



Commonweal Reading List: Nonviolence

Movements around the world have used nonviolence to topple oppressive regimes, demand democratic reforms, resist wars, protect the environment and claim social justice or rights for those suffering discrimination. By learning, reading and sharing news and information about nonviolence, we are creating the world we want.

The first two sections in the Commonweal Collection explore nonviolence - Section A: The Theory of Nonviolence, and Section B: Nonviolence in Action. We have chosen some books from those two sections here, but nonviolence is embedded across the Collection - from books about peace movements and pacifists to environmental and anti-racist campaigning. Have a look at the Classification List to find out more.

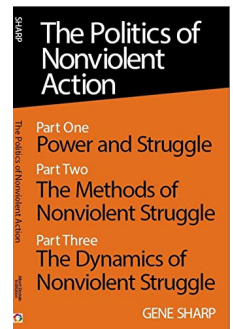
The Politics of Nonviolent Action.

By Gene Sharp; with the editorial assistance of Marina Finkelstein (1973)

Nobel Peace Prize nominee and political theorist Gene Sharp is one of the most influential theoreticians of nonviolent action, his publications have been influential in movements around the world. This book contains his foundational analyses of the nature of political power, and of the methods and dynamics of nonviolent action.

Classification: A SHA - check it's available [here](#).

You might also watch [How to Start a Revolution](#), a BAFTA Award-winning British documentary film about Gene Sharp available free on YouTube. Gene Sharp's 198 methods of nonviolent action are listed [here](#).

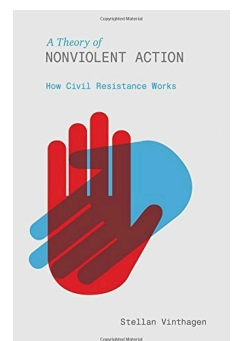


A Theory of Nonviolent Action: How Civil Resistance Works.

By Stellan Vinthagen (2015)

Employing a rich collection of historical and contemporary social movements from various parts of the world as examples - from the civil rights movement in America to anti-Apartheid protestors in South Africa to Gandhi and his followers in India - and addressing core theoretical issues concerning nonviolent action in an innovative, penetrating way, Vinthagen argues for a repertoire of nonviolence that combines resistance and construction.

Classification: A VIN - check it's available [here](#).

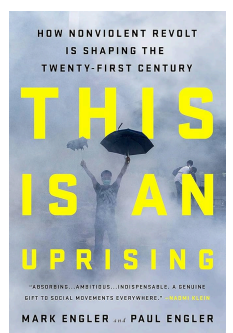


This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the Twenty-First Century.

By Mark and Paul Engler (2017)

With incisive insights from contemporary activists, as well as fresh revelations about the work of groundbreaking figures such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Gene Sharp, and Frances Fox Piven, the Englers show how people with few resources and little conventional influence are engineering the upheavals that are reshaping contemporary politics.

Classification: Af ENG - check it's available [here](#).



Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict.
By Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan (2012)

Combining statistical analysis with case studies of specific countries and territories including Iran, Burma, the Philippines, and the Palestinian Territories, Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan detail the factors enabling campaigns such as protests, boycotts, civil disobedience, and other forms of nonviolent noncooperation to succeed and, sometimes, causing them to fail.

Classification: B CHE - check it's available [here](#).

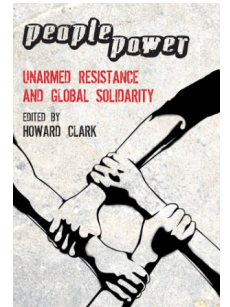


People Power: Unarmed Resistance and Global Solidarity.
Edited by Howard Clark (2009)

Across the world, nonviolent movements are in the forefront of resistance against repression, imperial aggression and corporate abuse. However, it is often difficult for activists in other countries to know how best to assist such movements.

The contributors to Unarmed Resistance and Global Solidarity place nonviolent struggles in an international context where solidarity can play a crucial role.

Classification: B CLA - check it's available [here](#).



Ideas for further reading about nonviolence can be found on the CivilResistance.info website.

To find out more about nonviolent campaigns across the world visit the [Global Nonviolent Action Database](#). This collection holds searchable data on thousands of campaigns, including the type of methods used and a points score for how successful the campaign was.

The International Centre for Nonviolent Conflict [website](#) has films, ebooks and online training on nonviolence and is a comprehensive site through which to learn. They host an Online Academic Course that you can register for, and then work through the readings, lectures and questions to draw on all their rich material.

If you're still wanting more, or wanting a bit more creativity, try the sites of [Beautiful Trouble](#) or [Activism](#), where people share projects they are doing that are engaging people, changing minds and developing new solutions. Gandhi was very clear when he said that nonviolence is not only about protest against the activities we oppose, but also taking the time to create the institutions and systems that we want. Creating gardens, new eco power systems and using art is all part of nonviolence.

The **Commonweal Collection** is a unique collection of over 14,000 books, pamphlets and journals on social change and activism including peace and disarmament, climate crisis and the green movement, nonviolent philosophy and practice, human rights, anti-racism and identity.

The Commonweal Collection is **free** and **open to the public**. To become a member you will need to take proof of address (such as a utility bill or driving licence) to the JB Priestley Library Welcome Desk at the University of Bradford - more information about how to join [here](#). Non-members are welcome to visit the Collection, but will be required to sign in in accordance with University policy. If you cannot visit Bradford, but wish to use Commonweal materials, please order them using your public Library or home institution's Inter-Library Loans scheme. Please ask at your local library for more information.

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