

## **INTRODUCTION: A TOOL CHEST FOR PEACEBUILDERS**

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### **Abstract**

This special issue of the *International Journal of Peace Studies* honors the contributions of Chadwick (Chad) F. Alger to the field of peace studies. This introduction provides a brief description of Alger's tool chest for peacebuilders, which in many ways represents a culmination of his decades of work and thinking regarding peace studies, and an overview of the articles in this issue. Each article is written by someone with a close connection to Alger who approaches his ideas and scholarship from their own perspective in order to build upon this work in new, innovative ways.

In the lead article of this issue, Chad Alger's colleague at Northwestern University, Harold Guetzkow, provides insights into Alger's early development as a scholar. As Guetzkow indicates at the end of his statement, Alger had already completed a range of important work before his move to The Ohio State University, but he continued to rise to the challenge of providing new, insightful research. In fact, although an Emeritus professor since 1995, Alger has remained an active scholar. In designing a special issue of the *International Journal of Peace Studies* in honor of his work, my task was, therefore, a difficult one given the breadth and range of material with which he has been, and continues to be, engaged.

Instead of trying to comprehensively review or relate this special issue to the full range of his work, it was decided instead to frame the following articles in relation to the peace tools framework that Alger (1996b; 1999a; 2002a) has developed. In many ways, this framework represents the culmination of his decades of work and thinking regarding peace studies. While numerous scholars have written about the need for integrated and holistic strategies, Alger's tool chest offers a useful conceptualization for all of those who work for peace, whether it be through research, education, or action. The tool chest analogy helpfully captures how different instruments for pursuing peace can be more or less fruitful given the requirements of the situation and the strengths and limitations of each tool. There is no single strategy or approach for pursuing peace, instead a careful consideration of the range of applicable tools is required.<sup>1</sup>

Smith also received their degrees working under Alger at Ohio State, while Marvin Soroos was a doctoral student at Northwestern. The other two article contributors, Birgit Brock-Utne and Robert Johansen, have worked closely with Alger in the past, especially through their common engagement in the International Peace Research Association. Finally, as Harold Guetzkow explained, he and Alger served together as professors at Northwestern.

The goal of this special issue is to build upon the peace tools framework, with a special emphasis on areas of particular interest to Alger as revealed in his research. The invited authors were asked to address the peacebuilder's tool chest from their area of expertise. Thus, the contributors had the option of tackling a particular peace tool or set of peace tools, or speaking in general to the idea of a peacebuilder's tool chest from their perspective. For the foreword, Guetzkow was asked to provide a brief statement remembering their time together at Northwestern and Alger's work during that period.

	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	1919	1945	1950-1989	1990+
NEGATIVE PEACE	Diplomacy (1) Balance of Power (2)	League Covenant Collective Security (3)	UN Charter	UN Practice	UN Practice
	Peaceful Settlement (4) Disarmament/ Arms Control (5)	Collective Security Peaceful Settlement Disarmament/ Arms Control	Collective Security Peacekeeping (9) Peaceful Settlement Disarmament/ Arms Control	Collective Security Peacekeeping Peaceful Settlement Disarmament/ Arms Control Humanitarian Intervention (15) Preventative Diplomacy (16)	Track II Diplomacy (17) Conversion (18) Defensive Defence (19)
POSITIVE PEACE	Functionalism (6) Self-Determination (7) Human Rights (8)	Functionalism Self-Determination Human Rights	Functionalism Self-Determination Human Rights	Functionalism Self-Determination Human Rights	Nonviolence (20) Citizen Defence (21) Self Reliance (22) Feminist Perspectives (23) Peace Education (24)
	III Economic Development (10) Economic Equity (NIEO) (11) Communication Equity (12) Ecological Balance (13) Governance for Commons (14)	Economic Development (10) Economic Equity (NIEO) (11) Communication Equity (12) Ecological Balance (13) Governance for Commons (14)	Economic Development Communication Equity Ecological Balance	Economic Development Communication Equity Ecological Balance	VI V

Figure 2: The Emergence of Peace Tools

The first author, Courtney Smith, focuses his analysis on the United Nations, the activities of which span a wide range of Alger's peace tools. The centrality of the United Nations to the peacebuilder's tool chest is not surprising given that the study of this organization is a core part of Alger's work (see Smith's article for a range of Alger's

work on the United Nations). In his article, “Building Peace Through the Political Processes of the United Nations,” Smith grounds his analysis in the research undertaken by Alger on decisionmaking in the United Nations. Smith demonstrates how a close analysis of the internal political processes of the United Nations - including the “non-resolution consequences” of United Nations deliberations, the effects on actors participating in the decisionmaking process, and the important dynamics of decisionmaking such as informal contacts - provides important understanding of the relation of the organization to building international peace. He also details how Alger’s innovative, multi-method research strategies provide a greater understanding of such factors.

