

IMPLEMENTING GALTUNG'S FIVEFOLD PATH: A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE STUDIES



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บทความวิจัย (Research Article)

Received 12 June 2024, Revised 13 November 2024, Accepted 31 October 2024

Abstract

This research delves into five of Johan Galtung's fundamental approaches: the conflict triangle, conflict transformation, negative and positive peace, conflict theory, and the transcendental method in conflict mediation across different levels. Based on his perspectives, this study addresses two main questions: 1) What are the five approaches outlined by Johan Galtung? And how do these approaches contribute to the field of Peace Studies? The objectives of this research are to explore five of Johan Galtung's theories and combine them with practical experience to define peace through social processes. This research methodology used a descriptive qualitative approach; this research instrument highlighted how Galtung's methods can be effectively applied within the context of Peace Studies. Therefore, this research result aims to explore the perspectives of Johan Galtung, a pioneering figure in peace research who seeks to define peace through a unique blend of theoretical frameworks and practical applications within the social realm. Furthermore, theoretical viewpoints on what establishes a conflict, how to end it, and what peace means significantly impact empirical research on conflict resolution. The outcome of this research is to investigate Johan Galtung's viewpoints and define peace by combining theoretical frameworks with real-world social applications distinctively.

Keywords: Johan Galtung's, Peace Studies, Conflict Resolution

1. Introduction

As the father of peace studies, Johan Galtung has earned a global reputation through his extensive work and dedication to conflict resolution. Galtung stands as a source of inspiration to his peers in the field of peace studies. His contributions, spanning from 1957 to the present, have established him as a pivotal figure in this domain. With over six decades of experience as a mediator, Galtung has authored 156 books and over 1,600 papers and book chapters. In 1959, he established the world's first peace studies institute, the International Peace Research Institute, in Oslo. He also established the Transcend International Foundation in 1993, and in 2000, he launched Transcend Peace University, the first online institution dedicated to peace studies. (Ercoşkun, 2021)

Johan Galtung's work in peace studies can be broadly categorized into two areas, reflecting his commitment to bridging theory and practice. The first area included his theoretical frameworks and concepts related to conflict, violence, and peace. The second area focuses on practical approaches to conflict resolution, offering concrete strategies and perspectives. Galtung has applied his theories to various conflicts around the world, discussing his solutions in numerous books and essays on topics ranging from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the Peru-Ecuador War of 1941. (Ercoşkun, 2021)

Furthermore, peace studies, founded by the visionary Johan Galtung, has evolved into a vital discipline under his guidance, integrating with other social science subjects and gaining a structured form over time. Galtung is regarded as a leader in this field due to his comprehensive perspective and tireless efforts to foster lasting peace. His innovative approach is evident in his reinterpretations of violence and peace, which form the cornerstone of his research. An honest assessment of Galtung's contributions requires understanding his insights on the nature and resolution of the conflicts (Ercoşkun, 2021).

According to Johan Galtung's theory of conflict resolution, known as "triangular conflict," conflict is a dynamic process wherein the effects of direct, cultural, and structural forms of violence interact and evolve. (Galtung & Fischer, 2013a) Understanding violence as a vital step towards creating peace is highlighted by his intricate framework, which links elements of direct, structural, and cultural violence with the idea of peace. Then, there is Conflict Transformation, which entails tackling issues at the meso, micro, intrapersonal, social, and global levels. (Galtung & Fischer, 2013a) In addition, Negative and Positive Peace: Knowing the difference between positive and negative peace is essential to understanding their various facets. There is negative calm when there are no intentional, overt acts of violence. This approach offers a thorough understanding of the relationships between positive and negative peace. It highlights that resolving the underlying issues is necessary to promote a sustainable and long-lasting peace, even while halting violence is vital. (Galtung, 2011) For some, this idea offers meaningful solutions that give them a better grasp of the nature of the issue. It goes beyond simply resolving conflicts to promote enduring, positive peace, an important step towards a long-lasting solution that conventional conflict-resolution techniques might not be able to accomplish. Furthermore, from Johan Galtung's perspective, there is some theory that the nature of conflict is a dynamic process where attitudes, behaviors, and structures evolve and influence one another over time. It is essential to start from the understanding that individuals and communities are often interested in comprehending the fundamental reasons behind conflicts. (Galtung & Fischer, 2013b) The last theory is Conflict Mediation across levels, based on the transcendent approach to peace based on the diagnosis-prognosis-therapy medicine model. Considering human rights, the law, and the need to map the disagreement concerning the parties and their objectives entails evaluating the goals' legality. One may

characterize Galtung's approach to peace studies as idealistic, practical, nostalgic, or intimidating. This approach offers important insights into objectives, challenges, and appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

