

Notes on Recommended Readings for the  
Seminar on the State of the Art in Peace and Conflict Studies  
by Joyce Neu

In trying to capture the different perspectives on what is variously called peace studies, peace research, conflict studies, conflict resolution (which, for brevity, are referred to here as peace and conflict studies), I hope I have assembled readings that reflect the diversity of views, the multiplicity of disciplinary backgrounds from which peace and conflict researchers come, and the historical evolution of the field. I have included works by key scholars, such as Johan Galtung (often regarded as the father of peace studies), Herbert Kelman, Louis Kriesberg, and Peter Wallensteen, who have each made significant contributions to the field. They have mentored and taught many of those who are now active in the field. I have included several articles by Kelman, Kriesberg, and Wallensteen who represent important, but different disciplines which have contributed significantly to our understanding of human conflict. Kelman is a psychologist who has developed the well-known and well-respected interactive problem-solving model to address parties in conflict and Kriesberg is a sociologist who has studied the causes of conflict escalation and de-escalation. Kelman formed the Project in International Conflict Analysis and Resolution (PICAR) at Harvard and Kriesberg was instrumental in the development of Syracuse University's Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict (PARC). Wallensteen is a political scientist who created the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University (Sweden) and who has specialized in the causes of war, producing each year basic data on the previous year's conflicts for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's annual publication.

Some of the articles here peg the beginning of peace studies in 1959 with the advent of the Oslo Peace Research Institute (known as PRIO) (Galtung) or with the publication of the Journal of Peace Research, launched by PRIO in 1964 (Soroos). Others place the beginnings with the founding of the Center for Research on Conflict Resolution at the University of Michigan in 1956 (Soroos) or with that Center's publication of the Journal of Conflict Resolution in 1957 (Soroos). Lopez and Kriesberg note that Manchester College in Indiana offered the first curriculum in the U.S. in peace studies in 1948. The founding of the Research Exchange on the Prevention of War in 1952 is cited by Kelman as the start of the peace research movement. But Kriesberg (2001) suggests that the foundations for the field came in 1938 with case studies on the outbreak of large-scale conflicts.

As is the case in any discipline, scholars in peace and conflict studies routinely ask themselves questions about what it is that binds them as a field. In this particular case, they are asking this from the vantage point of different academic disciplines – making formulating common ground and future trends all the more challenging.

I hope that this selection of articles reflects, in some modest way, a part of the scholarship and contributions to human knowledge and understanding of peace and conflict studies that have helped shape many of the many dozens of university level undergraduate and graduate programs in the U.S. and internationally since the 50s.

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### **October 25, 2004**

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