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Towards a Sustainable Peace in the Anthropocene

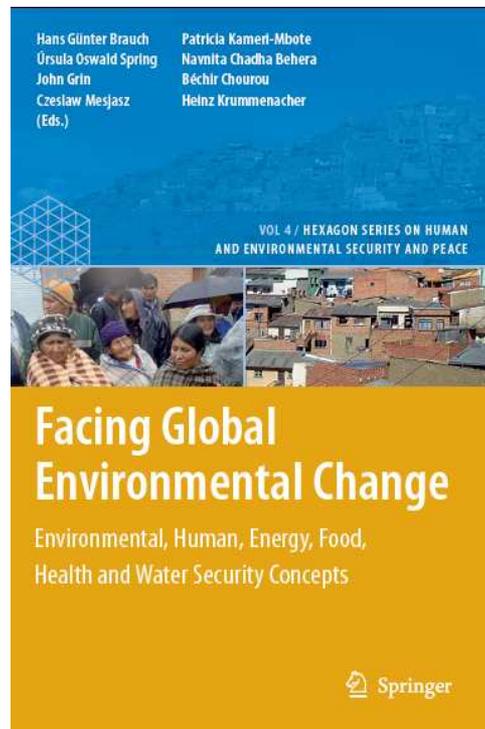
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Acknowledgements

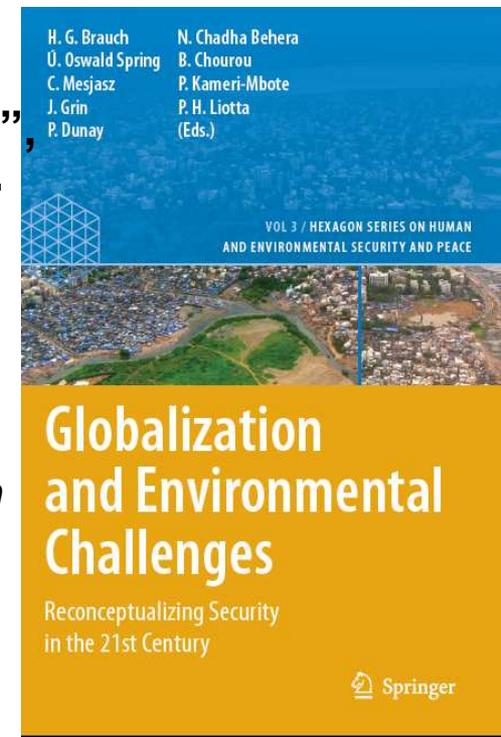
This talk is based on two papers:

One was were coauthored with Hans Günter Brauch, Free University of Berlin, Germany “Towards Sustainable Peace for the 21st Century”, in: Brauch et al. (eds., 2009).

Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts: 1305-1322



The other is from the author: “Peace and Environment: Towards a Sustainable Peace as Seen From the South”, in: Brauch et al. (eds., 2008), *Globalisation and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualising Security in the 21st Century: 113-126*



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1. Sustainable Development



UN Brundtland Commission: “Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (1987: 5).

Outcome 6 decades of development; 3 decades of sustainable development:

- 1 billion of the world’s population live in a consumer society
- 5.4 billions are poor
- 1 billion with hunger (100 million people more in 2009), illness and lack of school education and future
- 1 billion without safe water
- 1.5 million children die/year due to water-born illnesses
- 2.4 billion without improved sanitation
- present financial crisis raised unemployment by 250 million
- disasters increased & affected more developing countries

50 Indicators of Sustainability

Theme	Sub-theme	Indicator
Atmosphere (9)	Climate change	Emissions of greenhouse gases
	Ozone layer depletion	Consumption of ozone-depleting substances
	Air quality	Ambient concentration of air pollutants in urban areas
Land (10)	Agriculture (14)	Arable and permanent crop land area
		Use of fertilizers
		Use of agricultural pesticides
	Forests (11)	Forest area as a percent of land area
	Desertification (12)	Wood harvesting intensity
Oceans, seas and coasts (17)	Coastal zone	Land affected by desertification
		Area of urban formal and informal settlements
	Fisheries	Algae concentration in coastal waters
Fresh water (18)	Water quantity	Percent of total population living in coastal areas
		Annual catch by major species
	Water quality	Annual withdrawal of ground and surface water as a percent of total available water
Biodiversity (15)	Ecosystem	BOD in water bodies
		Concentration of faecal coliform in freshwater
	Species	Area of selected key ecosystems
		Protected area as a % of total area
		Abundance of selected key species

2. What kind of development?



Development is culturally related to the occidental worldviews: colonialism, capitalism, individualism and neoliberalism

