

Infusing Peace Education Into the Curriculum of Professional Military Education

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.

Maria Montessori

thepeopleproject.com

*Education breeds confidence.
Confidence breeds hope.
Hope breeds peace.*

— Confucius



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governments
need to invest in
peace education.

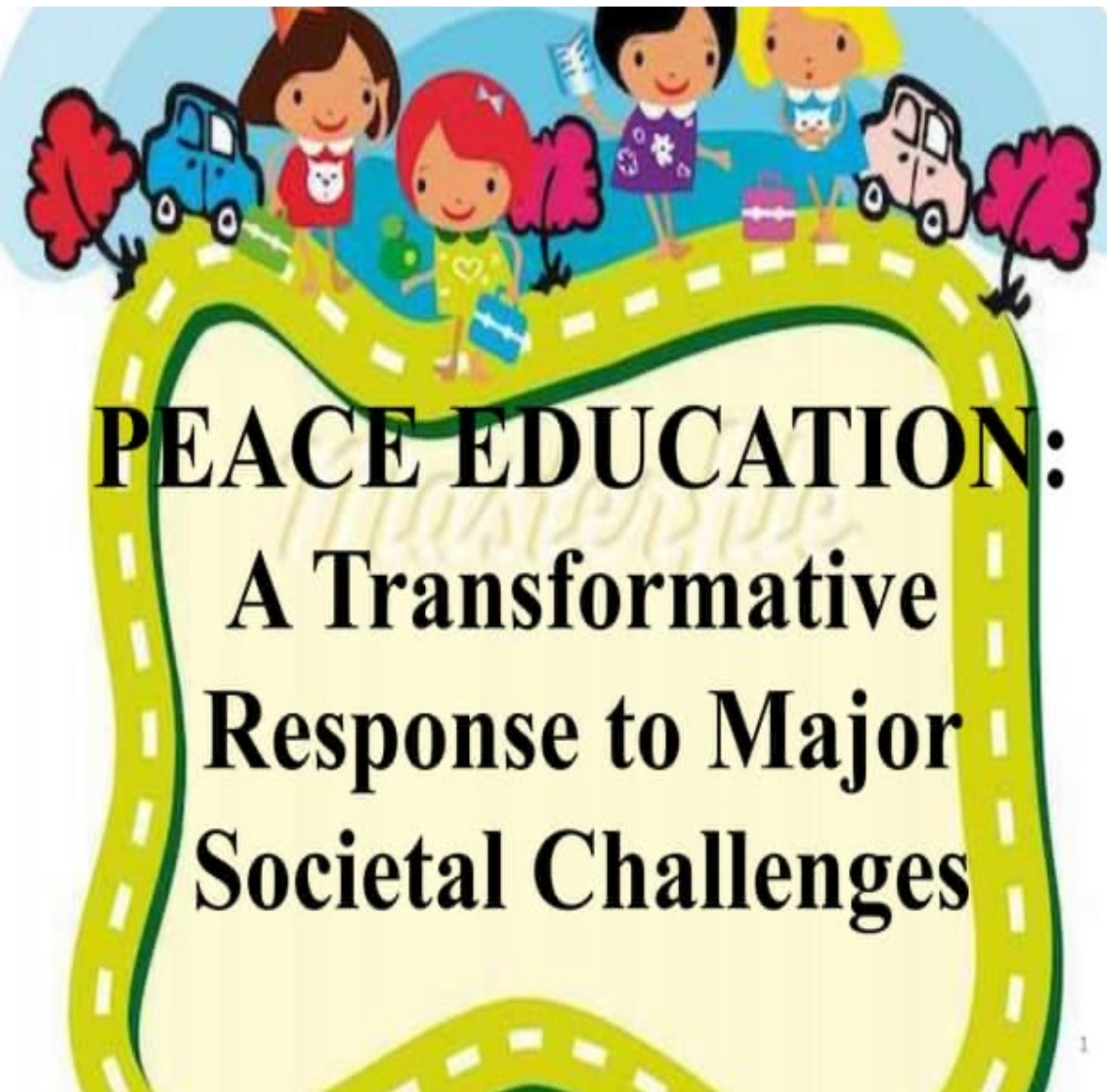


Lt Gen Fadzil Mokhtar (R)
National Defence University Malaysia



**Infusion of Peace Education into Professional Military Education
is Necessary**

**Implementation is difficult
Teaching peace to military is complex, challenging
Although not undoable, requires adaptations**



