

PROCESSES OF PEACE AND SECURITY

Úrsula Oswald Spring

CRIM/UNAM/MRF Chair UNU-EHS, México

Keywords: Peace-building; ahimsa; conflict resolution, globalization, Human, Gender and Environmental Security: HUGE; inequity, environment; cultural diversity; Anthropocene; livelihood; disasters

Contents

1. Some General Comments
 2. Key Messages of this Volume
 3. Some Conclusive Ideas
- Glossary
Bibliography
Biographical Sketch

Summary

The present chapter introduces twenty chapters which analyses the relation among traditional and modern security concerns, peace, development and environment. The globalization process and the global environmental change is creating for humanity and for peace keepers new challenges, due that military and nation state security is unable to protect people from disasters, social inequity and poverty. First, a short introduction explains the processes of changes after the end of the Cold War. Later, peace and security specialists are analyzing the threats and risks created by changing global environmental conditions. They proposed a widened and deepened concept of security. Early waning and sustainable development can mitigate the ongoing deterioration process. To maintain peace in these conflictive situations a profesionalization of peace research and mediation may create consensual agreements and cooperation. This is challenging the most common violence, the gender one. Through peace and citizens education and reinforced by human rights and peace museums a consciousness rising is taking place. Thus a culture of courage is created that is needed for democratization and transparency, where social movements are creating nonviolent civil resistance to protect humankind and environment against regressive globalization.

“Individuality is and is not even as each drop in the ocean is an individual and is not. It is not because apart from the ocean it has no existence. It is because the ocean has no existence if the drop has not, i.e., has no individuality. They are beautifully interdependent. And if this is true of the physical law, how much more so of the spiritual world”

M.K. Gandhi., Letter to P.G. Mathew, 8th September 1930

1. Some General Comments

The key interest of the different chapters of this book on *International Security, Peace, Development and Environment* is to explore key elements of human life, such as peace (Elise Boulding 2000), future, nature, spirituality (Martin Luther King 1998) and wellbeing and to link them together in a comprehensive way to the concept of

nonviolent conflict resolution (Mohandas Gandhi 1993; Pietro Ameglio 2004). The world is a complex mosaic of different regional and socio-cultural interests and conflicts are understood as motors of change. Globally some common desires have historically evolved. Every person and community wants to live in a healthy and peaceful environment without threats to its life, food and livelihood (Bennhold-Thomsen/Mies 1999). Therefore, this book explores from a multidisciplinary point of view and from different continents and cultural backgrounds, ideas and desires on the relationship among security, development, peace and environment. It tries to link them for creating nonviolent conflict resolution processes for diverse cultural and spiritual contexts in the new era of Anthropocene.

The world has changed during the last fifty years of intensive globalization processes and conflicts have shifted from a narrow Cold War scenario in the 1990's to a North-South confrontation. With the exception of the Yugoslavian war, the European countries have integrated into the European Union, compensating less developed regions with special programs to gradually overcome the differences among its member countries. The United States are trying to deal with its new role as the sole superpower. With Europe they missed the opportunity to transform their military industries into peaceful economic processes, because they were threatened by a potential recession.

Furthermore, the U.S. past and present economic model has relied on cheap energy. The waste of fossil energy has created new global environmental threats due to global climate change, which have increasingly produced not only environmental insecurity but also threats to humankind. Scarce energy resources are today creating for the USA a temptation for violent appropriation, and the Iraq War is one of the most extreme outcomes how to obtain control over increasingly scarce resources (*Other destabilization processes were induced in Nigeria, Congo, Venezuela, Sudan, etc. and before in Angola, Indonesia, Timor, etc. They are expressions and control mechanisms of former colonial and superpowers behavior with the intention of the appropriation of cheap, often scarce resources*) in the Middle East such as oil, but also water, and thus also irrigated land.

Europe decided to overcome its traumatic war experience with a new organization and a mandate to resolve further conflicts peacefully. The European Community transformed itself into the European Union, with a free interchange of goods, people and a process of compensating internal gaps through development programs. This offered South European countries the opportunities to develop and to integrate fully into the present model of production. With the amplification of Europe to the East, the former East European countries controlled by the Soviet Union are now trying to catch up their technological and economic handicaps and to achieve a similar level of well-being as for the rest of Europe.

With the end of the Cold War and the overcoming of the bipolar international order, the former Soviet Union during the 1990's entered a rapid process of disintegration of its former countries. Its prevailing military competition and deterrence doctrine became obsolete, the Warsaw Pact collapsed and COMECON disintegrated. The whole region suffered an intensive process of impoverishment, but the abundance of Russians fossil energy sources permitted a rapid recovery and empowerment due to the energy dependence of Europe. Structural problems and a missing culture of democracy could soon be compensated due to the highly trained people. Today Russia is a member of the

G-8 group, and is thus cooperating with the richest and most influential countries.