- understood as economical, technological, and cultural progress from a self-sufficient rural society to a complex and global urban network, also called modernization
- implies improvements and positive changes for a better future without asking for the costs of this process
- is based on the biological understanding of evolution: animals, plants, and humans have passed through successive stages from a lower to a higher stage of organization and quasi mechanically transferred to complex human-environmental relations

Sustainable development is a broad scientific and political concept

- many and often conflicting meanings
- combines economic growth of postmodern capitalism with sustainability and social equity
- outcomes are different in the North and South, between men and women, and poor and rich
- avoids further resource depletion and environmental destruction without affecting economic dynamics
- policy strategy & Agenda 21 instruments to mitigate negative outcomes of consumerist society

3. Sustainable Peace



Sustainable Peace

- Sustainable peace has been developed from *preventive diplomacy* (Dag Hammarskjold)
- now used in different governmental discourses and practices in international relations to avoid escalation of conflicts and to limit the ongoing ones.
- Peck (1998, 2005) has defined sustainable peace as: “Sustainable development (which) involves the institutionalization of participatory processes in order to provide civil and political rights to all peoples. The building blocks of sustainable peace and security are well-functioning local, state, regional and international systems of governance, which are responsive to basic human needs”.

A blurred background image showing a person sitting at a desk in a dimly lit room. The person is wearing a dark jacket and is looking towards a computer monitor. The monitor displays some colorful graphics, possibly a presentation or a video. The overall scene is out of focus, with the primary subject being the text overlay.

4. What kind of Peace?

Peace

- negative peace: absence of violence, war and hostilities
- positive peace: ‘freedom from fear’ and ‘freedom from want.’
- Galtung (1982, 2007): peace as freedom from physical, structural, and cultural violence.
- Oswald 2009: added ‘freedom from gender violence’, as a base of any violence (Reardon, 1996), deeply rooted in the existing patriarchal worldview and mindset
- positive peace implies nonviolent conflict resolution (Gandhi 1993, 1996; Ameglio 2002, 2004; Mandela 1994)
- Conflicts are motors of transformation of human life; resolved violently, they create hostilities, war, death, and destruction
- peace-building implies negotiation and mediation processes to end hostilities and find win-win situations for those in dispute
- culture of peace reflects inner peaceful mindset and an external behavior and worldview to resolve emerging controversies.

4. What is Sustainable Peace?



4. What is Sustainable Peace?

- ‘**Preventive diplomacy**’ (Boutros-Ghali) tries in a **preventive** way to avoid escalation and spreading of conflicts through political solutions, widely used in Africa to support peaceful emancipation.
- Orient contributed to **nonviolence** where the ‘*ahimsa*’ concept signifies to do no harm to any living organism due to re-incarnation and the development of the spirit.
- China’s Taoism proposed a **harmony** among sky, earth, and humans generating cosmic energy which is the way to intelligence and fruitful life.
- Indigenous societies, living in difficult environmental conditions, have also developed a **deep respect and unity** with nature
- Dark history of gender **discrimination**, intra-familial violence, feminicides, rape, trafficking of women and girls, aggression against women and children have created higher vulnerability of women; acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that reinforced the ongoing gender mainstreaming in the UN bodies. Women are crucial for development and sustainable peace.

Three phases of sustainable peace

1. a *preventive element*: national and international organizations and regimes spread Western model of social, political and economic organization to war-stricken and conflict-prone countries in the South; increase local resistance and produce rejection and greater violence when not combined with development aid, debt relief, disaster aid, disaster risk reduction training, internal & transparent reorganization of governments

Bottom-up: local social movements improve food sovereignty, economy of solidarity, women' organizations, survival strategies for families & communities; economy of gift (Vaughan 1997, 2004). Interchange dominates over the monetary exchange and profit economy.

2. Peace-building process

- cessation of violence among groups in the conflict; involvement of mass media, external mediators; agenda-setting; secure places for negotiators; independent financial support and step-by-step agreements; close monitoring and evaluation of the results
- bridging processes: refugee camps; reconstruction of destroyed basic infrastructure; demilitarization of armed groups; truth commissions; return of internally displaced persons; economic opportunities; recovery of environmental pollution
- elimination of violent threats: landmines, small arms, illegal arms trade, kidnapping, rape and robbery
- consciousness-rising process where a respectful equilibrium between humans and nature is trained and accepted

3. Consolidation of a culture of sustainable peace

Consolidation of civil institutions & government, return to normality, reintegration of the military and guerrillas in civil activities, strengthening of police forces, establishment of legally based private businesses with job creation; food, water and public health services; reestablishment of the transport, banking and communication infrastructure (ports, airports and train stations); development of political parties and democratic elections.

