

**Peace Resource Center
of San Diego
Nonviolence Bibliography**

Part 1 – General books on nonviolence

Nonviolence: 25 Lessons from the History of a Dangerous Idea by Mark Kurlansky, 2006. The most readable book on nonviolence written in the English language. The Author has written multiple NY times best-selling books such as Salt a world history. Recommended for first time inquiries into pacifism. Short and includes examples from a wide variety of cultures and religious traditions. Available at San Diego city public library.

Hagan, Kenneth J, Unintended Consequences, The United States at War, 2007. Written by a respected professor at Annapolis war collage. He concretely shows that of the ten major wars fought by our nation all of them created problems more difficult than the problems that the war attempted to solve. Available at SD city public library.

A Force More Powerful, by Steve York available in DVD (from the PBS documentary series) or the more detailed book form. Available at SD city public library.

Bringing Down a Dictator. PBS DVD 2002. Inspiring story of the nonviolent overthrow of the Serbian dictator Slovan Milosevic by idealistic organized youth activists.

Waging Nonviolent Struggle: 20th Century Practice And 21st Century Potential by Gene Sharp, 2005. The chapters are short though the book is long. The most detailed book on the history of nonviolence, by the leading academic researcher of nonviolence. His earliest book Politics of Nonviolent

Conflict defined modern nonviolent thought.

My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr. by Coretta Scott King, 1969. An excellent introduction to his life and work by wife who was deeply devoted to peace. The recent book Growing up King by Dexter King is also an excellent book.

Part 2 - Books dealing with specific approaches to pacifism

Christian Nonviolence

Jesus for President by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw, 2008. Fascinating and artistically unique book by the young leaders of the progressive and radical New Christian Monasticism movement. It actively encourages soldiers to leave the armed forces and to reject and resist the imperial power and wealth of America. Available at SD city public library. His earlier book Irresistible Revolution is a classic of the movement.

The Great awakening, Reviving faith and politics in a post-religious right America, by Jim Wallace, 2008. A leading NY Times best-selling progressive evangelical minister gives his view on the emerging renewal of the American political system and return to nonviolent tradition within Christianity. Forward by Jimmy Carter. Available at SD city public library.

Christian Pacifism, by Michael Snow, 1981. Snow describes war as a force completely opposed to the message of Christianity. This is a useful book if you have a devoutly Christian friend that believes that the Hebrew bible allows us to engage in warfare. To him the example of the exodus from Egypt is an example of the pacifistic nature of God, and the subsequent wars the result of humanities choice to disobey God. He even takes on the Christian writer C.S. Lewis's defense of warfare and

demolishes his arguments in only a few pages. Published in 1981 by Friends United Press.

Muslim nonviolence

1. Nonviolent Soldier of Islam: Badshah Khan, Man to Match his Mountains by Eknath Easwaran, 1986. This heroic story of Badshah Khan [Khan Abdul Gaffer Khan] who founded a Islamic movement [KudiKitmigars] in Pakistan that was non-violent, progressive, and rose to over 100,000 members during the of the struggle for Indian independence. Well-written and inspiring with a deep look into the spiritual outlook that gave birth to his teachings.

2. The Pathan Unarmed by Mukulika Banerjee A scholarly book written by a Hindu British professor. In 1999 she interviewed over 50 aged survivors of the movement who were just as passionately non-violent as when they were young. It will defiantly cure readers of the impression that British Rule was benevolent.

Buddhist Nonviolence

Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life by Thich Nhat Hanh. The famous Vietnamese peace activist and friend of Martin Luther King Jr, gives step-by-step advice on creating peace. Starting within ourselves and moving to encompass the whole world. Available at SD city public library.

Jewish/Secular

Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life. by Marshall Rosenberg. PuddleDancer Press (2003).

Secular / Non-pacifist

Just War by Howard Zinn, 2006. Zinn argues that all wars are unjust. An

excellent book for ideas if you need to convince a secular person of the practicality of non-violence. Taken from a lecture he gave in Rome for a relief organization.

War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death: Norman Solomon. 2005. DVD 2008. Tells how the US starts wars.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, by Ishmael Beah, 2007. Beah, a former boy soldier now turned peace activist tells a disturbing truth: "This is how wars are fought now: by children, traumatized, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s."

Hindu

Gandhi the Man: The Story of His Transformation by Eknath Easwaran, 1997. This short book captures the human side of the great man of peace.

Children's Novels

Flight by Sherman Alexie, 2007. A troubled young Native American man akes a choice between violence and life.

My Brother Sam Is Dead by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier, 1975. A young adult novel set in the American Revolutionary War.

Distributed by:
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September 2009