

# INTRODUCTION: A TOOL CHEST FOR PEACEBUILDERS

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## *Abstract*

This special issue of the *International Journal of Peace Studies* honors the contributions of Chadwick (Chad) F. Alger to the field of peace studies. This introduction provides a brief description of Alger's tool chest for peacebuilders, which in many ways represents a culmination of his decades of work and thinking regarding peace studies, and an overview of the articles in this issue. Each article is written by someone with a close connection to Alger who approaches his ideas and scholarship from their own perspective in order to build upon this work in new, innovative ways.

In the foreword to this issue, Chad Alger's colleague at Northwestern University, Harold Guetzkow, provides insights into Alger's early development as a scholar. As Guetzkow indicates at the end of his statement, Alger had already completed a range of important work before his move to The Ohio State University, but he continued to rise to the challenge of providing new, insightful research. In fact, although an Emeritus professor since 1995, Alger has remained an active scholar. In designing a special issue of the *International Journal of Peace Studies* in honor of his work, my task was, therefore, a difficult one given the breadth and range of material with which he has been, and continues to be, engaged.

Instead of trying to comprehensively review or relate this special issue to the full range of his work, it was decided instead to frame the following articles in relation to the peace tools framework that Alger (1996b; 1999a; 2002a) has developed. In many ways, this work represents the culmination of his decades of work and thinking regarding peace studies. While numerous scholars have written about the need for integrated and holistic strategies, Alger's tool chest offers a useful conceptualization for all of those who work for peace, whether it be through research, education, or action. The tool chest analogy helpfully captures how different instruments for pursuing peace can be more or less fruitful given the requirements of the situation and the strengths and limitations of each tool. There is no single strategy or approach for pursuing peace, instead a careful consideration of the range of applicable tools is required.<sup>1</sup>

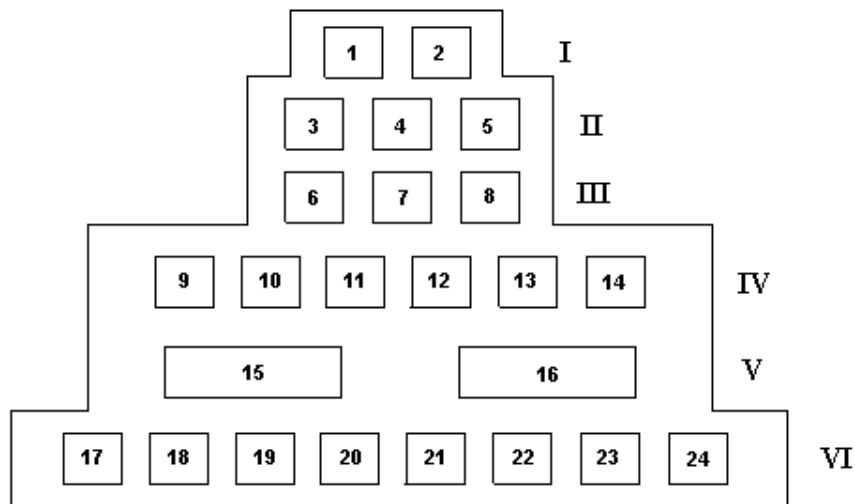


Figure 1: Peacebuilder's Tool Chest

Alger explains the reason for establishing a tool chest framework, “The basic premise...is that we have learned much more about building peace in the Twentieth Century, through research and practice, than we normally tend to apply. Therefore, we will attempt an inventory of the available instruments for pursuing peace” (1996b: 21). Figures 1 and 2 illustrate how Alger organizes the twenty-four peace tools that he identifies (from Alger, 1999a). The overall tool chest contains six drawers, based on their origin, from which peacebuilders may choose. These peace tools have developed over time and represent tools that address both negative and positive peace. The most recent incarnation of the tool chest considers religion as a peace tool (Alger, 2002a). After reviewing a range of work relating religion to peace, Alger suggests that religious peace actors’ involvement in field diplomacy could be inserted into the tool chest as the twenty-fifth tool as part of the drawer on non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/people’s movements. More generally, he emphasizes the connection of religion across other peace tools:

Religious peace activists tend to employ a broad range of peace tools. These certainly include diplomacy, Track II diplomacy, human rights, humanitarian intervention, peaceful settlement, preventive diplomacy, non-violence, and self reliance. At the same time, many others are implied. There is no doubt that religious peace activists have a broader approach to the quest for peace than many state actors do (Alger, 2002a: 107).

