

# Peace Banquet

*Johan Galtung*

*The People's Peace Prize was created as a constructive alternative to the Nobel Peace Prize, which has often been awarded in defiance of Nobel's will to people and organisations who do not, in fact, work for peace. The award of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to ICAN is a welcome return to Nobel's true legacy. Meanwhile, on 2 December 2017, Johan Galtung received the People's Peace Prize in due recognition of his lifelong dedication to building peace. He responded with characteristic candour and concision.*

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Most gratefully received: a beautifully engraved granite stone that will adorn our garden in Spain, and a wonderful diploma!

I am deeply moved, with a feeling that my long life dedicated to the theory and practice of peace, particularly since 1958, 50 years ago, has arrived, has been understood, and has been appreciated.

The Nobel Peace Prize administered by Norway is fake. Far from Nobel's will, inspired by Bertha von Suttner's *Nie mehr Krieg*, as a prize for reducing standing armies, understanding among nations, and peace conferences, to a prize compatible with US-Norwegian policies. The 2017 prize to ICAN was a felicitous exception to that rule.

The Norway to which Nobel bestowed the honour of awarding the prize was part of Sweden-Norway dedicated to the Marshal Bernadotte-King Karl Johan policy of neutrality, from 1835. Today's Norway is member of an anti-Russian NATO alliance headed by the most belligerent state in

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world history that even surpassed the Roman Empire in the early 1990s, with 248 US military interventions since Libya in 1801, and more than 20 million killed in 37 countries since 1945. Norway never protested.

In 1949 Norway should have understood that membership in a US-led military alliance and the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize are mutually exclusive. The honour of awarding that prestigious prize should have reverted to neutral Sweden. But Oslo wanted prestige and alliance. Northern Norway, with a 240km Russian border and 1,000 years of peace, knew better.

NATO changed from defensive, with Article 5 proclaiming that attack on one member is an attack on all, and became *de facto* offensive, with attack by one member being an attack by all; on Afghanistan, on Iraq... A belligerent Norwegian prime minister became Secretary General of anti-Russian NATO, demanding bigger standing armies. This reduces the credibility of a prize awarded by official, not private, Norway, for peace policies the country itself evidently does not believe in.

### **A Life with Peace Issues**

Yes, this is the story, as a child, of peace movements like War Resisters' International. Six life points:

1. War-occupation-father in concentration camp – sisters refugees in Sweden
2. The light from Gandhi, crying at 17-years-old when he was shot on 30 January 1948
3. The calling in Helsinki 1951 to develop non-existing peace studies
4. Starting from scratch with health, from my medical family, as model
5. Developing theory and practice, diagnosis, prognosis and therapy
6. Being empirical and pragmatic, not ideological and dogmatic

Early on, six wrong approaches to peace were identified; they may be necessary or helpful, but certainly not sufficient:

1. Disarmament: they re-arm, seeing no alternatives; dis-targeting is better
2. Nonviolence: good slogan but, as Gandhi did, has to be made positive
3. Peace Movement: peace not by meetings-resolutions-demonstrations
4. Governments: security; not by threats, offensive arms and arms races
5. Uni- or bi-polar worlds: hegemonic, dangerous; multipolar better
6. World Government: civilizations different; United Regions better

Dissatisfaction with theory and practice led over years to the Transcend Method, an evolving approach to peace, now characterized by:

1. Karma Years: when underlying contradictions were shaped
2. Conflict: incompatible goals; made compatible by changing reality
3. Violence: direct and indirect (structural), two underlying causes:  
unsolved conflict, unreconciled trauma (wounds from past violence)
4. Peace: negative, solving/reconciling; positive, building good relations
5. Mediation: dialogues, for mapping-legitimizing-bridging conflicts
6. Vision: linking good with good, with optimism based on track record

### **Formulas for Peace**

Yes, I think there is a Six Elements Formula, and more particularly one that reads as follows:

$$\text{PEACE} = \frac{\text{EQUITY} \times \text{HARMONY}}{\text{TRAUMA} \times \text{CONFLICT}}$$

As shaped by DEEP CULTURE and DEEP STRUCTURE. To spell it out:

1. Equity: cooperation for mutual and equal benefit
2. Empathy: ability to see and feel reality as Other does
3. Conflict: mutually exclusive goals in present empirical reality
4. Trauma: wounds from past violence due to conflict and/or trauma
5. Deep culture: reality as in individual and collective subconscious
6. Deep structure: patterned interaction, empirical or potential

The formula specifies four jobs to be done, with two constraints. Conflicts are ingested, digested, for negative peace (denominator) and positive peace (numerator), energizing individual and social bodies. Violence is forgotten, as a relic of the past, like feudalism. Excreted.

However, the proof of a pudding is in the eating, and there are many ‘puddings’ around. Here are Six Recent Cases, with visions:

1. Africa: multi-nation federations multi-state communities for nations
2. China Sea Islands: Joint property income split 40-40-20 (ecology)
3. Catalunya: not independent but with high level autonomy financially
4. Syria: decolonization-westernization Muslim power to the imams
5. USA/N Korea: Peace Treaty normalization Nuclear-free peninsula
6. China/Japan: Share narratives Share islands East Asian Community

And here are Six Current Cases in the light of their Karma Years:

1. West/Russia: One United Christianity – A European House, 395
2. West/Ukraine/Russia: Ukraine independent-neutral-federal, 395
3. USA/World: Enlightened, not divine, Normal Part of MEXUSCAN, 1620
4. Afghanistan: Eliminate Durand line – Central Asian Community, 1893
5. Palestine-Israel: UN 1-2-6-20 Israel as millet Kitab community, 1898
6. United Regions: China, EU, ELAC, Africa, Islam, SAARC, ASEAN, 1912, 1958

Being a Norwegian, please permit me Six Wishes for Norway:

1. Peace Nation: good at handling conflicts at all levels also marriage
2. Peace State: negative and positive peace with all, practising Nobel
3. Freedom: liberated from US occupation, US bases, US foreign policy
4. Defensive defence: coastal artillery militia less vulnerable, Gandhi
5. Spirit of Independence: no EU successor to DK, S, GB, USA: Norway!
6. Spirit of Human Property: Exclusive Economic Zones, ocean and under, islands, sector

### **Peace Banquet and the Prize**

The Six Dishes, with tea-coffee, included grilled eco-chicken and mango-tango. Delicious. Why so many Sixes? Maybe because 6 is a beautiful, well rounded number? Not a dagger, like 1, 4, 7, 9? 6 – Six – a peace number. Like 3 (Christianity). And like 8 (Buddhism & Hinduism).

Deep thanks, Ola. Deep thanks, Erni. You are what you preach! Deep thanks Orust Peace Movement. Deep thanks to the many volunteers who made it all possible. Deep thanks to our sense of a community embracing us all. For peace not only as a vision but inside us, among us. And deep thanks Orust Nature for accommodating us so beautifully.

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