A SEARCH FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.
CAN THE STUDY OF PEACE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

by

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I certify that this thesis has not already been submitted for any other degree. I certify that any help rendered in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged.
ABSTRACT

Violence in various forms is widespread in Papua New Guinea, so much so that some observers regard it as a way of life. Its major forms are domestic violence, urban criminal violence, tribal warfare and resource-based conflict, exemplified by that in Bougainville. More generally, the adoption of Western models of development has led to increasing structural violence in PNG. Such violence imposes heavy costs in economic, social and personal terms.

What can be done to reduce this violence? The usual means used to control violence have proven largely ineffectual and the law itself is often used as a means of oppression by the rich and the powerful. This thesis investigates the potential which the study of peace - embracing both an understanding of the principal causes of conflict and of effective ways of resolving it - can have on individuals.

The specific question addressed is whether peace studies makes a difference to individuals who study it. Do they change with respect to their holistic understanding of issues, conscientization, critical thinking and action for peace and justice? In attempting to answer these questions, a peace studies course was designed, taught and evaluated at the University of Papua New Guinea, following earlier pilot studies. A range of research methods were employed - questionnaires (before and after, control and experimental groups), structured interviews, reflective teaching and the use of learning journals. The students were exposed to the themes and issues for only four months, but the study results suggest that studying peace at tertiary level seems to have considerable potential for contributing to a more peaceful Papua New Guinea.
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GLOSSARY

altruism - links to compassion with unselfish concern and action for the welfare of others.

big man - a male with status either inherited, acquired by accumulation of wealth, or holds a position of high social standing in society.

compassion - refers to values of altruism displayed when someone is humble, uncompetitive, tolerant and can empathise with others.

conflict - the inevitable disputes which occur between individuals, groups and nations as a consequence of their needs/interests/desires and aspirations.

conflict resolution & dispute settlement - the act of resolving conflicts and disputes through nonviolent means.

dependency - a pattern of economic relationship where the South is dependent on the North.

development - there are two main definitions. The dominant definition of development implies the bridging of the observable differences between the ‘rich’ and ‘poor’ countries by means of an imitative process, in which the ‘poor’ countries gradually assume the qualities of the industrialised countries. The other definition associates development with people and on meeting their specific needs.

direct violence - reductions in the satisfaction of basic human needs, and more generally to life, by the actual or threatened use of physical, verbal or structural force.

modernisation - a development theory that promotes the growth-first model of development as a necessary step to become modern.

negative peace - the absence of violence, perhaps achieved by the use of legal and other deterrents.
neo-marxism - Neo-marxism evolved to contest Marxist theories sharing similar viewpoints with the dependency paradigm and more recently by the peace paradigm that the system breeds injustices and promotes a dual system where the few prosper at the expense of the majority poor.

nonviolence - a broad concept based on the principle that when confronted with violence (direct or indirect), violence is not used.

peace - a way of life which is based on settling disputes through a nonviolent conflict resolution process in which there is respect for personal/social justice.

pedagogy - a concept which draws attention to the processes through which knowledge is produced. Pedagogy also encapsulates content design, classroom strategies, techniques, methods and evaluation.

positive peace - the establishment of harmonious, non-exploitative social structures which deals with structural violence.

structural violence - indirect and quiet, typically built into the structure of social and cultural institutions, with the effect of denying people important economic, social (including a sense of self-fulfilment and self-worth) or political rights.

violence - the term is used more often to refer to direct physical violence but has more damaging indirect forms.

wantok - a Pidgin-English word meaning a person that someone identifies with because they share the same culture and come from the same village, clan/tribe or country.
ABBREVIATIONS

ACT - Australian Capital Territory

AIDAB - Australian International Development Assistance Bureau

ANU - Australian National University

AusAID - Australian Agency for International Development

BHP - Broken Hill Propriety Ltd

CR - Conflict Resolution

GTC - Goroka Teachers College

HDI - Human Development Index

IASER - Institute of Applied and Social Science Research

ICDE - Institute of Continuing and Distance Education

ICRAF - Individual and Community Advocacy Forum, a PNG-based NGO involved in advocating human rights in the country.

IMF - International Monetary Fund

INA - Institute of National Affairs

LRC - Law Reform Commission

NCD - National Capital District

NCW - National Council of Women

NGO - Nongovernment Organisation
PNG - Papua New Guinea

PNGDF - Papua New Guinea Defence Force

SAP - Structural Adjustment Programme of the IMF/World Bank

TNC - Transnational Corporation

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNE - University of New England

UPNG - University of Papua New Guinea

USP - University of South Pacific

WB - World Bank
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