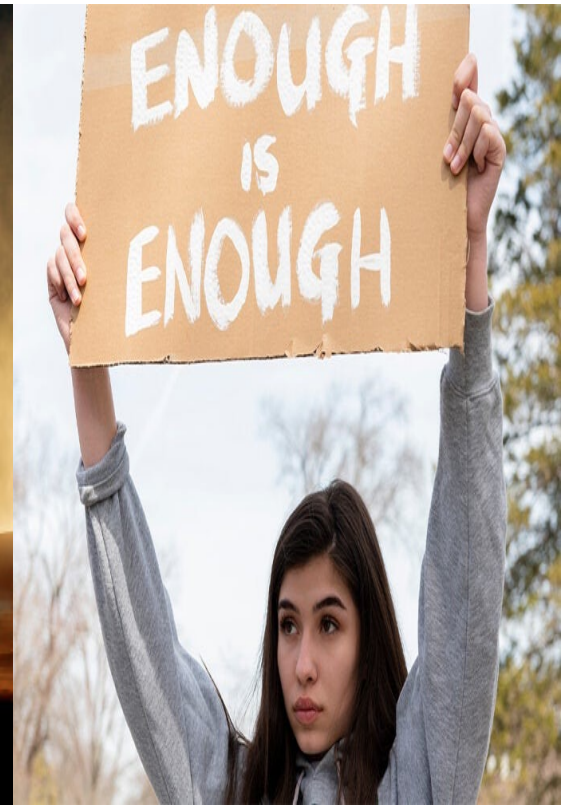
Peace Education:
“A systematic education that builds in every individual the universal values and behaviors necessary for nurturing a culture of peace.”

- **includes the ability of people to prevent conflicts by proposing viable alternatives to violence**
- **Peace education = means of creating culture of peace**

Purpose of peace education – foster a commitment to the ways of peace including resort to nonviolent means of resolving conflicts

Culture of Peace

*Peace.
It's In Our Hands*



**Impediments to Culture of
Peace=
Violence and War System**

**VIOLENCE IS NOT THE SOLUTION
IT'S THE PROBLEM**

PEACE EDUCATION



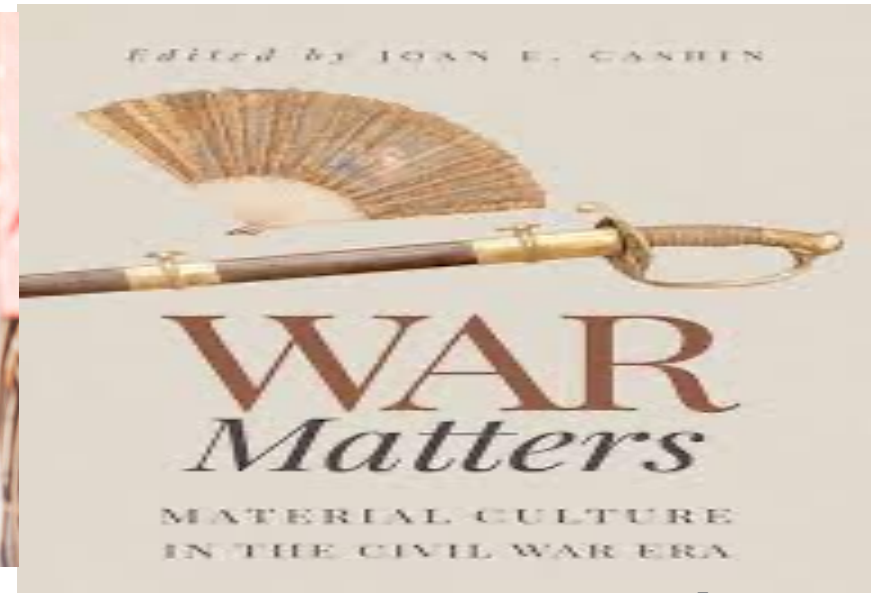
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Educating for dismantling the culture of war

