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Robert H. Stockman
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THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH, VIOLENCE, AND NON-VIOLENCE

Robert H. Stockman
Wilmette Institute



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ABSTRACT: Both violence and non-violence are important themes in the Bahá'í Faith, but their relationship is not simple. The Bahá'í sacred writings see violence in the world – not just against Bahá'ís, but physical and structural violence against everyone – as being a consequence of the immature state of human civilization. The Bahá'í community itself has been non-violent since its founding by Bahá'u'lláh in the mid-nineteenth century and has developed various strategies for responding to persecution non-violently. This Element explores how the Bahá'í scriptures provide a blueprint for building a new, more mature, culture and civilization on this planet where violence will be rare and non-violence prevalent.

KEYWORDS: Bahá'í Faith, violence, non-violence, jihad, unity

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