

## Peace Psychology

A comprehensive introduction to the rapidly growing research area of peace psychology. Both a topic in its own right and studied within courses on peace studies, conflict studies and subsidiaries of psychology, international relations and politics, peace psychology is a practically and theoretically important area. This textbook covers the whole research literature focusing on studies since the end of the Cold War but also incorporating aspects of earlier literature which retain contemporary relevance. The content includes an introductory chapter outlining the growth of the field and goes on to cover interdisciplinary practice (international relations, education, feminist studies and ethics), primary psychological topics (development, social psychology, psychodynamics and cognition), core topics from peace studies (conflict resolution, crisis management, nonviolence, peacemaking and peacebuilding, specific locations such as the Middle East and sustainable development) and terrorism (threats and victims). This is a unique textbook that will appeal to students and practitioners alike.

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*A Comprehensive Introduction*

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Herbert H. Blumberg, A. Paul Hare and  
Anna Costin



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## Preface

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The number of publications concerned with research and practice in the field that has come to be known as peace psychology has been growing rapidly and there are some landmark volumes (which the present work does not in any way replace!), displaying many of the major theoretical and practical contributions – as noted in the Introduction to this book. No prior work that we know of, though, provides a comprehensive review with a usable taxonomy of all of the relevant post-Cold War research. We certainly cannot pretend that the present work cites, much less integrates, *all* of the applicable research – as will be evident from the analysis and figures in the Introduction. We have, however, done our best to fill the need.

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## The scope, structure and content of this book

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The present volume covers, as far as feasible, the whole post-Cold War research literature for the practically and theoretically important area now known as peace psychology. This area includes a spectrum of topics drawn from psychology and its interfaces with other disciplines insofar as they relate to peace and conflict resolution primarily, but by no means exclusively, in an international context. The area is of widespread interest to practitioners, to academics (there being, for example, a substantial number of university courses in peace studies, including psychological aspects) and to the general public.

Psychology's major contributions to conflict resolution and peace studies are, for the most part, fairly readily retrievable, for instance from the key compendia named below. The breadth of published papers within this area is, however, less retrievable, being dispersed across journals and books covering most of the behavioural and social sciences.

Primary present coverage is of the post-Cold War period from 1990 to 2003. Of course we do not hesitate to cite major earlier work, but to include it comprehensively would be beyond the scope of a single volume. Moreover, pre-1990 classified bibliographic work is already available in a volume compiled by Blumberg and French (1992) and also compilations by B. M. Kramer and Moyer (1991) and Müller-Brettel (1993a). For notes on seventeen early peace psychologists (including Pythagoras and Pavlov!), see Rudmin (1991).

The present volume is intended to provide a comprehensive introduction to research in peace psychology, perhaps offering a synthesis and bibliographic complement to existing compendia of core contributions. In their landmark compendium of peace psychology, Christie, Wagner and Winter (2001) describe the field as covering psychological aspects of direct and indirect conflict (especially at intercultural and international levels), and particularly as covering the means of addressing conflict: peacekeeping and peacemaking – as a response to direct conflict – and peacebuilding, to address and prevent indirect or institutionalized



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violence. Their collection includes papers by many of the main researchers and practitioners in the field (for subsequent views of the ‘state of the art’ see Christie, 2006).

Approximately fifteen years before them, while the Cold War was still unfolding, Ralph White (1986) assembled papers covering the foundations of work in this area. Deutsch’s (1986) chapter in that volume provides a well-balanced and moving summary of major psychological approaches and contributions. S. Staub and Green (1992), too, gathered key papers covering much of peace psychology. Arguably, Claggett Smith (1971) was the first to assemble a volume of the then major behavioural science perspectives on conflict and its resolution. Authors of earlier work, some of which is represented in Smith’s compendium, include Deutsch (e.g. Deutsch and Krauss, 1960), Escalona (1982), Kogan, Osgood (1962), Schwebel (1965) and Sherif (Sherif and Sherif, 1953) – and, in other related fields, distinguished scholars such as Kenneth and Elise Boulding and Talcott Parsons among others. William James, who wrote in 1910 about the moral equivalent of war, has been described as the first peace psychologist (Christie, Wagner and Winter, 2001: 2; Deutsch, 1995).

The compendia named above include within them work by ‘key’ contributors to peace psychology; among the main contemporary contributors, many more, but obviously not all, are represented in papers published in *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* (the journal of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence: Peace Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association), whose founding and subsequent editors, respectively, are Milton Schwebel (Roe, McKay and Wessells, 2003; Winter, 2003) and Richard Wagner.

The present volume is intended to provide and synthesize a fairly comprehensive set of references related to the topics of peace psychology. The reality is probably more modest. Based on the degree of convergence among previous, roughly parallel bibliographic efforts, we reckon that for every two items we have cited, there is probably at least one that does not essentially duplicate material we have otherwise covered, is worth citing and was published in the relevant time span – but that we do not (yet) know about!

Many of the articles and books cited in this volume were read in full. For many others, however, an abstract in a bibliographic database was our primary source of information concerning the relevance of the research for the analysis of psychological aspects of conflict resolution and peace.

The main corpus of material for the present volume was retrieved using the search strategy employed by Blumberg and French (1992)

(see below). The retrieved materials were then sorted according to the classification scheme developed by Blumberg (1993, 1998). This scheme, updated for the present contemporary purpose, forms the basis for the table of contents of the present volume.

### Contents

This volume does *not* cover general treatments of the various topics (such as aggression and attitudes) but focuses on work that bears on peace and related topics, usually in an international context. Some of the description below is based on Blumberg (1998).

