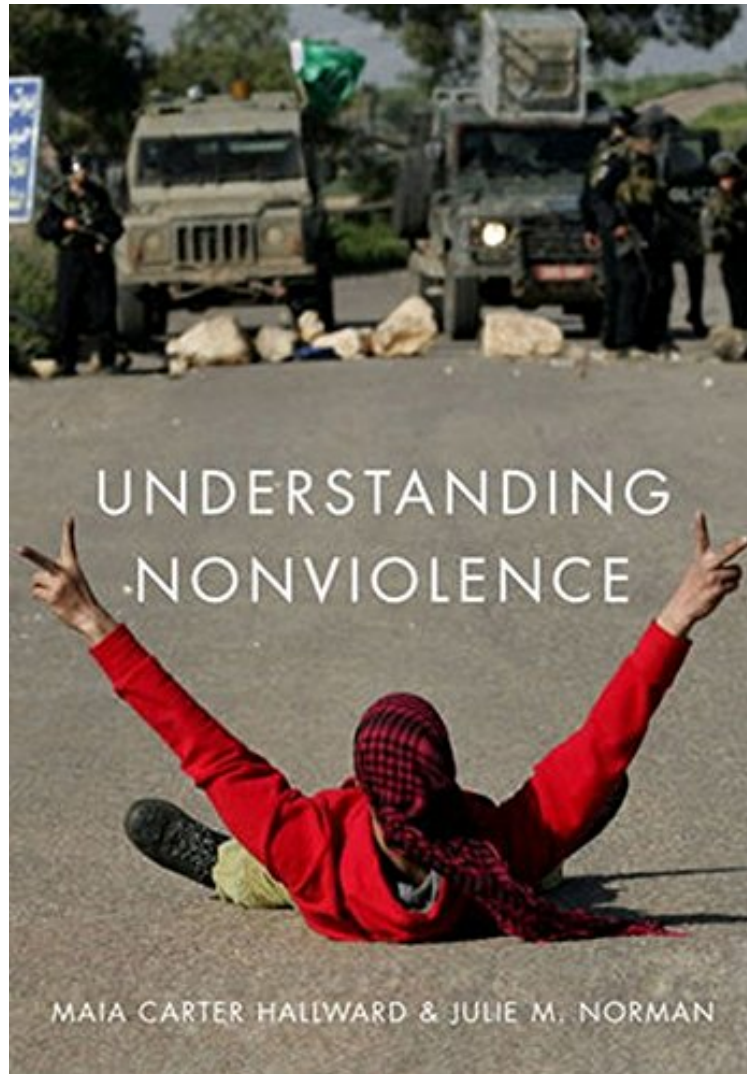


(Download free ebook) Understanding Nonviolence

## Understanding Nonviolence

*Maia Carter Hallward, Julie M. Norman*  
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**Maia Carter Hallward, Julie M. Norman : Understanding Nonviolence** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Nonviolence:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nonviolence remains a difficult term to define By Connie (She who hikes with dogs) This is a textbook on non-violent social movements that have taken place around the world. Authors are professors at universities mostly in the US and Canada. One author, Marcella Alvarez, is Program Officer at the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies. Another author, Mohammed Abu-Nimer, is an Associate Professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution at the School of International Service, American University. The articles are independent of each other and most are easy to read for the non-degreed sociologist or political

scientist, but reading the first two chapters help explain the many definitions of nonviolent movements. One thing I have gathered from this book is the difficulty in defining non-violent movements, as many in our past have ended in violence. The nonviolence is from the activist/protester's perspective. No two events can fall into the same category. Nonviolent movements start in various forms because of approaches, tactics and trends used, from protests to marches to demonstrations, sit-ins or just plain non-compliance. Some may become violent later. Some utilize or develop institutions that serve as parallel alternatives to the state or oppressive power, others work through religious networks (such as during the Civil Rights movement in the US in the 1950s), and more recently in Egypt. The Egypt riots of 2011 were strong because of alternative institutions through citizen committees, they were strong in Poland during the 1980s were strong because of their gradual strengthening among its citizens. In today's world of social media, sending messages across Twitter, Facebook or other forums help spread support globally. Social media helps turn a local grievance into a global grievance through emotional or moral indignation. Remaining nonviolent helps build more support than violent means. What does get into the scholarly level are the many labels for nonviolence. There is "principled" versus "pragmatic," a difference in a philosophy of life versus strategic purposes, but that can be difficult to discern as it depends in part what the mission of the movement is. Is it to overthrow an unpopular government, or is it to demand more rights for workers, women, other minority groups? Arab nonviolent movements are not based on the principled approach. Case studies used come from around the world: South Africa, British India, Kosovo, Chile, the recent Middle East, China, Russia, Iran. This book is highly recommended to readers interested in social change, those who are sociologists, historians and even aficionados of reform movements. While defining nonviolent movements continues to remain more difficult than it seems at first, these articles give readers better insight into how some movements succeeded while others failed, why some lingered and why others were quickly oppressed.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive and thought provoking

