

**Center for Conflict Analysis
and Resolution**

Occasional Paper 3

**The Dialectics and Economics
of Peace**

by

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Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

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About the Authors

Elise Boulding, born in Oslo, Norway, received a B.A. in English from Douglass College, an M.S. in Sociology from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan. She is Professor Emerita of Dartmouth College and Senior Fellow in the Dickey Endowment; she was Secretary-General of the International Peace Research Association, Professor and Chair at Dartmouth 1978–1985, Department of Sociology and Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and is a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Boulding served as a member of the governing board of the United Nations University 1980–1985, member of the International Jury of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, member of the U.S. Commission for UNESCO 1981–1987, and Editor of the International Peace Newsletter. Some of her writings have addressed women's changing social, economic, and political roles.

Kenneth Boulding, born in Liverpool, England, has lived in the United States since 1937. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Oxford and was Commonwealth Fellow at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Research Associate and Project Director in the Program of Research on Political and Economic Change at the University's Institute of Behavioral Science; he has served as president of six major scholarly societies, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Economic Association, and the International Studies Association. He previously taught at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, Colgate University, Princeton, Iowa State University, McGill University, and the University of Michigan.

Both are prolific writers, teachers, researchers, peace and conflict resolution scholars and activists, and members of the Society of Friends.

About the Center

The Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University has as its principal mission to advance the understanding and resolution of significant and persistent human conflicts among individuals, groups, communities, identity groups, and nations. To fulfill this mission, the center works in four areas: academic programs, consisting of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and a Master of Science (M.S.) in Conflict Management; research and publication; a clinical service program offered through the Conflict Clinic, Inc., center faculty, and senior associates; and public education.

Associated with the center are three major organizations that promote and apply conflict resolution principles. These are the Conflict Clinic, Inc., mentioned above; the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development (COPRED), a network organization; and the National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution (NCPCR), offering conferences and workshops.

Major research interests include the study of deep-rooted conflicts and their resolution; the exploration of conditions attracting parties to the negotiation table; and intervention methods in a range of community, national, and international settings.

Outreach to the community is accomplished through the publication of books and articles, public lectures, conferences, and special briefings on the theory and practice of conflict resolution. As part of this effort, the center's working and occasional papers offer both the public at large and professionals in the field access to critical thinking flowing from faculty, staff, and students at the center. The papers are presented to stimulate critical consideration and discussion of important questions in the study of human conflict.

Introductory Remarks

[The following remarks were made by James H. Laue, Lynch Professor of Conflict Resolution, November 15, 1989.]

May I express my special gratitude to two very special people who have made this Center, the Lynch Chair, and this lecture series possible, Edwin and Helen Lynch, two great lifetime peacemakers.

I have never tried to introduce a living legend before, certainly not two of them. Our University is to be congratulated for making it possible for these two grand global citizens to be together in one place for perhaps the longest continuous period of their forty-eight collaboration. How nice it is that it is at this place! To have them together on the same platform tonight gives us a feast of intellect and commitment that would be difficult to match anywhere at any time.

For here is a truly peaceful, peace-loving, and peacemaking couple, each wonderfully independent and creative, modeling in their work and relationship the dialectic at the heart of the peacemaking process. They have led lives of linkage: Oslo and Liverpool (their birthplaces); sociology and economics; family and career (five lovely children and 14.9 grandchildren); local as well as global action, from Quaker meeting to the United Nations, from the board of the Boulder, Colorado, Parenting Center to the boards of the U.N. University and the International Peace Research Association.

This semester, Elise Boulding is Distinguished Visiting Professor of Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. She is Professor Emerita and former Chair of Sociology at the University of Colorado. She was there in the early sixties at the founding of the Center for Research in Conflict Resolution at the University of Michigan, the pioneer, as Research Development Secretary. Her doctorate in Sociology was earned in Michigan. She is the author or co-author of at least fourteen books. Note the range of interest in the titles: *From a Monastery Kitchen*, *Handbook of International Data on Women*, *The Underside of History: A View of Women Through Time*, *Children's Rights and the Wheel of Life*, *The Social System of Planet Earth*, *Women and the Social Costs of Economic Development: Two Colorado Case Studies*, and, most recently, *Building a Global Civic*

Culture. She has authored literally hundreds of chapters, articles, and pamphlets. Some of my favorite titles are "The Fruits of Solitude for Children," "Evolution of the Peacemaking Capacity in Teilhard de Chardin, Martin Buber and Jane Addams," and "Women, Frugality and the Planetary Household."