In Part I an introductory chapter describes the growth of peace psychology and delineates ways in which the field can be organized and the material applied.

Part II covers key interdisciplinary work from the interface of psychology and other fields. Political scientists, in particular, have increasingly included psychological variables (relating to perception and to power, for example) among their concerns. In this section we also cover research related to peace education (such as categories included in Deutsch's comprehensive recommendations for effective education for a peaceful world) and a relatively small but important corpus of publications concerned with typically feminist approaches to achieving and maintaining a broad-based peace. A further chapter in this section pertains to historical, religious, philosophical and ethical matters – such as principled nonviolence and threats to professional neutrality.

The chapters in part III cover work from several major areas of psychology. For this section, in particular, the organization follows from extant research.

Developmental psychology covers most core psychological areas but through a specialized filter. Developmental work considers ways of dealing with the effects of war on children and adolescents (as part of general populations and in particular as victims) and also with the rehabilitation of child soldiers. Of special concern is how children's fears of war can be addressed constructively.

Relevant aspects of several core areas – attitudes (within social psychology), psychodynamics (personality), cognition and also aggression – are brought together as parts of a single chapter. The section on attitudes draws on eclectic approaches, but especially those relating to social identity and mutual perceptions of 'ingroups' and 'outgroups'.

Psychodynamics here refers not only to personality and psychopathology but also to aspects of public health, concerning effects both on

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general populations and on the victims and perpetrators of violence. Much of the work (some of it displayed under ‘attitudes’ rather than ‘psychodynamics’ per se) consists of empirical studies of special populations, such as holocaust survivors, war veterans and simply clients in psychotherapy.

Cognition, as such, is the focus of surprisingly little research in peace psychology, but the topics from a variety of other chapters bear on perceptual matters, and these are extracted and covered in the separate chapter on cognition. For example, according to research findings on prospect theory, in making decisions people are more risk averse for gains than for losses – a cognitive matter that has implications for peace-building. This chapter also includes publications concerned with images – of the effects of war, on cooperation and on desired futures. A further section deals with the nature and effects of aggression. This also includes recent work on the (lack of) inevitability of violence and negative conflict.

Somewhat like developmental psychology, research on language and communication – constituting the final chapter in this block – relates to various areas of psychology (and some other disciplines as well) including most facets of peace psychology. In fact this chapter is organized according to (a) links with international relations and other disciplines and (b) primary psychological and related topics.

Finally, some core areas of psychology such as motivation and learning have obvious relevance to conflict resolution and peace but are left out of the chapter titles and headings altogether because, for the most part, relevant research has not been framed explicitly in terms of these fields of psychology.

Part IV concerns psychological aspects of core topics in peace studies. Conflict resolution is central and here emphasizes practice related to international peace but also includes all levels from intrapersonal to international, and covers both theory and practice (such as Pruitt’s and Bercovitch and Rubin’s findings and recommendations with regard to third-party mediation). A chapter on decision-making and crisis management deals with risk assessment, crisis behaviour (stress and coping), and effective decision-making.

Material on peace movements and on nonviolence is especially varied, covering resources, participants, goals and leadership, and basic values. ‘Some themes have centred on the ongoing need for workshops and other forms of training in nonviolent action, peacemaking, and peacekeeping’ and on ‘applications of direct action to peace-linked concerns such as achieving sustainable development and ameliorating discrimination’ based on prejudice (Blumberg, 1998: 26).

This part also includes psychological aspects of peacemaking and peacebuilding in a broad variety of contemporary and also historical international contexts (linking, for example, to attitude- and cognition-focused research covered in Part III).

A substantial literature (and hence a relatively long chapter) focuses on specific locations, particularly (and not surprisingly) the Middle East and also Russia and the former Soviet Union.

Relevant work on sustainable development represents a crucial multifaceted objective associated with addressing structural violence and hence forms the concluding chapter of this section. The research, both theoretical and practical, deals with a variety of problems (including environmental threats, defined broadly) in various arenas, from individual behaviour to large-scale public policy.

Part V includes two chapters on terrorism. One covers terrorist threats (crisis intervention; specific forms of threat; understanding and dealing with terrorists; and interdisciplinary topics) and the other is concerned with victims of terrorism (effects on children; psychodynamic and other effects on adult victims; relevant aspects of crisis intervention).

The former chapter includes, for example, material on antecedents of terrorism and the (situational and dispositional) circumstances under which people are recruited to terrorist groups. It also looks at 'rehabilitation' work, such as Wessells's description of psychosocial assistance for former child soldiers in Angola. The latter chapter includes (topical) work on dealing with trauma, a 'near neighbour' of Macy's despair work (which is noted in chapter 2 and is also relevant to psychodynamic matters in chapter 7). This complements the more global efforts at peacebuilding, covered in chapters 12, 13 and 14 – ranging from peacebuilding to working generally towards a sustainably just and peaceful world.

### Search strategy

The search strategy used for retrieving much of the material covered in the present volume is essentially as follows, although it was adapted for different databases (which indexed material in different ways) and time periods.

Freetext searching (where \* indicates possible truncation) for:

1. (peace\* or disarm\* or arms race) OR
2. (nuclear or atom\*) followed by (bomb or deterrence or weapon\* or war or arm\* or threat\* or image or freeze\*) OR

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3. (international) followed by (bargain\* or mediat\* or negotiat\* or nonagressi\* or nonviolen\* or security or relations or conflict\*)

The above strategy is deliberately liberal, retrieving many irrelevant items that were deleted manually. In addition, of course, we have included materials called to our attention from a variety of other sources.