By Jim Understanding Nonviolence: Contours and Contexts consists of an introduction and 10 essays (or an introduction and afterword and 9 essays) written or co-authored by a dozen contributors (including the late Howard Clark), all of whom have academic affiliations, most of which are in the US (though Understanding Nonviolence has an international focus). This book is designed as a textbook and indeed it reads like one (that can be good or bad, depending on what the reader is looking for). This textbook is billed as being the first book to offer a comprehensive introduction to nonviolence in theory and practice. To the best of my knowledge, it is indeed the first, and it is undeniably comprehensive, and at the same time it is thought provoking and has the potential to lead to many questions and passionate discussions. In Howard Clark's essay, titled, "Tactical and Strategic Approaches to Nonviolence," he compares and contrasts pragmatic and principled approaches to nonviolence. This is also touched on elsewhere in the book, including in the introduction and in the final chapter, titled, "Future Directions." The Buddhist leaders and advocates of nonviolence, Thich Nhat Hahn and the Dalai Lama are mentioned in the book, though briefly. Though Hitler's name appears once, there is no mention in the book that I saw, of Gandhi's advice to Jews and reactions to it (e.g., Martin Buber replied by asking, "Do you think perhaps, that a Jew in Germany could pronounce in public one single sentence of a speech such as yours without being knocked down?"). I can hardly read anything in Understanding Nonviolence without having a flood of questions come up related to matters ethical, philosophical, psychological, sociological, religious, spiritual, etc. This suggests to me that this book will serve a great many students and teachers well. To anyone who wants to get a good, general sense and overview of the book, I'd recommend using 's "Look inside" feature to read as much of the introduction and final chapter ("Final Directions") as you can. At present, all but a few pages of each are viewable via this feature.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Understanding Nonviolence is a nice collection of academic essays on Nonviolence

By Tristan A. Hayes Understanding Nonviolence is a nice collection of academic essays on Nonviolence. While your mileage may vary on some of them (due to the writing mainly), I found each one to be interesting on its own. The most memorable ones too me were ones that involved narratives detailing the struggles of groups trying to remain nonviolent. Of those the one involving the Nashville sit in situation proved to be the most memorable. There was something about the deep level of thought put into the sit in that made it several leagues above some of the other cases in the book (like displaced people trying to have their state recognized, or the Polish people story). Second memorable was the one on Rural Movements and Economic Policy with Brazil people occupying unoccupied farmland and using it to take away from people who weren't using it. The detail to how this played out was very interesting and highly memorable. In terms of the arguments presented most were ones that anyone would agree with. I think there is clearly still room in the future to address the use of social media and other forms of media for nonviolence. I did agree with the writer in that clicktivism can be counterproductive for movements and is usually more focused on people on the west feeling good about themselves but then not really doing anything. Interesting enough, I loved how the book continued to stress that most movements are successful when the people have formed close connections with one another and that feel personally connected to them and to others. It helps keep people in the cause and gives them courage to push forward. Online aid can only go but so far. So all in all it is a good collection of essays on nonviolence. Some of them are more interesting than others but the nine chapters do well at hitting points across the board.

The use of nonviolent action is on the rise. From the Occupy Movement to the Arab Spring and mass protests on the streets of Brazil, activists across the world are increasingly using unarmed tactics to challenge oppressive, corrupt and unjust systems. But what exactly do we mean by nonviolence? How is it deployed and to what effect? Do nonviolent campaigns with political motivations differ from those driven by primarily economic concerns? What are the limits and opportunities for activists engaging in nonviolent action today? Is the growing number of nonviolence protests indicative of a new type of twenty-first century struggle or is it simply a passing trend? *Understanding Nonviolence: Contours and Contexts* is the first book to offer a comprehensive introduction to nonviolence in theory and practice. Combining insightful analysis of key theoretical debates with fresh perspectives on contemporary and historical case studies, it explores the varied approaches, aims, and trajectories of nonviolent campaigns from Gandhi to the present day. With cutting-edge contributions from leading scholars and practitioners in the field, this accessible and lively book will be essential reading for activists, students and teachers of contentious politics, international security, and peace and conflict studies.

"From undermining racist lunch counter segregation in Nashville to supporting the worldwide food sovereignty movements, this book demonstrates that nonviolent action continues to play a vital role in creating social justice and real change." *Morning Star* This thorough and well-written book ably combines theory with a wide range of case studies to provide an excellent introduction to the growing field of nonviolence. Brian Martin, University of Wollagong, New South Wales "Rarely does one find an edited volume so comprehensive and expert in its treatment of such a timely subject. Hallward and Norman have assembled an impressive cohort of contributors who have written an excellent set of chapters. The end result is essential reading for any student or scholar seriously interested in civil resistance and nonviolence." Erica Chenoweth, University of Denver "It is a comprehensive book that will be immediately effective as a core text in courses on nonviolence. It finds the balance between readable and challenging, thought-provoking and accessible." *Peace Research: The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies* About the Author Maia Carter Hallward is Associate Professor of Middle East Politics Julie M. Norman is Lecturer of Political Science at McGill University