public benefit? And when it gets something wrong, who explains the mistake? These questions make the book particularly relevant to administrators, policymakers, executives and educators.



Author: Dr. Manish Ranjan
Publisher: S. Chand
Pages: 304
Format: Paperback
Rating: 4/5

Its seven-book companion series extends that inquiry into equality, truth, human relationships, careers and organisational success, suggesting that Ranjan's larger concern is not whether AI will change humanity, but how humanity chooses to respond. That is ultimately what gives *The Future of Humans in the Age of AI* its relevance. The machine may generate the recommendation. The algorithm may rank the names. The system may produce the answer. But someone still has to sign. And Ranjan's strongest argument is that the signature — and the responsibility behind it — must remain human.