The authors for this volume were chosen from those who know Alger best: his colleagues and former students. It was believed to be particularly important to involve former students as an indication of the ongoing legacy that Alger has provided, and to allow those students to return full circle to their mentor to honor and build upon his work based out of their own research. In terms of my own motivation and connection to this effort, I was a doctoral student of Alger’s at Ohio State. Roger Coate and Courtney Smith also received their degrees working under Alger at Ohio State, while Marvin Soroos was a doctoral student at Northwestern. The other two article contributors, Birgit Brock-Utne and Robert Johansen, have worked closely with Alger in the past, especially through their common engagement in the International Peace Research Association. As Harold Guetzkow explained, he and Alger served together as professors at Northwestern.

The goal of this special issue is to build upon the peace tool framework, with a special emphasis on areas of particular interest to Alger in his research. The invited authors were asked to address the peacebuilder’s tool chest from their area of expertise. Thus, the contributors had the option of tackling a particular peace tool or set of peace tools, or speaking in general to the idea of a peacebuilder’s tool chest from their perspective. For the foreword, Guetzkow was asked to provide a brief statement remembering their time together at Northwestern and Alger’s work during that period.

The first author, Courtney Smith, focuses his analysis on the United Nations, the activities of which span a wide range of Alger’s peace tools. The centrality of the United Nations to the peacebuilder’s tool chest is not surprising given that the study of this organization is a core part of Alger’s work (see Smith’s article for a range of Alger’s work on the United Nations). In his article, “Building Peace Through the Political Processes of the United Nations,” Smith grounds his analysis in the research undertaken by Alger on decisionmaking in the United Nations. Smith demonstrates how a close analysis of the internal political processes of the United Nations - including the “non-resolution consequences” of United Nations deliberations,

the effects on actors participating in the decisionmaking process, and the important dynamics of decisionmaking such as informal contacts - provides important understanding of the relation of the organization to building international peace. He also details how Alger's innovative, multi-method research strategies provide a greater understanding of such factors.

	19th Century	1919	1945	1950 - 89	1990 -	
N E G A T I V E  P E A C E	Diplomacy (1)					
	Balance of Power (2)					
	I	League Covenant	UN Charter	UN Practice	UN Practice	NGO/Peoples Movements
		Collective Security (3)	Collective Security	Collective Security	Collective Security	
				Peacekeeping (9)	Peacekeeping	
		Peaceful Settlement (4)	Peaceful Settlement	Peaceful Settlement	Peaceful Settlement	Track II Diplomacy (17)
		Disarmament/ Arms Control (5)	Disarmament/ Arms Control	Disarmament/ Arms Control	Disarmament/ Arms Control	Conversion (18)
		II			Humanitarian Intervention (15) Preventive Diplomacy (16)	Defensive Defense (19)
			Functionalism (6)	Functionalism	Functionalism	Non-Violence (20)
	P O S I T I V E  P E A C E			Self-Determinism (7)	Self-Determinism	Self-Determinism
			Human Rights (8)	Human Rights	Human Rights	Self-Reliance (22)
			III	Economic Development (10)	Economic Development	Feminist Perspectives (23)
				Economic Equity (NIEO) (11)	Economic Equity (NIEO)	Peace Education (24)
				Communication Equity (12)	Communication Equity	VI
				Ecological Balance (13)	Ecological Balance	
				Governance for Commons (14)	Governance for Commons	
				IV	V	

Figure 2: The Emergence of Peace Tools

The second article, "Reviving Peacebuilding Tools Ravished By Terrorism, Unilateralism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction" written by Robert Johansen, approaches the issue of the United Nations and global governance from a different perspective. While Smith provides insights into how the internal processes of the United Nations shapes the place of this organization as a peace tool, Johansen considers how external changes challenge the effectiveness of the United Nations' peacemaking activities. Johansen argues that the tools for building peace are being undermined by the threats of mega-terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and a unilateral approach to international affairs by the United States. However, he believes that these threats may be counteracted if international legal constraints on the use of collective violence are encouraged and the capabilities of the United Nations are bolstered, especially through the use of a United Nations civilian police force.

