



The Cultural Dimensions of Peacebuilding

By Marty Branagan

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This solutions-oriented book aims to inspire deep understanding and reflection, empowerment, and grassroots action in cultural spheres by detailing the aspects of culture.

This broad-ranging book examines the creation, through the arts and culture, of societies that enjoy sustainable, positive peace. It begins with a critique of the pervasive nature of militarism and violence embedded deep in the cultural fabric of many societies, influencing the language and discourses we use, the films we watch, our museums and histories, our journalism, and our education systems. It also examines the roots of violence in our parenting styles, gender roles, and spiritual practices. It contrasts this with an examination of a number of peaceful societies that already exist, drawing useful lessons from their cultures. It critiques discrepancies in history education with regard to war and peace and examines artistic and cultural processes, institutions, and artifacts designed to create peace, such as peace museums and parks, peace journalism, peace education, and resistance to violence through cultural means, such as film-making, fine arts, satirical theatre, and protest music. Solutions-oriented, it examines the efficacy of these attempts and suggests positive ways forward. It also explores the role of gender in creating cultures of peace and the impacts on peacebuilding of cultivating peace within.

Contents

Introduction; Language and Discourses; screen Violence; Existing Peaceful Societies; Peace History, Museums and Parks; Peace Journalism and Writing; Domestic Peace; Peace Education; Gender and Peace; Artistic Activism; Environmental Peace; Peace Within

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr. Marty Branagan is Convenor of Peace Studies at the University of New England, Australia, and a long-term artist and activist. He is the author of two novels, two monographs, two co-edited books, and more than forty chapters and articles.

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