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

by

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This thesis is submitted in fulfilment  
of the requirement for the Doctor of  
Philosophy in Peace Studies at the  
University of New England  
Armidale, N.S.W.  
Australia  
May, 1998

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# P R E F A C E

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.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This thesis has been for me a lonely and tiring journey of 4 years that has finally come to an end. There are number of people who contributed to its successful completion that I would like to acknowledge. I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr Geoff Harris who supervised this thesis. I feel so much indebted to Geoff for his invaluable help; his comments, suggestions and advice throughout the duration of my study were tremendously helpful to give the thesis its academic credibility. Also Dr. Bernard Swan, Dr. Bert Jenkins, Rebecca Spence and Naihuwo Ahai I sincerely thank for their comments and suggestions. I deeply thank Dr. Toh Swee-Hin who first sowed the seeds of peace and development education within me. I thank Dr. Bill Standish, for assisting/supporting me with relevant published work and Richard Guy for his promptness in sending me materials from PNG. I would like to also acknowledge Shirley Niebling for her work in editing the thesis. However, responsibility of errors and omissions are mine and mine alone. I acknowledge Fiona Pryke for her help in formatting the thesis and to Ron Coleman in the early part of my writing and Judy Nete for her contribution.

My sincere thanks to AusAID for sponsoring my doctoral programme. I extend appreciation to UNE International Office and the Faculty of Arts for their support which greatly helped towards the completion of my study. I also wish to thank the Staff Development Unit at UPNG for making it possible for me to undertake this study.

With regards to my field research, I would like to thank the PEAC-200 students at UNE who willingly participated in pre-testing my methodology. I would like to also acknowledge the support of graduates of the Master of Letters in Peace Studies who participated in the pre-test questionnaire. At UPNG, this thesis would not have been possible without the support of students and staff of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. In particular Dr. Eruce Yeates, Dean of the Faculty of Arts at UPNG made it possible for me to undertake my research in the second semester of 1996. To the following students I thank for being part of the research and my first Peace Studies students at UPNG: Lavona, Pauline, Nape, Flora, Tema, Norbert, Agnes, Paul N, Cesley, Roslyn, Paul K, Boni, Kelly, Kobol, Ben K, Vegu, John, Ben L, Patrick,

Posowam, Nelly, Ray and Samuel. I also extend many thanks to Lawrence Sause and the Politics students who also contributed to the research.

To keep my sanity, I am grateful to friends, relatives and colleagues who have been supportive and encouraging. To Dr. Matagalofi Luaiufi-Moli, for her encouragement in the early part of my writing and for her genuine friendship; Regina Katie, for keeping regular contact with news from PNG; Bruce Yeates and Samuel Haihue for maintaining professional contact; the Wingti family Pat, Paias, Pana, Koim and Simon - for being there for me; the Bollingers of Sydney for giving me their love and friendship which I most treasure; the Holloways of Brisbane for their friendship and support; Dr. Joseph Garap for the many challenges and also friendship he has given me; Doreen O'Hara for kindly keeping me amused when I was down or stressed out with work. I take this opportunity to thank Thobo Bagwasi for his companionship in my last year of enduring the pain of writing and loneliness. I also acknowledge my son Nathaniel Wingti, who has always been an inspiration in my life and I do thank him dearly for his understanding and support. To many other friends and wantoks whose names I have not mentioned, I thank you all for your encouragement and support. I have especially appreciated the love and care of my parents and their endurance of the pain of not seeing or even hearing from me given that they are illiterate and their village, Golnamne, has no telephones.

## 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/interest/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 ie 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 Program

**UNE** - University of New England

**UPNG** - University of Papua New Guinea

**USP** - University of South Pacific

**WB** - World Bank

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