According to Barash and Webel, contemporary peace studies aim to comprehend the intricacies of war and peace in the modern world. It highlights the value of multidisciplinary approaches by referencing disciplines, including economics, sociology, psychology, and political science. Furthermore, Strategies for conflict resolution and transformation are created to address the root causes of disputes and resolve them, fostering enduring peace.(Barash & Webel, 2018) Fundamental ideas of modern peace studies, which emphasize the complexity of peace and conflict, are shared by Johan Galtung, Barash & Webel. According to Galtung, Barash, and Webel, conflict resolution stresses the significance of conflict resolution and transformation, emphasizing procedures that settle disagreements and foster enduring bonds. Additionally, Barash & Webel's emphasis on addressing the root causes of conflict aligns with Galtung's concept of structural violence. They both contend that addressing the structural inequities and disparities that fuel violence is necessary for achieving true peace.

Given the context as mentioned above, this research aims to address the following questions: First, what are the five perspectives of Johan Galtung's approaches? Second, how do these perspectives contribute to the field of peace studies? Galtung's perspective on conflict includes idealistic, dreamy, realistic, nostalgic, and fearful views, each providing insights into objectives, challenges, and effective strategies. Therefore, the authors chose these five approaches to highlight their applicability in both social sciences and contemporary peace studies. The goal of this study is to explore the overall perspective of Johan Galtung, a pioneer in peace studies, who employs a unique conceptual framework that blends theory and practice to define peace through social processes. In addition, the five approaches suggest hypotheses could serve as a foundational framework for future research focused on conflict resolution. Moreover, this study may function as a valuable resource for addressing issues and assessing their severity.

2. Objectives

This research explores five perspectives inspired by Johan Galtung, a pioneer in peace studies. Galtung's unique conceptual framework combines theory and practical experience to define peace through social processes.

3. Methods

This study utilized a case study methodology to investigate an exploratory research topic. By examining the actual events within the case study, the authors employed a formal research approach to explore current occurrences thoroughly (Yin, 2018). This study employed the descriptive qualitative method, a widely used approach in various academic fields, such as education, psychology, and social sciences. Descriptive research aims to detail a phenomenon along with its characteristics, focusing on what has occurred rather than how or why. In addition, A research instrument is a device used to analyze data gathered. Both the data collection and analysis methods used in qualitative research are qualitative in nature. This frequently entails analyzing the data inductively to find recurrent themes, patterns, or ideas, after which those categories are described and interpreted. (Nassaji, 2015) According to the

explanation, this research is more applicable to this study because this study wants to describe the implementation of Galtung's Fivefold: A Framework for Peace Study.

4. Research Results

Johan Galtung, a visionary who significantly contributed to the establishment of peace studies, has been crucial in advancing the discipline and fostering its integration with other social science fields. He is widely regarded as a pioneer in this field due to his comprehensive approach and tireless efforts to achieve lasting peace (Ercoşkun, 2021). Galtung proposed five methods to address conflict resolution, including:

- ***Conflict of the triangle.***

In 1969, in his seminal article “Violence, Peace, and Peace Research,” Galtung argued that understanding violence requires a prior grasp of its relationship to peace (Galtung, 1969). He introduced the concept of the “Conflict Triangle,” identifying three primary sources of conflict: direct, cultural, and structural violence. Direct violence refers to actions that harm or threaten life or impede an individual’s ability to meet their basic needs. Examples include bullying, sexual assault, murder, mutilation, and emotional manipulation. Structural violence encompasses the systemic ways in which certain groups are denied equitable access to opportunities, goods, and services necessary for fulfilling their basic needs. This can be enforced legally, as in the case of institutionalized marginalization (such as apartheid in South Africa), or culturally, where marginalization is not legally sanctioned but still pervasive (such as limited access to healthcare or education for marginalized communities).

