21. "By offering an ideological critique of the western civilization in its modern phase, Gandhi was effectively contesting the moral legitimacy of the Raj that rested on a stated assumption of the superiority of the West." Comment.

The West, throughout the colonization period in the past, have emphasized the notion of superiority over others. The whites were regarded as superior over blacks and browns in Asia and Africa. Moreover,

- The people in colonies were oppressed of their rights
- Slavery was pushed for working into Plantations, e.g., Black taken to Jamaica & USA; Indians in South Africa, etc.
- English education considered superior over Hindi or Sanskrit. This was the issue in Anglicist vs. Orientalist controversy in 1823–24
- Technological advancement, morals and ethics, their color and Christianity were assumed to be at the top of world order.
The notion was broken in India by critics such as Dadasaheb Phalke, Dilkusha Wacha, and Gandhiji. Gandhiji further concluded:

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  - Industrialisation is not the reason to be considered of Western imperialism over colonies.
  - Economic progress as justification for colonialism is a dead assertion.
  - Hind Swaraj outright criticized British rule and got banned in 1909 and got banned in 1910 over sedition charges.
  - He further promoted the ideas of decentralised government in the hands of villages and panchayats under British Parliamentary system.
  - Capitalism was opposed, even communism and socialism were not supported. Rather Gandhiji believed in money in the hands of poor and cottage industry promotion.
  - Western ways of guns and violence and kingdom were denounced and ways of non-violence, satyagraha, civil disobedience and non-co-operation were promoted.
So, it can be noted that Brits and other Europeans' false justification and centuries of oppression was opposed by Gandhi through various media. He broken the notion that Brits advancement and interests will result in progressive India and finally carried India to its independence in 1947.