5. Stakeholders involved in sustainable development with sustainable peace



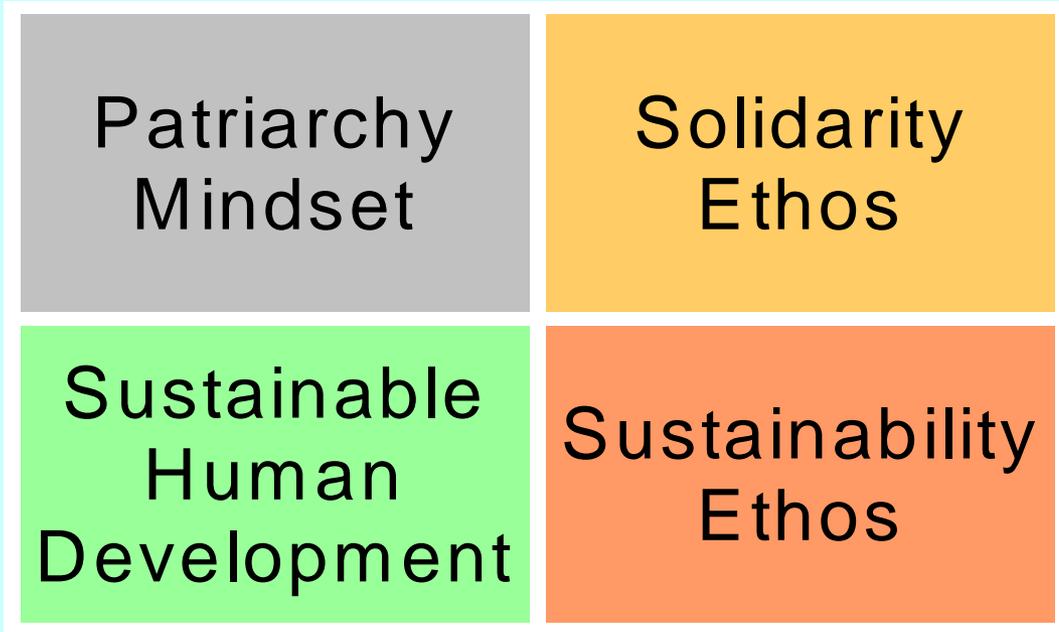
5. Peace and Patriarchy

- In the Orient and Occident, during several millennia patriarchy emerged as a common social practice and the underlying factor of violence (Reardon 1985).
- As a cross-cultural phenomenon, social representations and personal identity processes have consolidated a **status quo** in beliefs, rules, and habits, where male hierarchy dominates gender.
- Therefore, peace movements, activities and education must transform the patriarchal mind-set into and authentic human growth that requires a "**network of mutuality**" (Preatorios 2009)

**Patriarchal Hegemony has a
Negative Influence on Solidarity**
(i.e., as patriarchy increases, solidarity decreases)

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**Solidarity
has a
Positive
Influence on
Sustainability**
(i.e., as solidarity
increases,
sustainability
increases)

Luis Gutiérrez, 2009

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**Sustainability has a
Positive Influence on Human Development**
(i.e., as sustainability increases, human development increases)

Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE)

Determination Which security?	Mode of expansion Reference object Security of whom?	Value at risk Security of what?	Source(s) of threat Security from whom or what?
National security (political, military dimension)	The State	Sovereignty, territorial integrity	Other States, terrorism, sub-state actors, guerrilla
Societal security	Nations, social groups	National Unity, national identity	(States), Nations, Migrants, Alien cultures
Human security	Individuals (Humankind)	Survival, quality of life, cultural integrity	The State, globalization, nature, GEC, poverty, fundamentalism
Environmental Security	Ecosystem, urban and agricultural system	Sustainability	Nature Humankind
Gender security	Gender relations, indigenous, minorities	Equity, identity, social relations	Patriarchy, totalitarian institutions (élites, governments, religions, culture), intolerance

HUGE

- Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE) is a widened concept of security that combines an **ample gender concept** (including children, elders, indigenous, vulnerable groups) with a **human-centered** focus on **environmental security** and **peace** challenges.
- HUGE analyzes **patriarchal, violent and exclusive structures** within family and society, questioning the existing process of **social representation-building** and **traditional role assignation** between genders for overcoming **violence & discrimination** against women .
- Reorients ‘human security’ to **equity and development** through social organization, specific governmental policies, private ethical investments and legal reinforcements.
- As a **holist concept**, HUGE revises ‘**environmental security**’ and proposes policy for a healthy environment, integral management of natural resources, prevention and remediation practices that reduce vulnerability of hazard impacts.
- Thus, HUGE reduces risks and risk perception and increases risk management.