Cultural or symbolic violence pertains to the dominant social norms that justify and normalize direct and structural violence, making them appear “natural,” “right,” or at least acceptable. For instance, the African slave trade was justified by the notion that Africans were less educated and civilized than Caucasians. Such pervasive beliefs become deeply rooted in society, accepted without question, and passed down through generations. Galtung’s theory of cultural violence explains how these norms perpetuate and legitimize violence. According to Galtung, these three forms of violence are interconnected, each reinforcing the other. Unlike direct violence, structural and cultural violence are often less visible in society, making them more deceptive and challenging to address.

Johan Galtung classified violence into three categories: structural, cultural, and direct, based on his pioneering research from 1969. Figure 1 illustrates how the three forms of violence are interconnected.

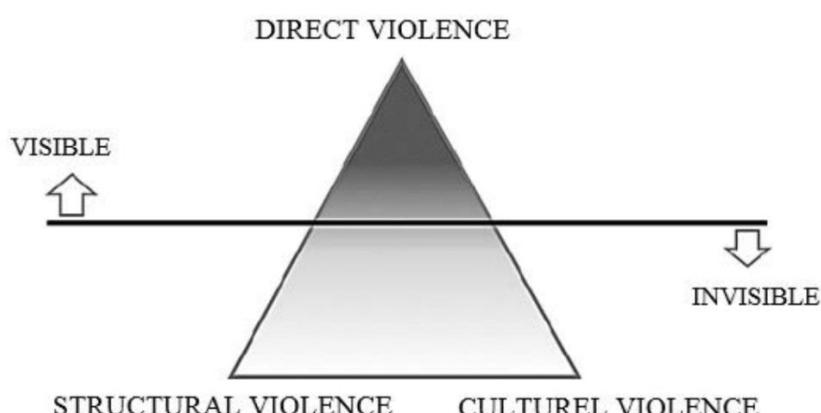


Figure 1. Johan Galtung’s Violent Triangle Model

Source: Galtung (1990)

Galtung differentiates between political procedures, processes, and institutions that meet identity, reputation, and security needs and those that perpetuate structural violence. In contrast, cultural violence is driven by resentment, fear, and hatred that arise when people misunderstand or fail to comprehend each other. Galtung argues that invisible conflicts originating from structural and cultural violence often manifest as visible, direct violence. Within this framework, conflict is a dynamic process where influences from structural, cultural, and direct forms of violence interact and evolve (Galtung & Fischer, 2013a).

Furthermore, Galtung's profound insights into violence form the foundation of his unique perspective on peace. His intricate framework, linking direct, structural, and cultural aspects of violence to the concept of peace, highlights the importance of understanding violence as a crucial step toward achieving peace. This notion is both enlightening and thought-provoking.

- **Conflict Transformation**

Conflict Transformation involves addressing at various levels—global, societal, intrapersonal, meso, and micro. This approach encompasses intrapersonal and interpersonal disputes, as well as power dynamics and societal and global fault lines. Conflict transformation is not limited to traditional boundaries; it applies to both territorial entities like countries and non-territorial entities such as non-territorial entities such as non-governmental organizations and transnational cooperatives, reflecting the interconnected nature of our global society (Galtung & Fischer, 2013a).

The practical application of fault-line analysis, known as the “power and world fault lines,” extends beyond nations to include entities like the environment and non-governmental organizations. These elements are crucial to understanding the global community. Intrapersonal conflict, for example, involves exploring the internal dynamics between the Id, Ego, and Superego, along with the personal culture that shapes this relationship. This internal dialogue is a careful examination of inner conflicts. Similarly, interpersonal conflicts arise at the intersection of personal and social or global issues, often transcending social and even international boundaries as individuals seek to resolve unresolved internal disputes (Galtung & Fischer, 2013a). This theory offers significant resolutions for some people, providing a deeper understanding of the conflict's nature. It moves beyond merely ending disputes to fostering lasting, constructive peace, marking a crucial step toward a durable solution that traditional conflict-resolution methods may not achieve.

