

Exhibitions on the History of Nonviolent Resistance

Christian Bartolf, Dominique Miething



Mainau Declaration 1955

We, the undersigned, are scientists of different countries, different creeds, different political persuasions. Outwardly, we are bound together only by the Nobel Prize, which we have been favored to receive. With pleasure we have devoted our lives to the service of science. It is, we believe, a path to a happier life for people. We see with horror that this very science is giving mankind the means to destroy itself. By total military use of weapons feasible today, the earth can be contaminated with radioactivity to such an extent that whole peoples can be annihilated. Neutrals may die thus as well as belligerents.

If war broke out among the great powers, who could guarantee that it would not develop into a deadly conflict? A nation that engages in a total war thus signals its own destruction and imperils the whole world.

We do not deny that perhaps peace is being preserved precisely by the fear of these weapons. Nevertheless, we think it is a delusion if governments believe that they can avoid war for a long time through the fear of these weapons. Fear and tension have often engendered wars. Similarly it seems to us a delusion to believe that small conflicts could in the future always be decided by traditional weapons. In extreme danger no nation will deny itself the use of any weapon that scientific technology can produce.

All nations must come to the decision to renounce force as a final resort. If they are not prepared to do this, they will cease to exist.

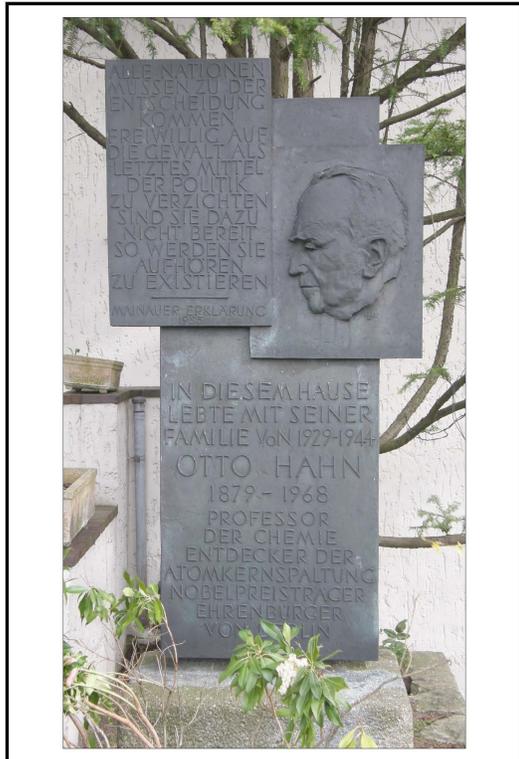
—Mainau, Lake Constance, 15 July 1955, initially signed by eighteen scientists, e.g. Max Born, Otto Hahn and Werner Heisenberg

Mainau Declaration 2015 on Climate Change

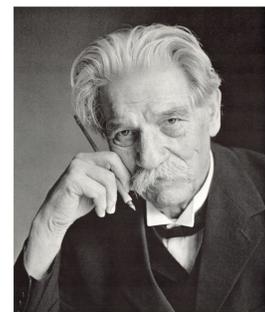
We undersigned scientists, who have been awarded Nobel Prizes, have come to the shores of Lake Constance in southern Germany, to share insights with promising young researchers, who like us come from around the world. Nearly 60 years ago, here on Mainau, a similar gathering of Nobel Laureates in science issued a declaration of the dangers inherent in the newly found technology of nuclear weapons—a technology derived from advances in basic science. So far we have avoided nuclear war though the threat remains. We believe that our world today faces another threat of comparable magnitude.

Successive generations of scientists have helped create a more and more prosperous world. This prosperity has come at the cost of a rapid rise in the consumption of the world's resources. If left unchecked, our ever-increasing demand for food, water, and energy will eventually overwhelm the Earth's ability to satisfy humanity's needs, and will lead to wholesale human tragedy. Already, scientists who study Earth's climate are observing the impact of human activity. [...] Failure to act will subject future generations of humanity to unconscionable and unacceptable risk.

—Mainau Island, Germany 3 July 2015



Last sentence of the Mainau Declaration („Mainauer Kundgebung”)
Mainau / Bodensee, 15 July 1955
Commemorative plaque for Otto Hahn
Altensteinstraße 48, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany
A panel from the 14th exhibition:
Frieden für immer. Denkmäler gegen den Krieg
[Peace forever. Memorials against War] (2016)



Dr. Albert Schweitzer
(14 January 1875 – 4 September 1965)

“My Address to the People” Commitment against Nuclear War

Anti-Kriegs-Museum e.V. (www.anti-kriegs-museum.de)
Gandhi-Informationen-Zentrum e.V. (www.nonviolent-resistance.info)
Realisation: Christian Bartolf, Marion Gericke, Dominique Miething

Patron:
STIFTUNG DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER
ZENTRUM

Universitätsbibliothek der Freien Universität Berlin, Berlin 2020

English language catalogue of the 17th exhibition (2017)
on display in German language at the Freie Universität Berlin's Universitätsbibliothek in 2019