Systematic replacement of culture of war by culture of peace



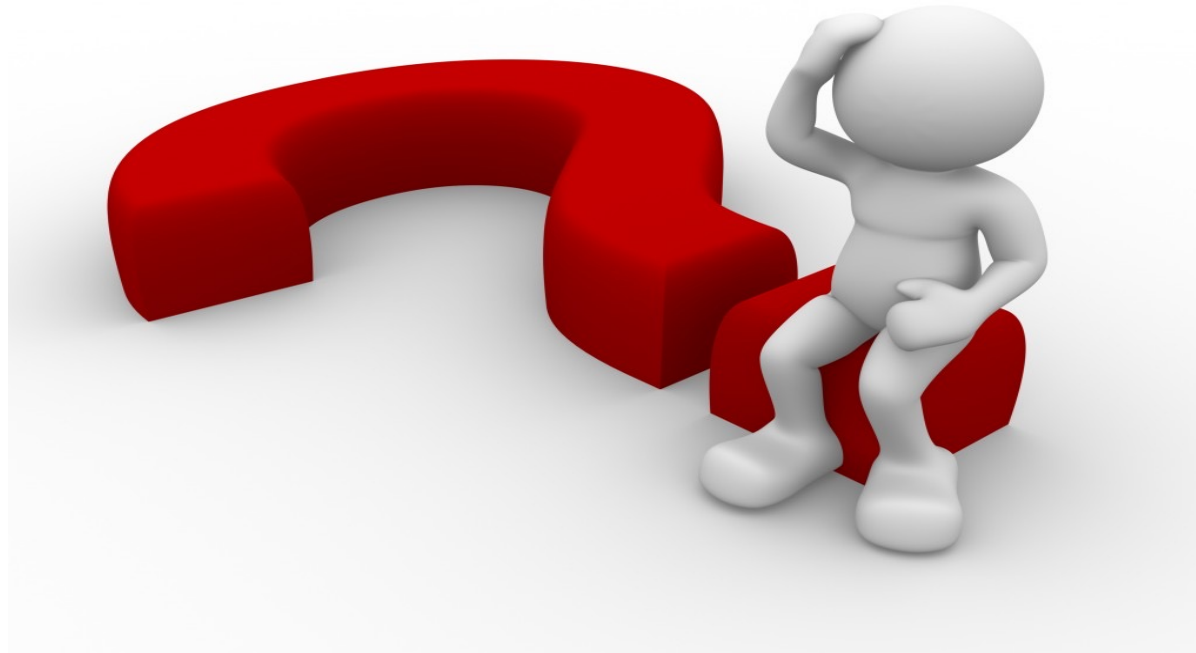
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Source: <http://en.unesco.org/cultureofpeace/>

Dismantling the Culture of War





Quarterbooks



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9 MORE THAN SHIPS AND SUBMARINE

42 Aircrafts

2707 Personnel

LIMA
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Enhance Interoperability,
Operational Capability
& Professional Relationship

8

Military synonymous with culture of war

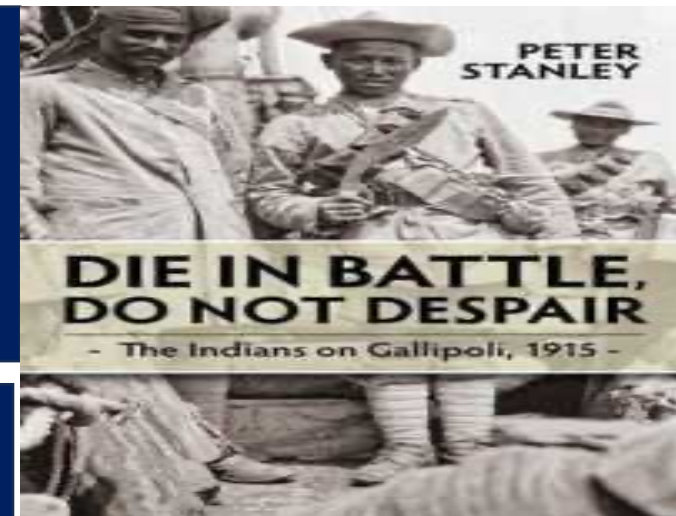
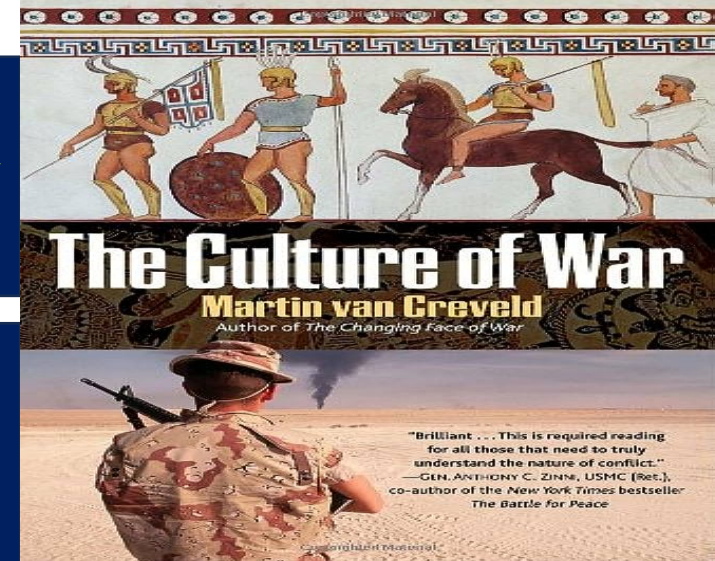
The culture imbues sense of mission, professional identity, core competencies & ethos