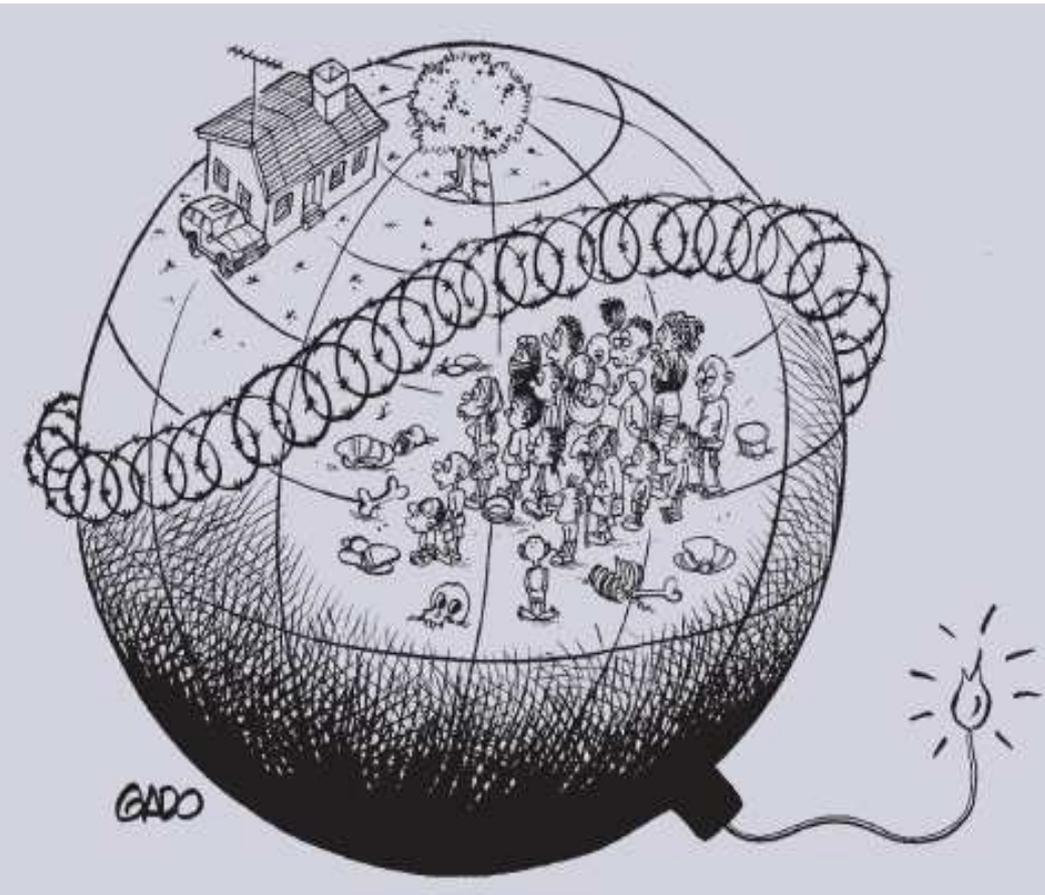


6. How can we achieve a sustainable peace with sustainable development?

3. Gandhi and Ahimsa

- Gandhi's teaching started in South Africa within a dramatic situation of Apartheid and racial discrimination (Mandela 1994), reached also Ghana where Nkruma was inspired by his ideas when he created the *utopia of an African socialism*.
- Nyerere used in Tanzania the traditional '*ujamaa*' for developing a livelihood approach with nonviolence
- The '*ubuntu*' development of South Africa recreated traditional communitarian roots of self-development with Gandhi's ahimsa, to reconcile a country divided by decades of racial conflicts.
- Burundi and Rwanda used the '*gacaca*' (grass-root tribunals in villages), a bottom-up ahimsa movement, to close some of the wounds of the previous civil war,
- Gandhi influenced Martin Luther King's Civil Right Movement, where the main idea of true peace is not the absence of tensions, but the daily presence of justice and equality
- Mexico gave *ejido* land to all peasants after the Revolution

Future of Humanity: Sustainable Peace with HUGE and what else?



- 1) **cooperation** with solidarity vs. isolationism and elite behaviour;
- 2) **cultural diversity** vs. economic monopoly;
- 3) **peace with ahimsa** vs. himsa; and violence;
- 4) **spirituality** vs. secularity.

Sustainable Peace with a HUGE Sustainable Development

Development

