

## TERMINOLOGY FOR PEACE STUDIES

1. **Negative Peace** - People who are proponents of this approach to peace desire to prevent war through military strength and deterrence. Their motto is "peace through strength." They place credence in an old Roman adage "If you want peace, prepare for war." This approach involves coercion and force to achieve peace. Our class textbook The Third Side described the history of this approach when it described the rise of civilization and the beginning of life in cities. Coercion, compulsion, and force then became the organizing logic of society. The state, organized hierarchically, could force peasants to give food to kings, warriors, scribes and other upper class people. The absolute power of kings came at the expense of others. Egalitarian relationships, which had formerly prevailed, became hierarchical ones. Men were ordered to go to war. Force became the arbiter. People went from communal negotiation to domination, power struggles were common and, if the society was threatened, men were ordered to fight.

As time went on imperialism (one country dominates and controls another country), balance of power (efforts to balance power among states), collective security pacts (NATO, Warsaw Pact, etc), and strategic deterrence (the threat to use nuclear weapons if necessary) were all part of "negative peace". People who adhere to this approach think war and conflict are an inevitable part of life because they think power struggles, scarce resources, and competition for survival are inevitable. They often have a pessimistic view of human nature and feel aggression, territoriality, and misunderstandings are essential parts of life. A scholar and professor at the University of Chicago, John Mearsheimer, epitomized the "negative peace" approach when he deemed nuclear weapons "a powerful force for peace" and encouraged Germany and East European powers to obtain them.

The editor of this book, David Barash, feels "negative peace" is a dangerous and misleading notion which legitimizes the use of violence in settling disputes and gives the nuclear build up legitimacy and momentum. People these days can say "Nuclear deterrence was successful during the Cold War, shouldn't it be successful now?"

2. **Positive peace** - People who adhere to this approach think to abolish war people will have to love and embrace peace in a very positive and constructive way. They want to see peace built on social justice and

fulfillment of basic human needs. This approach holds that we can't simply oppose war, but we must work actively to build peace through economic, social and environmental improvement. The pursuit of "positive peace" involves a minimization of violence, direct violence and structural violence.

3. **Integral Peace** - A third approach to peace is when individuals transform their personal lives as a means to peace at both the societal and international levels. This paradigm emphasizes a direct causal relationship between peace at the "micro level" and peace at the "macro level". Called by some scholars "inner peace" because when individuals are plagued by inner conflicts, doubts, fears and insecurities, they will end to project them outwardly onto others. The focus is on individuals as the locus of peace and changes in power relations. There is an integral relationship between the way individuals think and behave and problems at the larger national and global levels. Attempts by feminists to change power relations is part of integral peace.
4. **Structural violence** as opposed to direct violence - Structural violence is a condition built into many social and cultural institutions where conflict arises because of oppression. These institutions can be racist or sexist, or they can deny rights such as educational opportunities, social and political equality, a sense of self worth, or a healthy natural environment. Structural violence occurs where there are dominance relationships which demean people. Laws can be instruments of oppression when they support racism or sexism. Imperialism involved a dominance relationship between states, and conflicts between center and periphery (Emanuel Wallerstein's theory) involved exploitation of periphery by the center. When people starve to death, or even go hungry, a kind of violence is taking place. When people suffer from preventable diseases, when they are denied housing or prevented from participating in their own governance, a kind of violence is occurring.

Poverty is an underlying cause, as well as an effect, of structural violence. It also lurks behind much of the world's overt violence. Many factors contribute to poverty- overpopulation, environmental degradation, governmental corruption, traditions of helplessness and hopelessness, exploitation by local economic systems as well as by foreign countries and multinational corporations.

Conflict is also rooted in the structure of the international system in some of the organizations and institutions of globalization.

5. Structural peace means conditions where people can fulfill their needs, where they are made to feel comfortable and accepted, not marred by racism or sexism. It is a state where people feel free of oppression.
6. Other terms are human rights, civil disobedience, conscientious objector, civilian-based defense, satyagraha, deep-rooted human needs.