Finally, the USA remains the only superpower. The consolidation of their democratic institutions, their productivity and economic leadership has permitted them to launch two wars in Afghanistan (2001) and in Iraq (2003). However, as with any empire that has tried to resolve the main global problems, this has resulted in internal economic instability, high budget deficits and negative trade balance and rapidly growing debts. Externally, both with their policies on global climate and environmental change and their narrow homeland security, they have isolated themselves and lost their reputation with many people in Europe and elsewhere. Its backyard behavior in Latin America (John Saxe Fernández 1999), its competition with Europe and its hegemonic behavior in Asia has further isolated the USA.

In the southern countries, the post-war configuration and the competition between both superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union (USRR), for primary resources and influence created tensions and conflicts outside their countries. The competition was transferred to the South as proxy wars, where the legal and illegal arms trade and local war lords have created failed states and ethnic conflicts above all in Africa. In Asia complex constellations and contradictory processes were induced and used by local politicians. With Gandhi's *ahimsa* (nonviolence; Mohandas Gandhi 1996) and the social mobilization India gained its independence from the United Kingdom. However, the colonial borders, insecurity and a longstanding conflict with Pakistan led to the separation from India and later also of Bangladesh. This highly conflictive heritage led to several wars and continuing armed confrontations. Both Pakistan and India developed their nuclear weapons.

In several other Asian countries liberation processes resulted from painful separation as during the Korean War. China is still trying to integrate Taiwan into the mainland. During the war Vietnam suffered an enormous loss of human lives. Its ecology has been affected by the massive spraying of the rainforest with herbicides. After the defeat of South Vietnam and its U.S. ally in 1976, Vietnam was reunited. The USSR also lost the war in Afghanistan for hegemony. The previous military support for the Afghan freedom fighters against the Soviet Union by U.S. intelligence agencies contributed to the present global terrorism threat directly affecting its previous supporters and the security of the North American people.

After the end of the Cold War, the rapid disintegration of the former Soviet Union with its arsenal of nuclear warheads and a certain loss of control over its arms arsenal and enriched uranium supplies has increased the danger not only for a specific region, but for global stability. All 15 former Soviet Republics became independent. Several threats posed by undemocratic governments controlled by ethnic clans created failed states. Additional challenges have been aggravated by adverse environmental conditions (see the Aral Sea shrinking, the progressing desertification process and the pollution in the Caucasus due to oil extraction and transportation).

In South, Southeast and East Asia separatist movements brought about regional autonomy. The arms trade fueled a conflictive uprising (Sri Lanka). Furthermore democratization processes flourished in South Korea and Taiwan. Most Asian countries

try to maintain order by repression. Cambodia has suffered one of the cruelest genocides in human history. Together with economic improvements these processes also induced peace and democratization processes in Asia, recently in East Timor (and unstable again) and in Aceh (Sumatra).

Furthermore, the ability of the Far East and South East Asia (China, small Asian Tigers and India) to prosper with economic development and technological improvement has pushed this region fully into the globalization process (Kaplan 2002). By supporting education, science and technology, during the last two decades these countries transformed the whole region into a major economic player that was able to conquer markets and create jobs for its rapidly growing society. Today the *purchase power parity* (PPP) of many Asian citizens is already comparable to Europe and North America, by opening a large internal market. It is also the region with the highest rate of poverty reduction. Their high level of investment in education, science and technology is creating a bright future for the present and coming generations. This is the only region that was able to reduce substantially hunger in the former traditional rural societies.

However, the new development processes have also aggravated rural-urban gaps and induced environmental destruction. Thus, the high population growth rate (with exception of China and some smaller countries); the massive industrialization has taken place at the cost of the environment and agriculture, and the intensive (ab)-use of natural resources has created new threats for health and survival. The huge 'brown cloud' over China and India due to inadequate energy management (burning of coal, cow dung, firewood and massive transportation systems) has threatened the health of their people and the future development and quality of life.

Latin America developed in a different way. World War II offered the opportunity to promote an economic process of substitution of importation with a stable development and improvements of the quality of life for its population until the military coups occurred in the 1970's and 1980's. The post-war period was characterized first by an intensive industrialization and urbanization process. Later, during the Cold War, due to its geostrategic position in the vicinity of the USA, Cuba obtained economic and military support from the Soviet Union. During the Cold War the USA developed the domino theory. They supported both directly and indirectly, the ousting of progressive democratically elected governments by military coups. Later, they induced a neoliberal model which was supported by the local bourgeoisie, who was allied with military and dictatorial regimes without any human rights considerations. Thus, since the 1970's, internal repression, dirty wars and the consolidation of small local elites widened the existing internal gaps.

