## 6 Perspectives of Nonviolence (Based on Evolution of the Peace)

**Nonviolence as Any Action to Prevent War**
- Peace can be defined as a state of non-war
- Actions that maintain such a peace can similarly be defined as nonviolent—even when they involve threatening to use military force
- Nuclear deterrence is an example of nonviolent action under this view of peace. Many people in the military and politics in both countries and their allies—given the dynamics of the Cold War—sincerely believed that nuclear weapons were a necessary deterrent to war.

**Nonviolence as Actions to Maintain the Balance in the International System**
- Nonviolence as "war without weapons," based on Gene Sharp's functional interpretation of nonviolence, (Sharp, 1973) becomes appropriate for maintaining and adjusting the balance of forces.
- Sharp's model of fragile power argues that power is fragile because the balance of social forces that maintain it can be changed by concerted, group nonviolent action
- Peace involved a dynamic balance between various social, economic, political and technological forces (Wright) although he placed more emphasis on the international system level of analysis, and Sharp focused more on the community level of analysis.

**Structural Nonviolence**
- Changing such structures was a fundamental task for peace research (Galtung). For example, even though there is enough food in the world to feed everyone, millions die from starvation every year because of the structure of the international economic system.
- A nonviolent international (or domestic) economic system would ensure that no one would starve as long as there was enough food in the world (or country) to feed them.

**Feminist Nonviolence—on Macro and Micro Levels**
- Includes nonviolent relationships and structures on all levels of human society, both macro and micro.
- Feminist nonviolence is not limited to the behavior of states or the structure of the international system; it includes nonviolent behavior in the community and the home, and nonviolent political, economic and social structures at all levels of society.
- Feminist nonviolence also involves peaceful behavior between individuals, as well as between states.

**Holistic Gaia Peace and Nonviolence**
- A natural extension of the original feminist position. Indeed, many feminists (following Rachel Carson's lead)
- Expanded their original ideas into ecofeminism, where a peaceful relationship with the environment is seen as paramount, embodying, as it does, the central feminist principle of "power with" rather than "power over."
- Includes nonviolent actions at every level, nonviolent structures at every level, and nonviolent processes and relationships between all living beings. (ex. environmentalism, vegetarianism, and animal welfare issues)

**Holistic Inner and Outer Peace and Nonviolence**
- Holistic definitions of nonviolence have of course been present in the Western literature for a considerable time,
- With Eastern traditions in general, and Gandhi in particular, having made the greatest contribution to our understanding of this spiritually-based type of nonviolence.

adapted from:

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