Moving beyond intergovernmental organizations, Roger Coate addresses non-governmental efforts in his article, "Civil Society as a Force For Peace." Civil society has long been a vital part of Alger's research agenda (such as 2003a; 2002b; 1999b; 1997; 1994; 1992; 1990a; 1990b; 1988; 1987; 1982; 1980; 1974), including an article co-authored with Coate

(Coate, Alger, and Lipschutz, 1996) which informs Coate's effort in the article in this volume. Alger was an early proponent of the need to incorporate an understanding of civil society into the study of international relations, and continues to be an important voice in this area of scholarship. In recognition of this fact, when Alger was honored with the establishment of the Chadwick F. Alger Prize by the International Organization section of the International Studies Association, the prize was designated for the best graduate student essay related to civil society.

As Coate observes, Alger (1996b; 1999a) incorporates a civil society approach as part of his peacebuilder's tool chest. As indicated in Figures 1 and 2, drawer VI encompasses a range of tools that relate to the efforts of NGOs and people's movements to promote peace. Coate seeks to extend analysis in this area by adding the additional tools of networking, coalition building, global campaigns, parallel conferencing, and partnerships to this drawer. Coate argues that adding these tools provides analysts with greater insights into the place of civil society in promoting peace and that such an extension fits with Alger's "organic" approach to the continual development of our understanding of peace tools.

Marvin Soroos also seeks to extend the peacebuilder's tool chest, but his discussion addresses the global environment. The central focus of "Tools For Environmental Peacebuilders" is employing Alger's tool chest metaphor to categorize twenty-four tools into four drawers: international law, international governmental organizations, concepts (such as sustainable development, ecological security, and intergenerational equity), and NGOs and global civil society. Thus, Soroos' article flows well from Coate's discussion as they both tackle the important role played by civil society. Overall, Soroos reinforces the importance of the environmentally related tools set out in Alger's framework, as well as re-organizing the relation of these tools and adding new dimensions to consider for building the peace from an environmental perspective.

Finally, Birgit Brock-Utne provides her ideas that relate to one key peace tool, peace education, in her article "Peace Research With a Diversity Perspective: A Look to Africa." Alger has repeatedly explored the importance of international education (2003b; 2000; 1999c; 1996c; 1995; 1986; 1968; 1967; Alger and Harf, 1986). In relation to his peace tools framework, he argues for the centrality of peace education:

*Peace Education* can be viewed as the obvious candidate to be the last tool to be presented because it obviously comprises all that has gone before. But it is certainly not the last in importance...the seeds of peace must be planted, watered, nurtured and cultivated...*all* require peace education (Alger, 1999a: 39).

As Brock-Utne notes, Alger (1996a) also opened the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Peace Studies* with an emphasis on including peace studies voices from around the globe in order to fully inform the journal. Thus, her link to peace education in this article comes from a more broad consideration of important African concepts that could be incorporated into Western understanding in order to provide a more diverse and complete effort at peace education. More generally, Brock-Utne reinforces the idea that a peacebuilder's tool chest should be ever-evolving to encompass a wide range of approaches and perspectives.

In conclusion, this special issue reflects back on Alger's scholarship, while acknowledging his continuing contribution to peace studies, and applauds the legacy of his work. This sentiment was expressed, for example, by Coate, in a response to the editor in relation to writing his article. Coate explained that he considers himself personally "lucky enough to cut

my intellectual teeth” while working under Alger as a doctoral student and, more broadly, stated, “Students of peace studies and international organization are deeply indebted to him for his ceaseless curiosity and innovation.” We hope that Alger appreciates the innovations presented in this issue, and look forward to his ideas which develop out of a reaction to these articles, as well as other contributions that we are sure he will continue to make to the field of peace studies.

### Notes

1. I appreciate the ideas of Courtney Smith that informed this summary expression of the peacebuilder’s tool chest.

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