

Peace sciences

(Peace studies)

Founded in the early 60's by Johan Galtung and others, peace studies sciences have as a purpose the study and work for all aspects of peace, specially :

- **The definition of peace**
 - o Negative peace (absence of violence).
 - o Positive peace (harmony, peace building, culture of peace, peaceful means for conflict prevention and transformation, etc.).
- **The definition of violence**
 - o Direct violence.
 - o Structural violence (colonialism, sexism, racism, militarism, etc).
 - o Cultural violence (justifying the other two types of violence and violence within culture or culture promoting violence).
- **Conflict analysis**
 - o Fault-lines (Language. Religions. Resource. Etc).
 - o Social and political inequalities
 - o Peace incentives, conflict prone elements
 - o All the actors involved
 - Constructive actors
 - Conflict « entrepreneurs » (holding vested interests to promote conflict)
 - o Factors that stimulate the conflict in almost all cases of international conflicts (the absence of channels for political expression and the presence of weapons) or factors that are pacifying (popular conferences, incentives towards peace, trade, tourism, peace journalism, human rights re-balance, peace education, popular pressure, etc.).
- **Conflict development, prevention and transformation**

The three phases

 - **Prevention, before the conflict.**
Early warning mechanisms. Studies on the impact on peace of public or private policies (PCIA). Security rate analysis. Non-conflictive mechanism for conflict transformation. Human security. Disarmament. Human right to peace. Do no harm, etc.
 - **Intervention, during the conflict.**
Diplomacy at all levels (multi-track diplomacy). Peace maintaining. Peace building.
 - **Reconciliation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, after the conflict.**
Forgiveness and peaceful conflict transformation mechanism, actual and for the future. Truth commissions. Democracy. Armament limitation and suppression. Etc.
- **Other topics... Numerous possibilities ...**

Peace science legitimizes political action for peace. It provides for people and politicians a rational basis for further work for peace as well as practical tools. Peace science allows the escape from the “defense-aggression” syndrome, stepping toward policies that actually are benefiting populations and the future, and subsequently are in full harmony with sustainable development.

To find out more, please contact APRED :

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