Culture of war critical in:

- overcoming personnel's natural inclination to avoid danger
- Preparing personnel to make the supreme sacrifice and risk their lives

Is dismantling of culture of war possible?

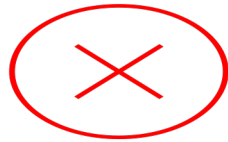
Military without culture of war = mob of barbarians



Focus & Pedagogy

Peace Education

Produce individuals committed to peace/non-violence

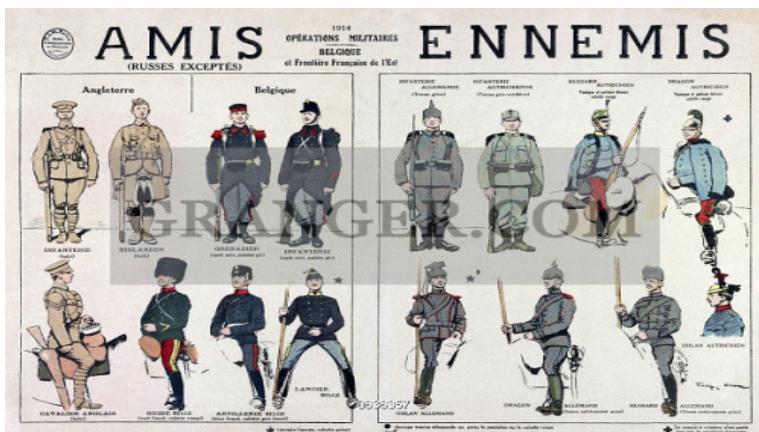


Professional Military Education

Produce forces able to deter/win wars

- **Perfecting art of war – outwitting adversary**
- **Non-violence not element in military science**
- **Military capability is about ability to unleash unendurable violence**

Teaching Methods	Peace Education	Professional Military Education
Represent idea of peace like non-violence, equality	✓	✗
Punishment	✗	✓
Vertical Relations	✗	✓
Examinations – sorting people into categories/classes	✗	✓



**“Soft” methods of peace education
essential to effectuate the passage
to a culture of peace**

**Antithetical to conduct of military
training/education**

**Essential for toughness, boldness,
aggressiveness**

A killer mindset



“

The culture of peace is more than an armistice or a ceasefire. It is built and must be nurtured over time.

”

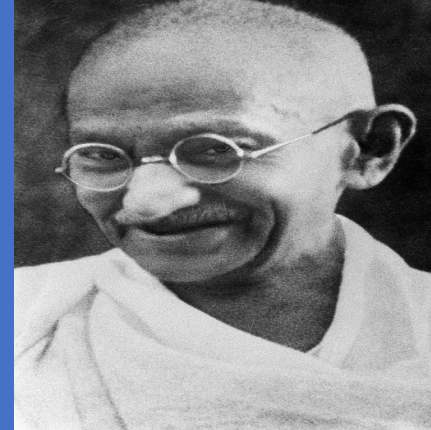
Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General