These repressive governments supported the economic transformation from a model of import substitution with stable economic growth to a neoliberal model with low growth rates and an increasing concentration of wealth. The privatization and transnationalization of the economy strengthened the local bourgeoisie. As a result the dependence on international business and the USA increased. During and after the Cold War the Organization of American States (OAS) stabilized this process. Furthermore, through its Structural Adjustment Program (SAPs), the World Bank and the

International Monetary Fund increased the concentration of wealth within these countries and between North and South. In 2006, Latin America obtained direct foreign investments amounting to 15 billion US\$ but it simultaneously transferred 180 billion US\$ to industrialized countries. Thus, for most people in Latin American the last three decades were lost development opportunities, and the number of poor people increased. Today, this subcontinent has the highest concentration of wealth. It also has the second richest man in the world (Forbes 2007) while 55 million persons suffer from hunger and half of its population lives in poverty (CEPAL 1980-2006).

Both some European countries and human rights activists in North America forced the U.S. government to reduce its military support for authoritarian governments. The emerging new democratization process fostered human rights and strengthened democratic processes and institutions. During the 1990's, the military and authoritarian regimes were replaced by democratically elected governments. More recently the electorate voted for progressive governments who have tried to reduce the income gap with progressive taxation, democratic land reform and in some cases with the nationalization of natural resources (Venezuela, Bolivia).

In Africa, since independence a process of neo-colonialism, of unjust terms of trade and an increase of tribal tensions and unresolved border conflicts emerged due to the colonial heritage and the proxy wars. When the Cold War ended, small arms and other military equipment produced in Europe and USA were redirected -often illegally- to war lords and dictatorial governments, who consolidated their regimes with despotic rules and internal repression. The results have been internal conflicts and failed states, increasing poverty, tyrannical rulers and severe health problems (e.g. HIV-AIDS, UNFPA 2004), that have been reinforced by low levels of education and hunger. In this complex situation, South Africa replaced Apartheid, one of the cruelest systems of rule, and transformed peacefully into a diverse political system with a multiracial participation. This is an example how *ahimsa* has enhanced peace, democracy and a participative government.

The South (Asia, Latin America and Africa) and the North (Europe, North America and Australia) experienced differently the Cold War and post-Cold War era, the environmental destruction and the integration into a globalized world system based on instant global financial flows, instantaneous communication and an increasing cultural homogenization.

Therefore, peace and development processes have developed differently around the globe. This created new and regionally specific security and equity concerns (Amartya Sen 1995), which are beyond the traditional narrow military and national security issues. Furthermore, the unsustainable management of the environment created new threats linked to global environmental and climate change.

Since the industrial revolution, the North has historically been responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, while the South has primarily suffered the effects of extreme hydro-meteorological events. These countries often lack the financial and technical capacity as well as resilience building to deal with these new dangers and to protect their people against these new threats.

-
-
-

TO ACCESS ALL THE 20 PAGES OF THIS CHAPTER,
Visit: <http://www.eolss.net/Eolss-sampleAllChapter.aspx>

Bibliography

Ameglio Patella, Pietro (2004). "Defensa noviolenta de una ciudad contra las megatiendas Cosco-Comercial Mexicana, in: Úrsula Oswald Spring (2004, ed.). *Resolución noviolenta de conflictos en sociedades indígenas y minorías*, Coltlax, CLAIP, Fundación IPRA, F. Böll, Mexico, D.F.: 405-424. [Modernization processes create in rapid growing town in the South conflicts among the territorial occupation of scarce land reserves. A model of nonviolent resistance is developed to improve the negotiation process of powerless people.]

Bennhold-Thomsen, Veronika and Maria Mies, 1999: *The subsistence Perspective: Beyond the Globalized Economy*, Zed Books London, UK. [An integral approach of peace building and conflict resolution with grass-root experiences.]

Boulding, Elise (2000). *Cultures of Peace The Hidden Side of History*, (New York: Syracuse University Press). [An integral approach of peace building and conflict resolution with grass-root experiences.]

Brauch, Hans Günter (2005). *Threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks of environmental an human security*, UNU-EHS, Source 1, UNU, Bonn, Germany. [Development of conceptual and analytical tools for understanding human and environmental security.]