The second article, “Reviving Peacebuilding Tools Ravished By Terrorism, Unilateralism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction” written by Robert Johansen, approaches the issue of the United Nations and global governance from a different perspective. While Smith provides insights into the internal processes of the United Nations, Johansen considers how external changes challenge the effectiveness of the United Nations’ peacemaking activities. Johansen argues that the tools for building peace are being undermined by the threats of mega-terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and a unilateral approach to international affairs by the United States. However, he believes that these threats may be counteracted if international legal constraints on the use of collective violence are encouraged and the capabilities of the United Nations are bolstered, especially through the use of a United Nations civilian police force.

Moving beyond intergovernmental organizations, Roger Coate addresses non-governmental efforts in his article, “Civil Society as a Force For Peace.” Civil society has long been a vital part of Alger’s research agenda (such as 2003a; 2002b; 1999b; 1997; 1994; 1992; 1990a; 1990b; 1988; 1987; 1982; 1980; 1974), including an article co-authored with Coate (Coate, Alger, and Lipschutz, 1996) which informs Coate’s effort in the article in this volume. Alger was an early proponent of the need to incorporate an understanding of civil society into the study of international relations, and continues to be an important voice in this area of scholarship.

As Coate observes in his article, Alger (1996b; 1999a) incorporates a civil society approach as part of his peacebuilder’s tool chest. As indicated in Figures 1 and 2, drawer VI encompasses a range of tools that relate to the efforts of NGOs and people’s movements to promote peace. Coate seeks to extend analysis in this area by adding the additional tools of networking, coalition building, global campaigns, parallel conferencing, and partnerships to this drawer. Coate argues that adding these tools provides analysts with greater insights into the place of civil society in promoting peace and that such an extension fits with Alger’s “organic” approach to the continual development of our understanding of peace tools.

Marvin Soroos also seeks to extend the peacebuilder’s tool chest, but his discussion addresses the global environment. The central focus of “Tools For Environmental Peacebuilders” is employing Alger’s tool chest metaphor to categorize twenty-four tools into four drawers: international law, international governmental

organizations, concepts (such as sustainable development, ecological security, and intergenerational equity), and NGOs and global civil society. Thus, Soroos' article flows well from Coate's discussion as they both tackle the important role played by civil society. Overall, Soroos reinforces the importance of the environmentally related tools set out in Alger's framework, as well as re-organizing the relation of these tools and adding new dimensions to consider for building the peace from an environmental perspective.

Finally, Birgit Brock-Utne provides her ideas that relate to one key peace tool, peace education, in her article "Peace Research With a Diversity Perspective: A Look to Africa." Alger has repeatedly explored the importance of international education (2003b; 2000; 1999c; 1996c; 1995; 1986; 1968; 1967; Alger and Harf, 1986). In relation to his peace tools framework, he argues for the centrality of peace education:

*Peace Education* can be viewed as the obvious candidate to be the last tool to be presented because it obviously comprises all that has gone before. But it is certainly not the last in importance...the seeds of peace must be planted, watered, nurtured and cultivated...*all* require peace education (Alger, 1999a: 39).

As Brock-Utne notes, Alger (1996a) also opened the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Peace Studies* with an emphasis on including peace studies voices from around the globe in order to fully inform the journal. Thus, her link to peace education comes from a consideration of important African concepts that could be incorporated into Western understanding in order to provide a more diverse and complete effort at peace education. More generally, Brock-Utne reinforces the idea that a peacebuilder's tool chest should be ever-evolving to encompass a wide range of approaches and perspectives.

In conclusion, this special issue reflects back on Alger's scholarship, while acknowledging his continuing contribution to peace studies, and applauds the legacy of his work. This sentiment was expressed, for example, by Coate, in a response to the editor in relation to writing his article. Coate explained that he considers himself personally "lucky enough to cut my intellectual teeth" while working under Alger as a doctoral student and, more broadly, stated, "Students of peace studies and international organization are deeply indebted to him for his ceaseless curiosity and innovation." We hope that Alger appreciates the innovations presented in this issue, and look forward to his ideas which develop out of a reaction to these articles, as well as other contributions that we are sure he will continue to make to the field of peace studies.

#### Notes

1. I appreciate the ideas of Courtney Smith that informed this summary expression of the peacebuilder's tool chest.

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