

Psychological Components of Sustainable Peace

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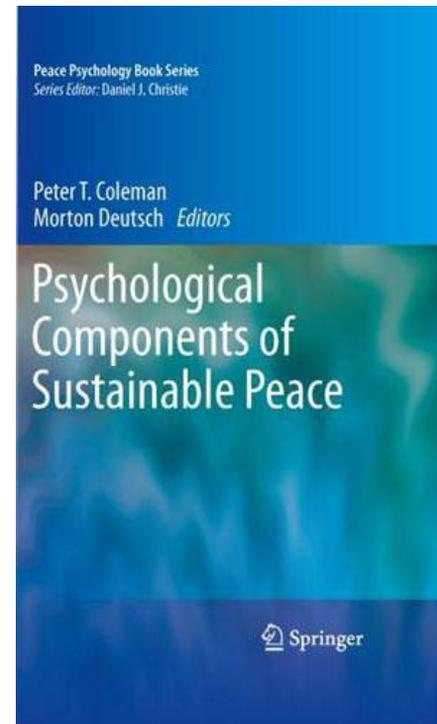
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PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE IS VALUABLE READING FOR RESEARCHERS IN PEACE PSYCHOLOGY, POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION AS WELL AS ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE, HARMONIOUS WORLD.

In contrast to the abundant research on conflict, aggression and violence, there are few scholars today conducting basic research oriented to the fundamental conditions and processes for sustainable peace. This alternative orientation to scholarship and practice parallels the shift that has occurred more generally in psychology over recent decades from a focus on problems toward solutions (known as positive psychology). Underlying this orientation is the belief that promoting the ideas and actions which can lead to a sustainable, harmonious peace will not only contribute to the prevention of war, but will also lead to more positive, constructive relations among people and nations and to a more sustainable planet.

Psychological Components of Sustainable Peace shares how ideas emerging from psychological theory and research can contribute to the development of sustainable peace at all levels of human interaction, from the interpersonal to the international.

Edited by two eminent peace psychologists, this book contains chapters authored by a distinguished group of contributors. Each chapter describes the nature of the psychological component which is the focus of the chapter (cooperation, conflict resolution, gender, identity, and so on); the conditions which give rise to it, its effects on sustainable peace; and then generalizes to different levels of social interaction from interpersonal to international, indicating areas for future research. Although a comprehensive approach to the study of peace ultimately requires interdisciplinary work, the time is ripe for psychology to think carefully and systematically about its own unique contributions to research and practice in this area.



“We have too long erred in the direction of conceiving of peace as the absence of conflict—of peaceful behavior as the absence of aggression”

*Abigail Disney, Ph.D.
& Leymah Gbowee,
2011 Nobel Peace Prize
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