

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Weekly Newsletter
November 16—23, 2011

IRAN, NORTH KOREA, AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

By: George Wolfe

Peace education can be most concisely defined as “the study of conflict resolution through nonviolent means.” Here resolution includes reconciliation, which seeks not merely to resolve conflict but also to restore working relationships between conflicting parties. One can also define peace studies as “the investigation of how to minimize the influence of the law of unintended consequences.”

Compare, for example, four formal methods for dealing with conflict, these being (1) mediation, (2) arbitration, (3) litigation, and (4) physical violence which, of course, includes war. During mediation, all the issues that are aired remain confidential. A facilitator sits with the parties in conflict and helps them articulate their differences so they clearly understand each other’s respective complaints. An effort is then made to find common ground on which to forge an agreement both parties can accept.

When utilizing the second strategy, the conflicting parties go before an arbitrator who has the authority to impose a solution. While the solution may not be legally binding, the parties are usually in a subordinate position to the arbitrator who is often a boss or superior administrator.

Litigation involves settling the dispute through the legal system. Attorneys are hired or assigned to represent and speak for the persons in conflict, and a judge then imposes a ruling that can be legally enforced.

The fourth strategy, physical violence or war, abandons all forms of negotiation and strives to force a solution on one’s adversary.

During mediation, the parties in conflict have full control over the outcomes as mediation allows both parties to accept only what they can agree to. The risk for unintended consequences surfacing is very low. As one proceeds through the methods of arbitration and litigation, the risk of unintended consequences increases since an arbitrator or judge may impose a solution and not require agreement by the involved parties. The outcomes from violent confrontations are the most unpredictable, with war in particular being especially sloppy and disastrous.

One of the unintended consequences of the preemptive U.S. invasion of Iraq has been the accelerated nuclear ambition of Iran and North Korea. The United States launched the second Iraq war believing Iraqi president Saddam Hussein possessed biological weapons of mass destruction.

Inside this issue:

Article	1-2
Article 2	2
On Campus Events	3
Off Campus Events	4-5
Upcoming Events	5

About George Wolfe

George Wolfe is the Coordinator of Outreach Programs for the Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. He is also a trained mediator and the author of *The Spiritual Power of Non-violence: Interfaith Understanding for a Future Without War*.

IRAN, NORTH KOREA, AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES (CONT.)

This belief turned out to be false. Would the United States have invaded Iraq had Saddam Hussein possessed nuclear weapons and the ability to deliver them? Iranian and North Korean leaders believe the answer is no. Although Iran and North Korea have long had an interest in nuclear technology, America's invasion of Iraq in 2003 motivated both nations to accelerate their nuclear capabilities as a deterrent should the United States or Israel choose the pre-emptive option. And Iran's motivation is further heightened by the suspicion that Israel, with the help of the US, already possesses nuclear weapons.

While generals and politicians often speak as if the outcomes of military operations are surgical and under their control, history teaches otherwise. The law of unintended consequences is given free rein when we choose the path of violence.

This article was published in The Star Press, Muncie, Indiana, on Nov. 15, 2011.

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY



Last week, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies board members participated in National Roll Call on Veteran's Day.

Top: Steve Radil, Ph. D, Assistant Professor of Geography

Bottom: Beth Messner, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Communication Studies



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— ON CAMPUS

Wednesday, November 16

- *Amnesty International Meeting:*
4:00 PM in Bracken Library Room #301
- *Oxfam America Hunger Banquet*
6:30--8:00 PM Student Center Ballroom--Hunger is a global problem. 25,000 people die from hunger every day. Oxfam's hunger banquet will bring to life the inequalities and allow you to gain a new perspective...all while providing a free meal!

Thursday, November 17

- *Freshman Connections Presents: Tapped*
TC 101 7:30pm Think you know everything there is to know about bottled water? The film *Tapped* will show you how much more there is to learn about the far-reaching problems created by the big business of bottled water.
From the plastic factory to the ocean in which so many of these bottles end up, this inspiring documentary follows the path of the bottled water industry and the communities that have become unwitting chips in the struggle to make water a commodity to be bought and sold. A powerful portrait of the lives affected by the bottled water industry, *Tapped* features those caught at the intersection of big business and the public's right to water. Created by Stephanie Soechtig and the producers of *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, this film will give you a behind-the-scenes look into the unregulated and unseen world of an industry that bombards us with claims that "bottled is better."
Following the showing of *Tapped*, Falon French will discuss some of the most pressing environmental impacts of the bottled water industry on the lives of Hoosiers, from water bottles' carbon footprint to the oil it takes to manufacture and ship them. Falon will also suggest safer and healthier alternatives to bottled water and ways to wean Indiana off the bottle. Falon French joined the Hoosier Environmental Council staff in 2008. As a policy researcher and outreach associate, she has worked on numerous state-level and federal campaigns to address some of the most critical environmental issues facing Indiana, including climate change, coal pollution, and water quality and run-off contamination.

