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Einstein Reuters personality of the millennium

LONDON, Dec 17.—Albert Einstein the great man of Western science, is Reuters Personality of the Millennium—just ahead of two people who dedicated their lives to dismantling Western institutions: Mahatma Gandhi and Karl Marx, reports Reuters.

This is the verdict of leading figures from politics, business, the arts and academia invited by Reuters to select their greatest human being of the past 1,000 years.

"Quantum physics will transform life in future," said Terry Waite, a Church of England envoy who spent almost five years as a hostage in Lebanon in the late 1980s and early 90s.

Voting was widely spread with participants voting for 39 candidates but Einstein came out ahead with 15 points, one ahead of Gandhi and Marx. Equal fourth were British World War Two leader Winston Churchill and Sir Isaac Newton, who transformed our understanding of the universe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Such surveys cannot, of course, pretend to be scientific when they draw on such a vast subject matter. This millennium, after all, accounts for a fair chunk of recorded human history.