Peace Psychology: Institutionalization

Daniel J. Christie
Professor Emeritus of Psychology
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USA
Doomsday Clock: Minutes to Midnight (Nuclear War)

US President Ronald Reagan
Reagan as Political Realist

- Hobbesian worldview: Belief that human nature is inherently competitive and selfish

- Belief in state sovereignty
  - Supreme authority over its citizens
  - Not subject to legal control by other states
  - Right to raise taxes and wage war

- Goals of States:
  - preserve power
  - expand power
  - demonstrate power
Price of State Sovereignty = Anarchy!
The Evil Empire Speech

I urge you to beware the temptation … of blithely declaring yourselves above it all and label both sides [United States & Soviet Union] equally at fault, to ignore the facts of history and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire, to simply call the arms race a giant misunderstanding and thereby remove yourself from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil ….

[The Soviet Leaders] are the focus of evil in the modern world (Ronald Reagan, 1983, p. 363-364)
Psychologists for Social Responsibility
(Established in USA, 1982)

Psychologists for Social Responsibility
Building Cultures of Peace with Social Justice

Who We Are

Psychologists for Social Responsibility is an independent, non-profit organization that applies psychological knowledge and skills to build cultures of peace with justice. Our members are psychologists, students, and other social justice advocates in the U.S. and around the world.

Founded over 25 years ago, PsySR develops and promotes resources for creative, non-violent, participatory approaches to the most pressing social issues of our time. To hear directly from some of our members about the work of PsySR, click on the thumbnails below.

Tony Marselle  Ray Easterling  Herb Kelman  Julie Lewitt  Erwin Staub

Melinda Montgomery  Nadella Balasingh  Diane Perlman  Lorenzo Sanders  Linden Nelson

In addition to many ongoing projects, this year we are highlighting four themes for action: Ending Torture, Promoting Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, Exploring Psychological Dimensions of Climate Change, and Promoting Peace Education.

Ending Torture
Torture is unequivocally unethical and illegal. Psychologists, because they have played a central role in...
Euromissiles: Deployed in 1983

Pershing II Missile

Ground Launched Cruise Missile
Welcome!

International Network of Psychologists for Social Responsibility (INPsSR)

Here you can find the [German report](http://www.friedenspsychologie.de/) of the latest activities of the International Network of Psychologists for Social Responsibility.

Gert Sommer Award for Peace Psychology 2008

From 8th to 9th June 2008, the 21st annual conference of the Forum Peace Psychology took place in Marburg. At the conference the Gert-Sommer-Prize for Peace Psychology 2008 was awarded to this year's laureate, Dr. Martina Diedrich, German Institute for International Educational Research, for her dissertation on the subject "Democratic School Culture: Meaning and Survey of a Quality Characteristic of Schools."

Survey on job opportunities in peace psychology

The Forum Peace Psychology is conducting a survey on psychological professions related to peace. We cordially invite you to participate and pass on this information. Detailed information and the questionnaire can be found here.

Internship opportunities in peace psychology

German report of the 21st Annual Conference of the German Peace Psychology Association in Marburg, June 6-8.

Survey on professions in peace psychology

Internship opportunities in peace psychology

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Handbook of conflict...
Typical reactions of children in USA to the threat of nuclear war (1984)
Psychologists for Peace

Psychologists for Peace is an Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society. Its members are psychologists, and others, who are concerned about the prevalence of war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying their professional skills to issues relating to promoting peace and preventing war.

We are working to promote peace in the world and prevent conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of PFP are to:

- Encourage the study of issues related to the promotion of peace and prevention of war;
- Acquire and disseminate knowledge about psychological issues related to war and conflict;
- Advocate and promote the use of peaceful rather than violent methods for the resolution of conflict;
- Liaise with other professional groups whose aims are congruent with those of PFP and in accordance with those of the APS.

More about Psychologists for Peace
Figure 3-5. Original SDI Concept
War-Promoting Perceptions
(White, 1984)

- A diabolical enemy-image
- A moral self-image
- A “pro-us” illusion
- Overconfidence and worse case thinking
- Overlapping territorial self-images
Challenges to Cold War Resurface

- The madness of MAD
- fear driven arms race
- mutually distorted perceptions
- destructive communication patterns
- coercive interactions
- conflict management

(White, 1986)
Empathy (White)

Mirror Image (Bronfenbrenner)

Inducing Cooperation (Deutsch)

Interactional Conflict Resolution (Kelman)

GRIT (Osgood)

Perception and Misperception (Jervis)

Deterrence to Influence (George)
Psychology and the Prevention of Nuclear War
White (1986)

- Deterrence Reconsidered (Lebow)
- Crisis Management (Janis)
- Escalation (Holsti, Smoke)
- Integrative Agreements (Pruitt)
- Principled Negotiation (Fisher & Ury)
- Mediation (Rubin)
First President of Peace Psychology Division 48, APA
Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology

Milton Schwebel, Founding Editor (1995)