Professional Military Education



Peace Education



Peace Education vs Professional Military Education

Incongruent Focus & Pedagogy

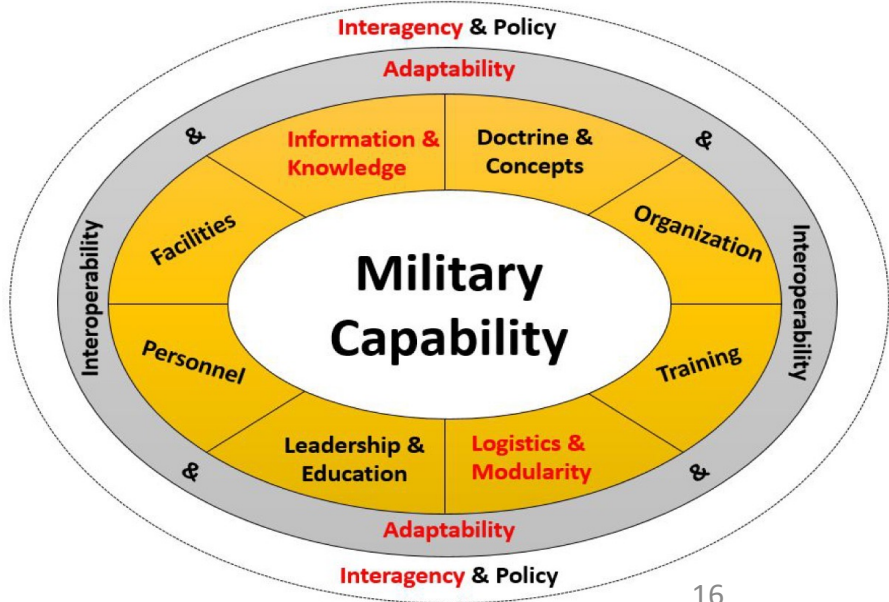
**No Requirement for Infusing Peace Education into
Professional Military Education ?**

**Focus - Incorporation
of peace education
into mainstream
education**



**The cornerstone of
military education will
continue to be
sustaining/enhancing
operational capability**

**No explicit requirement
for infusion into military
education**



**Infusing peace education into military is
not easy**

But not an impossible venture !

- **Peace Education is essential**
- **Culture of war has not produced the desired peace**
- **Culture of war has only produced oppressive, violent
social structures**

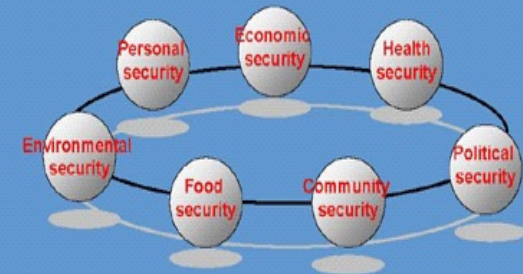


**There is need for peace education in the military,
but not in the nature and manner propounded by
UNESCO**

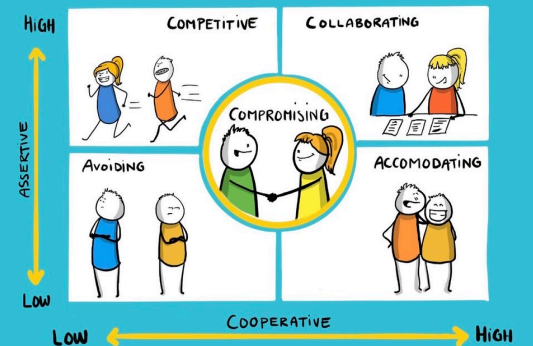
**Curriculum of the National Defence
College does contain some aspects of
peace education**

- **Less military security; more human security**
- **Management/conservation of natural resources**
 - **Critical thinking & conflict management**

Realms of human security



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



Curriculum needs to be expanded to intermediate & elementary levels

**Yes, approach will not lead to creation of culture of peace
A long shot!**

But could:

- **raise consciousness of the perils of the culture of war**
- **raise critical awareness of factors inhibiting positive peace and other peace related issues**
- **Foster understanding of conflict resolution alternatives**

Over time

**military will have a mass of people, equipped
with the capacities to approach issues with open
and critical attitudes**

**who collectively will be able to navigate
conflicts without resorting to violence**

THANK YOU