



Introduction to Conflict & Peace Studies as a Discipline

Each day it seems that our morning papers are splashed with headlines announcing another perplexing addition to the dreadful list of unresolved and violent conflicts. Gruesome, explicit photographs accompany the horrid details of stories of suffering from Bosnia to Rwanda to Burma. We are easily left wondering about the future of our globe. At the same time, through negotiations are proceeding and peace accords are being signed, from the Middle East to Guatemala. The combination of extensive fighting and a continual search of peace raises interesting questions about where things stand across our globe nearly a decade since the end of the Cold War.....

- John Paul Lederach - 1998

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Unit I: Introduction to Conflict & Peace Studies

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- While there is some controversy about when peace studies began in the United States, it is believed to have commenced in the wake of the American Civil War in the late 1860s.
- In a similar vein, Bengt Thelin in his article, "A Early Tendencies of Peace Education in Sweden", traces the origins of peace studies to the end of the 19th century.
- What does seem clear is that following periods of intense wars (hot and cold), students have pushed colleges and universities on both sides of the Atlantic to pay attention to the problems caused by war. These activities have grown out of peace movement efforts to bring to the consciousness, of politicians and the general public, nonviolent alternatives that would promote the cessation of war.
- Fifty years after the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the existence of 200 peace studies programs on college campuses in North America and Western Europe provides powerful testimony for the desire of human beings to avoid Armageddon by studying peaceful ways to resolve conflicts.

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- From early part of this century, peace research and conflict studies began to emerge as discipline – a process that was significantly accelerated by two World Wars (I&II).
- In 1948 at Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana, the first academic program in peace studies began at a small liberal arts college sponsored by the Brethren Church.
- Peace research institutes were established in Europe in the 1960s, although many of these do not offer formal peace studies courses.
- The field became more prominent after the establishment of these research institutes such as *Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO)* in 1959 and *Stockholm International of Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)* in 1966. *The Journal of Peace Research*, one of the major journals of the field, has been published by PRIO since 1964, along with the *Bulletin of Peace Proposals* begun in 1970.
- As a response to the Vietnam War, Manhattan College, a private Catholic college in New York City, began its peace studies program in 1968, while Colgate University in upper New York state started a program in 1969.

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- Two of the most well-established peace studies programs in Europe are in Sweden, at Gothenburg and Uppsala. The Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, established in 1971 & . The Peace and Development Research Institute (PADRIGU) at Gothenburg University, founded in 1978.
- In England the first school of peace studies was founded at Bradford University in 1973.
- In the 1980s peace studies programs saw huge growth on college campuses as a result of a growing alarm about the production and threatened use of nuclear weapons.
- At the same time peace research became an important field of academic inquiry. Among the key tasks for scholars of these disciplines have been defining the terms and categories of study, as well as devising methodologies and determining data appropriate for scientific research.
- By the middle of the 1980s, peace studies courses in Western Europe and North America focused mostly on international conflict and the threat of nuclear destruction.
- With the end of the Cold War the emphasis of peace studies courses on college campuses shifted somewhat from international politics to the domestic scene, covering issues of structural, domestic, and civil violence.

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- One of the most rapidly developing new centers for peace studies in Europe is the European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU) in Stadtschlaining, Austria, which is funded by the Austrian government. In 1988, UNESCO endorsed the establishment of the EPU, and it had its first pilot semester in 1989 – First Peace Studies University for Peace Studies.
- University for Peace – Costa Rica, UN mandated Peace University started in 1990s in San Jose Costa Rica. It offers various Masters Level Courses on Peace & Conflict Studies.
- Till recently this field was sub - field of Political science within International Relations.
- Now there has been a growing trend of emergence of separate independent Peace Studies and Peace Research Departments in Universities such as Department of Conflict, Peace & Development at Tribhuvan University.

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- Most scholars are accustomed to look at the world through the lenses of the disciplines in which they have been trained. Peace studies, rather than relying on a uni-disciplinary perspective, can provide a unifying ground for political scientists, educators, sociologists, theologians, and philosophers seeking to use their academic skills to shed light on how the problems of violence affect human communities.
- Studies about the problems of violence are so multifaceted that they can not be limited to one discipline. Peace students rely upon a type of rigor not rewarded in traditional academic settings. Many peace studies programs are student centered, based upon dialogue (and not lecture), value laden in their commitment to justice, passionate in their aversion to violent human behavior. Such radical pedagogy has brought forth critics who accuse these new fields of being soft or lacking in rigor.
- Peace Studies has become more conventional and is gaining wider acceptance throughout countries in the West, as citizens are looking for solutions to increased levels of urban crime and domestic violence.

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- Key Figures who contributed for Peace Studies and Peace Research as a discipline is *Johan Galtung* – who is also known as *Father of Peace Studies*.
- He started *PRIO – Peace Research Institute of Oslo* - 1959 and started *Journal of Peace Research (JPR) – 1964*.
- Pacifist who refused to serve for the military and accepted to be locked behind the bars.
- Founder of *TRANSCEND – Leading Peace Workers and Researchers organizations*.
- Founder of *TRANSCEND Peace University – Online Peace University*

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- Leading scholars in Peace Studies are – *Johan Galtung, John Burton, John Paul Lederach, Peter Wallensteen, Kevin Clements, William I Zartman, Lewis Coser, John McDonald, Louise Diamond, Adam Curle, Kenneth Boulding, Elise Boulding, Mary B. Anderson, William Ury, Roger Fisher, Paul Rogers, etc.*
- Leading Peace Makers – *President Jimmy Carter, Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, Kofi Anan, President Oscar Aries, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Johan Galtung, Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari etc.*

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What Profession can we expect to be in?????

- *Peace Researcher*
- *Lectures/Professor/Scholar*
- *Peacekeepers/UN Worker*
- *Mediator/Negotiator*
- *International Peace Organizations such as TCC, IA, ICG, Swiss Peace, Center for Humanitarian Dialogue,*
- *Regional Organizations – EU, OAS, AU, SAARC, ASEAN etc.*
- *Development Agencies such as DFID, CIDA, NORAD, SIDA, USAID*
- *Government Offices – Peace, Defense, Home, Social Welfare, etc.*
- *Military, Armed Police Force and Police Force*
- *Journalists, Documentary Makers, Peace Educationist*
- *Consultant – Peace Projects and Policy Making*
- *NGOs – ASPECT, INPACT*

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Thank You!!!
Questions???



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Next Lecture
30th September 2007 on
Global Conflict Trends & Analysis



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