Exhibitions

In collaboration with the Berlin Anti-War Museum, the Gandhi Information Center has created and presented twenty-one exhibitions on the concept of nonviolent resistance for peace education between 2008 and 2020. These exhibitions present significant messages from activists and thinkers of nonviolence and accompanying images against ecocide, injustice, militarism, poverty, violence and war (Bartolf/Miething 2017 and 2020). Eleven of these exhibitions have been translated into English:

- *"Bread and Roses" - Voices against War* (2019/20)
- *Aldous Huxley: Alphabet of Peace. Commitment against War* (2019)
- *Henry David Thoreau: "... give me truth". Plea for Nonviolent Resistance* (2017/18)
- *Étienne de La Boétie: Against Voluntary Servitude. Discourse on the fall of tyrants* (2012)
- *Rabindranath Tagore: "Words from the Depth of Truth". Reflections against War and Nationalism* (2011)
- *Leo Tolstoy and the Doukhobors: Conscientious Objection - commemorating the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's death centenary* (2010/2011)
- *John Ruskin - "Unto This Last". Reflections on Justice and Peace* (2010)
- *Henry David Thoreau - "Civil Disobedience". Reflections against Slavery and War* (2009)
- *Martin Luther King - "I HAVE A DREAM". Reflections on Nonviolence* (2009)
- *Leo Nikolajevic Tolstoy: "I Cannot Be Silent!" Reflections against Violence and War* (2008)
- *Gandhi's Path to Nonviolence. Autobiographical quotes, photos, original voice* (2008)

For Educators and Teachers

Our exhibitions are freely accessible on the internet and on CDs and DVDs for educational use. They contain the complete set of panels along with additional documents for civic, cultural and historical education for nonviolence and peace.



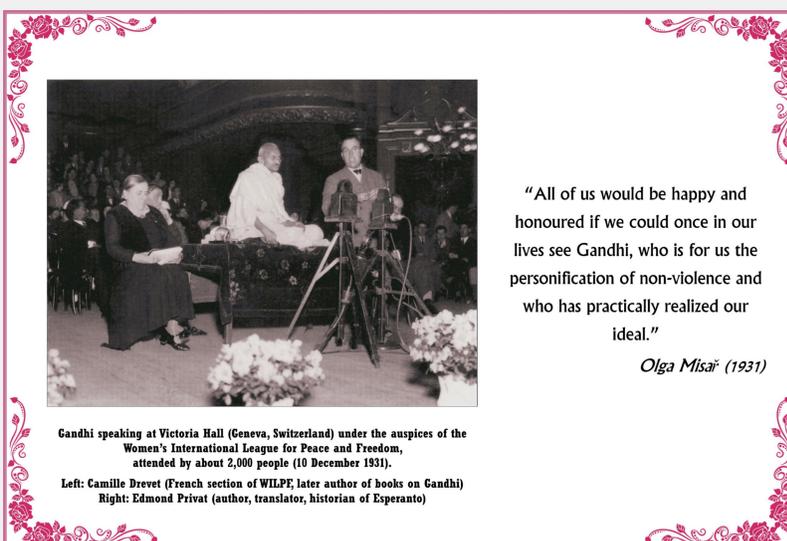
CDs & DVDs

United Nations

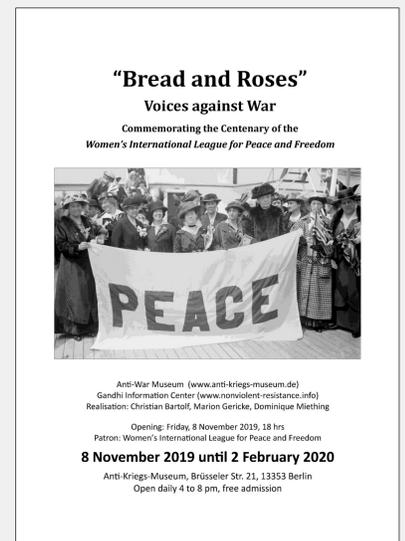
These exhibitions contribute to the realization of a global “Culture of Peace” (A/RES/53/243A), adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 September 1999 (UNESCO Club Berlin 2018).

Paragons of Peace

Our exhibitions further the “peace competence” (Gugel 2011) of youth and adult learners by acquainting them with role models and by enabling them to engage critically with legitimization patterns of armaments, the military and war and their respective consequences for the developments of societies and states.



21st exhibition (panel and poster)



References

- Bartolf, Christian / Miething, Dominique 2017: "Exhibitions on Nonviolent Resistance: A New Medium for Peace Education." In: Predrag Cicovacki / Kendy Hess (eds.): *Nonviolence as a Way of Life: History, Theory, and Practice* (Two Volumes) (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers): Vol. II, pp. 514-532.
- Bartolf, Christian / Miething, Dominique 2020: "Friedensbildung." In: Sabine Achour et al. (eds.): *Wörterbuch Politikanterricht* (Frankfurt am Main: Wochenschau Verlag): 85-88.
- Gugel, Günther 2011: „Friedenserziehung." In: Hans J. Gießmann / Bernhard Rinke (eds.): *Handbuch Frieden* (Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften): 149-159.
- UNESCO Club Berlin (ed.) 2018: *Culture of Peace. A Contribution to UNESCO's Educational Mission: Building Peace in the Minds of Men and Women.*