- **Negative and Positive Peace**

Understanding the distinction between negative and positive peace is crucial for comprehending different aspects of peace. Negative peace refers to the absence of deliberate, overt acts of violence. For example, a cease-fire between two warring states or forces can create negative peace. While it prevents violence and other undesirable outcomes, it does not necessarily mean that the conflicting parties have reconciled. Positive peace, on the other hand, emerges when human societies are harmonious and cooperative again. It represents a state where the needs of the people are met in a constructive manner. It is essential to recognize that conflict and violence can coexist with peace. While unresolved violence can occur, it can also be managed peacefully.

Moreover, four forms of relationships between two nations can be identified based on the differences between the two types of peace. War is organized violence among groups. Negative peace represents the absence of violence but lacks interaction or cooperation. Positive

peace, however, involves some cooperation, which may be accompanied by occasional violent outbursts. Therefore, positive peace blends elements of cooperation and the absence of violence with the possibility of conflict (Galtung, 2011). This method provides a comprehensive view of the dynamics between positive and negative peace. It emphasizes that while stopping violence is crucial, fostering a lasting and durable peace requires addressing the underlying conflicts.

- *The Nature of the Conflict*

The nature of the conflict is a dynamic process where attitudes, behaviors, and structures evolve and influence one another over time. It is essential to start from the understanding that individuals and communities are often interested in comprehending the fundamental reasons behind conflicts. For instance, conflicts may arise when two states have competing objectives over the same territory. Conflict ensues when these objectives clash. Unrealistic goals can lead to frustration among the parties, which in turn fosters resentment and negative attitudes. This mindset often manifests in physical and verbal abuse, rage, and hatred. Conflict escalates when these negative emotions and actions are used to pursue, attain, or destroy goals.

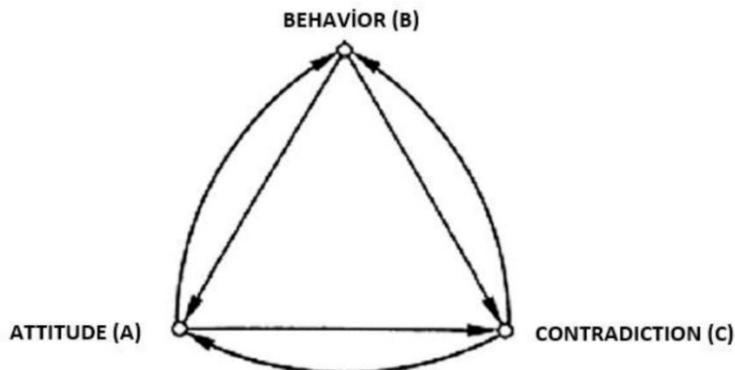


Figure 2. The Conflict Triangle

Source: Johan Galtung (1996)

In Galtung's framework, known as the ABC (Attitude, Behaviour, and Contradiction) triangle, the mindset of individuals is shaped by psychological conditions and the perspectives of stakeholders, which include fears of losing control, biases against particular religions, and animosity towards specific ethnic groups. Behavior encompasses both positive and negative actions. The contradiction aspect involves challenging and renewing the political, economic, and social framework, including decisions about dividing limited resources, resolving land disputes, and having unequal political representation. While attitude and contradiction are logical, behavior can be seen and felt. Galtung elaborates on his analysis of the battle's character using terms like actor, purpose, conflict, and pursue. (Galtung & Fischer, 2013b) This viewpoint summarizes Johan Galtung's research on the nature of conflict. Johan Galtung employed concepts like actor, aim, conflict, and pursuit to deepen his understanding.

- *Conflict Mediation Across Levels*

Conflict Mediation Across Levels utilizes the diagnosis-prognosis-therapy medicine model, which forms the foundation of the transcendent approach to peace. It involves examining the legitimacy of the aims in light of human rights, the law, and the necessity of

mapping the dispute concerning the parties involved and their goals. If all parties feel that the outcome is preferable to the alternatives—such as forcing one party to dominate, reaching a bland compromise, or doing nothing—then a new reality that works for everyone should be constructed.

Our proposed conflict resolution model is a collaborative effort involving the parties, the mediator(s), or both. These proposals emerge from detailed dialogues during mediation, where we ask questions such as “*What is the ideal world you envision about this conflict?*”, “*What is the current reality?*”, “*Was there a better time in the past; what went wrong?*”, and “*What are your greatest fears for the future?*”. This approach ensures that solutions are not imposed but emerge from the complex reality we collectively face (Galtung, 2010). Galtung’s perspective on peace studies can be interpreted in various ways, including idealistic, realistic, nostalgic, and daunting. This method provides valuable insights into goals, obstacles, and what should and should not be done.