Brauch, Hans Günter, Úrsula Oswald Spring, Czeslaw Mesjasz, John Grin, Pal Dunay, Navnita Chadha Behera, Béchir Chourou, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Liotta, P.H. (Eds., 2008). *Globalisation and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualising Security in the 21st Century*. Springer Verlag, Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace, vol. 3, Berlin, Germany, i.p.

CEPAL (1980-2006). *Balance Preliminar de la Economía en América Latina*. Santiago, Chile: CEPAL. [Latin America data bank, which systematically analyzes the macroeconomic data and its social implications.]

Dalby, Simon (2002). *Environmental Security*, University of Minnesota Press, Minnesota, USA. [A critical revision of the theories of environmental security.]

Gandhi, Mohandas K. (1993). *An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, Sissela Book, USA. [During his life Gandhi experimented different ways of active nonviolence bringing India o independence.]

Gandhi, Mohandas K. (1996, 2nd ed.). *Non-violence in Peace and War*, Penguin Books, London, UK. [Active nonviolence is a deep way to find peace also during war times.]

Galtung, Johan (2004). *Transcend & Transform*, London, Boulder CO: Pluto, Paradigm Press [It represents the focus on transcendental peace-building with mediation processes, anger control and peace culture].

Galtung, Johan (2007). "Conflict Transformation By Peaceful Means", in: Charles Webel and Johan Galtung (eds.), *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, London: Routledge, forthcoming [The chapter analyses the process of conflict transformation using nonviolent means satisfying basic needs, promoting peace culture and creating peace structure, where mediation for conflict transformation by peaceful means is the goal and anger is controlled].

Kaplan, Marcos (2002). *Estado y globalización*, UNAM, Mexico, D.F. [Globalization is threatening the traditional understanding of sovereignty and national state, obliging to adapt to a global economy and

instantaneous communication.]

King, Martin Luther (1998, ed. By Clayborne Carson). *The Autobiography by Martin Luther King*, Warner Books, Nueva York, USA. [Bottom-up approach to change the racism in USA through active nonviolence.]

Saxe Fernández, John (1999, coord). *Globalización: Crítica a un Paradigma*, UNAM. IIEc y Plaza Janés, Mexico, D.F. [Globalization had different outcomes among social classes and regions. Therefore the effects of globalization are also very different and induce in multiples parts of the South resistance processes.]

Sen, Amartya (1995). *Inequality reexamined*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, USA. [Inequalities are socially constructed and through the present system of late capitalism reinforced structurally.]

UN Millennium Project (2005). *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, Report to the UN Secretary-General, Earthscan London and Sterling, Virginia, USA. [The evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals have shown that the process is not progressing at proposed, due to socially constructed inequity and highly capital dependency of poor countries.]

UNESCO (2002). *Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*, UNESCO, Paris, France. [Cultural diversity is a “common heritage of humanity” and a human right for people and communities. It protects the material and immaterial cultural goods and promotes tolerance and citizen participation in a democratic framework.]

UNFPA (2004). *The State of World Population 2004: The Cairo Consensus at Ten: Population, Reproductive Health and the Global Effort to End Poverty*, p. 76. New York: UNFPA. [The evolution of world population is concentrated in the South and in urban poor slums, which brings problems of reproductive health, illnesses and social violence.]

Biographical Sketch

Úrsula Oswald Spring, was a full time professor and researcher during 28 years at the National University of Mexico, in the Regional Multidisciplinary Research Center (CRIM). During 1992 to 1998 she was the first Minister of Ecological Development in the State of Morelos and former General Attorney of Ecology in the same state. She is trained at university level in anthropology, ecology, medicine, philosophy, psychology, modern and classic languages. She has coordinated 25 multidisciplinary studies and 12 disciplinary one. From 1998 to 2000 se was President of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) and is founder member and Secretary General of CLAIP (Latin-American Peace Research Association) 2002-2006; President of Green World Association; President of the Scientific Commission of International Environmental Law, member of the Universal Movement for Scientific Responsibility, and Latin-American’s Coordinator of Diverse Women for Diversity and coordinator of the Adviser Committee of the Peasant University in South Mexico.

She has written 37 books; 8 Technical Reports for UN; 198 scientific articles and chapters of books, published in different languages, about issues related to development, sustainable model of the world, peasants, food security, peace research and conflict resolution, genetic psychology, environmental education, integral water, sewage and waste management, organic agro systems, water conflicts and hydro-diplomacy, bioremediation, nitrogen fixation from the air to the soil, micro propagation of plants, biological control of pests in agriculture and forestry. She has developed an integral concept of security: Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE). During the last 35 years she was adviser of rural and urban grass-root organizations, ecological and governmental dependencies, interested in sustainable development and culturally diverse development models.