

Albert Bandura

The Following Text Excerpt from PERSONALITY, 3rd Ed., Jerry M. Burger

Albert Bandura was born in 1925 in Mundare, a small farming community located among the wheat fields in Alberta, Canada. He attended the only school in the area, a combined elementary and high school with a total of about 20 students and two teachers. Summer jobs included filling in holes in the highways of the Yukon. Bandura stayed in Canada for his undergraduate education, receiving his B.A. degree from the University of British Columbia in 1949.

Bandura's graduate training reflects the bridging of different areas of psychology evident in his later theorizing. He chose to get his Ph. D. from the University of Iowa because of its strong tradition of research in learning theory. Among the Iowa faculty members who influenced Bandura was the learning theorist Kenneth Spence. Bandura received his Ph. D. in 1952. The research emphasis at Iowa gave him the conviction that psychologists should "conceptualize clinical phenomena in ways that would make them amenable to experimental tests" (Evans, 1976, p. 243).



After a year of clinical internship in Wichita, Bandura accepted a position at Stanford University in 1953 and has remained there ever since. While at Stanford he continued to build bridges between traditional learning theory and cognitive personality theories, between clinical psychology and empirically oriented approaches to understanding personality. Bandura has received numerous professional honors, including election to the presidency of the American Psychological Association in 1974.

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