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ABOUT US

The International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP) is a global community of museums and related projects committed to building a peaceful world, and the organisations and individuals who support them. We work to identify, share, and disseminate knowledge, resources, and best practices among museums for peace (and related organisations) to advance education for peace, to build cultures of peace, and to promote global, environmental peace.

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DESIDERIUS ERASMUS: “WAR IS SWEET TO THOSE WHO HAVE NO EXPERIENCE OF IT ...” – PROTEST AGAINST VIOLENCE AND WAR

CHRISTIAN BARTOLF,
DOMINIQUE MIETHING

Considering the numerous wars raging on our planet, we introduce a new publication series entitled *Exhibitions on the History of Nonviolent Resistance*, published by the University Library of the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and edited by us: Dr. Christian Bartolf (President, Gandhi Information Center, Berlin) and Dr. Dominique Miething (Freie Universität Berlin, Department of Political and Social Sciences):

Since classical antiquity, eminent persons, through their literature and science, have developed new notions of peace, freedom, justice and equality. These are not only of historical significance for civic education, but they also create ethical bases on which art, economics, pedagogy, philosophy, politics and law may build upon conceptually: the core of these exhibitions is the history of nonviolent resistance.

The first issue of our series is: Desiderius Erasmus: “War is sweet to those who have no experience of it ...” - *Protest against Violence and War*. In commemoration of his writings against war: *Dulce bellum inexpertis* (1515) and *Querela pacis* (1516). The print publication (ISBN: 978-3-96110-441-3) is also [accessible for free here as PDF](#) and the full set of the panels may be shown worldwide.

The exhibition is dedicated to the humanist and pacifist Desiderius Erasmus (c. 1466-1536), a close friend of Thomas More (1478-1535), author of *Utopia* (1516):

“Erasmus, the conquered, has earned his fame here below because he broke trail in the world of literature for humanistic ideals. It is to him we owe this simplest of thoughts, and this most undying of thoughts, namely, that it is mankind's highest duty to seek to become humaner, more spiritual, and increasingly capable of sympathetic, of spiritual, understanding. [...] Schiller gave the message of world-citizenship a poetic dress; Kant demanded everlasting peace; again and again, down to the days of Tolstoy, and now with Gandhi and Romain Rolland, this same ideal has been reiterated with logical force, and the spirit of understanding has claimed its ethical and moral rights as a counterblast to the club-law of authority and violence.” (Stefan Zweig: *Erasmus of Rotterdam*. New York: 1934. pp. 245f.)



Dr. Christian Bartolf is a writer, lecturer, and the President of the Gandhi Information Center, Berlin. Dr. Dominique Miething is a Lecturer in Civic Education and History of Political Thought at the Free University, Berlin.