Elise has chaired and served on boards and commissions ranging from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Sociological Association, the U.N. University, UNESCO, the U.S. Commission on Proposals for the National Academy of Peace and Conflict Resolution (where it was my special pleasure to serve with her for a year) and, yes, the Parenting Center of Boulder, Colorado. Most significantly, she now is Secretary General of the International Peace Research Association, whose twenty-fifth anniversary conference in the Netherlands next summer is filling her agenda.

Kenneth Boulding is Distinguished Professor of Economics Emeritus at the University of Colorado. Most important for us is his appointment as Visiting Robinson Professor at George Mason this semester. He has held regular appointments during his career at Michigan, Edinburgh, Colgate, Fisk, and Iowa State University and has been a visiting professor in more than a dozen United States and foreign universities.

Kenneth was educated at Liverpool Collegiate School and at Oxford, where he earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. He has written at least thirty-one books, by my last count anyway, which occurred at approximately 4:47 p.m. this afternoon. Among them are the classic *Conflict and Defense*, *The Economics of Peace*, *The Organizational Revolution*, *Beyond Economics*, *Stable Peace*, and, this fall, *Three Faces of Power*. He has edited or co-edited another dozen books, has at least ten honorary degrees, and several books have been written about him and his work. He is honored in such sources as *A Dictionary of Economics* and the modestly-entitled *Great Economists Since Keynes*, and he has been the president of more learned societies than most of us know exist.

The Bouldings co-founded the Consortium on Peace Research, Education, and Development twenty years ago; it is now based here at the Center for Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. They were co-recipients of the Lentz International Peace Research Prize. Their entire beings are devoted to the peaceful resolution of

conflict and the dawning of Shalom. They are dear friends and dear people.

Elise and Kenneth . . . please bring us the third annual Lynch Lecture on “The Dialectics and Economics of Peace.”

The Dialectics of Peace

by

Elise Boulding

I remember a sunny fall Sunday afternoon in Montreal, when Kenneth and I were a young married couple. It was before the children started coming. We sat atop Mont Royal, overlooking the Laurentians, and sketched the beautiful fall scene spread out before us. We sat in the same place, saw the same scene, yet how different our pictures looked! Kenneth’s was sunny and peaceful; mine showed stormy clouds on the horizon, subtly darkening the scene. Here were two different representations of the same reality, and there was a profound truth in both our drawings.

I use this example of conflicting perspectives as my point of departure for looking at peace because I cannot separate my view of peace from my view of conflict. Conflict is a basic fact of human existence because we are each unique. We see differently—like Kenneth and myself on Mont Royal; we hear differently; we have different needs. No two of us are shaped alike. Therefore all human interactions have an element of conflict in them, as we face the gulf between what I experience and what you experience. Sometimes the gulf is exciting and fun, other times it is so painful that we can’t face it. Much of the time we accommodate to the differences, almost without noticing.

If conflict is a basic fact of human existence, then the key to peace must be the management of conflict, not its abolition. An important concept for me is the conflict management continuum; one end represents destruction of the other. The continuum shades from threat through arbitration, mediation, negotiation to integrative processes that bond us to each other. In a profound sense, where on that continuum our own conflict management behavior lies is a matter of day-by-day choice.

Peace, then, is a highly charged dynamic process involving constant negotiation at every level of human interaction from local to global. Peace is *dialectical*, in that each resolution of a conflict, or synthesis, creates the basis for dealing with the next conflict. Applying good conflict resolution skills creates the conditions for increasingly productive conflict outcomes in the future. On the whole, we