Monday, November 21

- *OXFAM America Meeting*
5:30 PM in WB 140. For more information, contact oxfambsu@gmail.com.
- *Social Justice League Meeting*
6:00PM at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (310 N. McKinley Ave.) For more information, contact SJL@bsu.edu.

Wednesday, November 23

THANKSGIVING BREAK BEGINS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS

Wednesday, November 16

- [Indianapolis] *The Indianapolis Chapter of Amnesty International* will meet at 7 pm in the Willkie Room at The Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan. For more info, contact Noel Fliss at 916-6050 or info@amnestyindy.org
- [Indianapolis] *A Nonviolent Communication practice group*, based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg, will meet from 7-9 pm at Irvington Friends Meeting, 831 N. Edmondson. For more info, contact Lisa Boyles at 372-6983 or lisamboyles@yahoo.com

Thursday, November 17

- [Indianapolis] *Fast for Gaza* will meet at 12 noon at Lulu's Electric Café, 1460 W. 86. For more info, contact Lew Weiss at ljweiss@clarian.org or 962-8580.
- [Indianapolis] There will be an *Anti-death Penalty Witness*, 12:30-1:30 pm, at the east steps of the State House, Capitol Ave. and Market, sponsored by The Indiana Information Center on the Abolition of Capital Punishment (IICACP). Bring a sign or use one of ours; come for any part of the hour. For more info, phone 466-7128
- [Indianapolis] *Christians for Peace & Justice in the Middle East* will meet at 6 pm at the home of Dottie Gerner. Bring a sandwich. For more info or directions, phone Dottie Gerner at 283-7175.

Friday, November 18

- [Indianapolis] *A labor and interfaith conference entitled "People of Faith and People of Labor Working Together"* will take place, 10-4:30, at Indiana Interchurch Center, 1100 W. 42, sponsored by IU School of Social Work Labor Studies Program and Center for Interfaith Cooperation (Cost: \$20; \$10 for low-income, students, unemployed; lunch included). After opening remarks from Nancy Guyott, Paul Mishler will speak on US history of labor and faith, and Kim Bobo will speak on building the faith and labor coalition followed by an interfaith panel discussion and workshops. For more info, email Irene Queiro-Tajalli at itka100@iupui.edu To RSVP, email Charlie Wiles at charlie@centerforinterfaithcooperation.org
- [Indianapolis] *The weekly vigil protesting warfare* will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, North and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 926-3068 or email Ron Haldeman at ronjane@igc.org

Saturday, November 19

- [Indianapolis] *Bread for the World* will hold a monthly meeting at 10 am in the board room in the A Wing of the Main Building at Robin Run Village, 5354 W. 62. For more info, phone Marjorie Hill at 291-7150 before attending.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS (CONT.)

Saturday, November 19

- [Indianapolis] Two overlapping free events will occur at *Earth House*, 237 N. East, with good food for free or as much as you can pay, 2-4 pm, and a Really, Really Free Market, 2:30-5:30 pm. For more info, contact Ed Stites at 965-2466 or stitesed@gmail.com
- [Nashville] There will be a *Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not The Answer!"* at 6 pm at Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or annntom@hotmail.com

Sunday, November 20

- [Indianapolis] *SNAP, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests*, will meet at 1:30 pm at Crestwood Village Community Room, E. 91 at the Monon Trail. For more info, phone Cecilia Shelpey at 844-2993
- [Indianapolis] There will be a *closed business meeting of Socialist Party USA* at 3 pm, an open business meeting of Democratic Socialists of America at 3:30 pm, and an open meeting and get-together of Indiana Socialist Fellowship at 4 pm MoJo, 300 W. Michigan. For more info, contact Marvin Williams at WilliamsMDWJr@aol.com or 955-2779.

UPCOMING EVENTS

—No upcoming events at this time.—

DISCLAIMER: The events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

If you would like for your events to be included in this newsletter, please contact Lacey Lord at lglord@bsu.edu.