According to the presentation of Johan Galtung's results regarding five approaches that can be used as a reference in conflict resolution. The following is an illustration related to the presentation:



Figure 3 The results of applying conflict resolution from five approaches from Johan Galtung

Figure 3 shows the results of applying conflict resolution from the five approaches. There is empirical evidence of conflict and conflict resolution in Indonesia because public attention has been drawn to the dispute over natural resources in Wadas Village, Bener District, Purworejo Regency, Central Java. Empirical evidence in Wadas Village began

in 2017. President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, the head of the presidency, planned Wadas Village as one of the more significant national strategic initiatives to build a dam. (Anggraini, 2022) In 2021, at least 11 residents were arrested by the police who demonstrated this plan, and this was the first clash between residents and police. (Priatmojo & Bakta, 2021) In the same year, the residents appealed to the court, and the court accepted when

The Supreme Court stated that land in Wadas would be opened for andesite mining. Additionally, in 2022, according to the Yogyakarta Forum for the Environment, there will be no environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the andesite mining plan in Wadas Village, Bener, Purworejo Regency, Central Java. He claims that the government has only created an

EIA for the Bener Dam's development. This project needs an EIA, a mining business permit, and a mining business permit area. (Indonesia, 2022)

The Muhammadiyah Central Leadership released a statement about the purported violence associated with the mining project in Wadas, Purworejo. The statement emphasized the conflict and urged the government to exercise wisdom. This stance was communicated based on the findings of a comprehensive investigation conducted by the Institute for Wisdom and Public Policy Team and the Legal and Human Rights Council, with support from the Government Science Study Programme Research Team, Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University's faculty of social and political sciences. Busyro Muqoddas, the Muhammadiyah Centre for Law, Human Rights and Public Policy Chairman, signed the position statement. Two land acquisition schemes arose in the public interest, so this episode was classified as an agrarian dispute. The first project involves buying land in the public interest to build a dam. In contrast, the second project involves purchasing land in the public interest to mine andesite stone, which was used to create the first project, Bener Dam. Therefore, a more transparent solution to this issue can be found. Other than that, the mining proposal is considered difficult from a legal one. The central leadership of Muhammadiyah also urged the government to deal with Wadas inhabitants' wishes with wisdom. Ceasing to post counter-narratives on social media is one approach. (Permana, 2022)

Based on the empirical study, the theories by Johan Galtung were used to emphasize the study, such as Conflict of Triangle, Conflict Transformation, Negative and Positive Peace Study, Conflict Theory (Galtung & Fischer, 2013b), and lastly, Mediation in conflict across levels. (Galtung, 2010) This study used a case study approach to answer an exploratory research topic. The result can be concluded by utilizing Johan Galtung's five theoretical approaches. More positive results were obtained from the government's efforts to carry out soft diplomacy, which involved meetings with Wadas Village residents to resolve the dispute. Based on these findings, Muhammadiyah acts as a mediator in debriefings that discuss the problems that Muhammadiyah's central leadership faced and their successes. Even though we know that Muhammadiyah does not have the power to change policy, having an official declaration in group discussion forums and the media and providing a policy paper about the incident in Wadas village is also helpful.

Based on his extensive work in peace studies, Johan Galtung is often regarded as the father of this field, which examines conflict, violence, and peace with the goal of achieving enduring peace from multiple angles. He integrates his focus on concepts such as the Conflict Triangle, Conflict Transformation, the distinction between Negative-Positive Peace, the Nature of Conflict, and Conflict Mediation Across Levels with other social science disciplines, inspiring further research and supporting his findings. In addition, practical studies on conflict resolution are profoundly influenced by theoretical perspectives on what constitutes a conflict, how to resolve it, and what peace truly means. A unique aspect of Galtung's approach is his occasional use of purely academic discourse in his writings, aiming to convey both theory and practice to his readers. His works span a comprehensive period, making it challenging to pinpoint a single, overarching flow of ideas. According to Johan Galtung, his theoretical frameworks offer a strong basis for further study on conflict resolution, especially concerning comprehending the complex character of disputes and the procedures required for their successful settlement. Galtung's distinction between positive and negative peace and his idea of structural violence emphasize how critical it is to address the underlying systemic problems that lead to conflict dynamics and the outward signs of conflict.

This study is practically significant because it can be used as a reference for Johan Galtung, a well-known individual who is frequently called the Father of Peace Studies. Galtung is a key source of inspiration for academics and practitioners alike because of his substantial contributions to peace studies and conflict resolution. Any research that interacts with or expands upon his work is valuable since his theories and methods are fundamental.

Additionally, this research's limitation is that by focusing only on a brief analysis of Galtung's frameworks, it may be a valuable resource for current peace and conflict studies concerns. This focus makes a focused examination of Galtung's five theories—namely, his perspectives on structural violence, cultural violence, direct violence, positive peace, and negative peace—possible. The main flaw in this research is its limited reach concerning applying these theories comprehensively to ongoing wars and peace endeavors.

Incorporating current case studies or empirical data that could enhance the comprehension of conflict outcomes may be missed if the study restricts the debate to Galtung's five theories without providing a more comprehensive context. This reduction in scope might make it more difficult to thoroughly examine the intricate relationship between Galtung's theoretical contributions and the complexity of contemporary conflict scenarios. In summary, although the study offers Galtung and his adherents a valuable point of reference, it also emphasizes the need for more research to build on these fundamental theories to handle the changing terrain of international peace and conflict more effectively.

5. Discussion

Based on the findings, Johan Galtung's approaches played a central role in this study. The research was guided by Galtung's methodologies, including Conflict of Triangle, Conflict Transformation, the study of Negative and Positive Peace, Conflict Theory, and Mediation in Conflict across various conflict levels (Galtung & Fischer, 2013b). This study explored an intricate research subject using a case study methodology, which is a formal research approach that investigates current phenomena in detail within their real-world context (Yin, 2018). Descriptive qualitative methods were employed in this investigation, as these are commonly used in the social sciences, psychology, education, and other academic fields to provide a detailed characterization of phenomena. Descriptive research aims to describe what has happened rather than why or how it occurred (Nassaji, 2015).

The findings suggest that Peace Research, inspired by Galtung's Conflict Triangle, aims to understand the different stages of conflict: direct, structural, and cultural violence. The conflict transformation approach, which is particularly effective in specific contexts, goes beyond merely ending conflicts. It seeks to establish a stable and lasting peace, providing a deeper understanding of the nature of conflicts. Galtung's Negative and Positive Peace framework highlights the distinction between these two types of peace, emphasizing that establishing lasting peace requires not just ending violence but also addressing underlying issues to prevent future conflict. Galtung's comprehensive approach includes concepts such as actors, goals, conflicts, and strategies to pursue peace. Finally, his perspective on mediation in conflict introduces a versatile viewpoint in peace studies that accommodates multiple interpretations—whether idealistic, pragmatic, or otherwise. This approach provides valuable recommendations for setting goals, recognizing obstacles, and determining effective actions.

The findings also highlight similarities between Galtung's approaches and John Lederach's framework for conflict resolution. Lederach's framework describes conflict resolution as a complex system involving multiple facets, interdependent roles, and a comprehensive vision that supports peacebuilding efforts (Lederach, 2015). Despite its broad

application, Lederach's approach to peace studies is thorough and detailed. Thus, both Galtung's and Lederach's approaches are highly applicable to academic research in peace studies as they emphasize the importance of establishing a lasting peace. Johan Galtung and John Paul Lederach's perspectives on conflict resolution are considered valuable references for addressing current and future conflicts. Their theoretical frameworks and methodologies offer critical insights into the nature of conflicts and the processes involved in resolving them. By emphasizing the importance of understanding the root causes of disputes and promoting dialogue among stakeholders, their approaches can inform practical interventions and policy development. Furthermore, the adaptability of their theories allows for their application in diverse contexts, enhancing the prospects for effective conflict resolution in an increasingly complex global landscape.

6. Suggestions

By employing Johan Galtung's five perspectives, this study contributes to the ongoing discussion that peace is more than just an aspiration. Galtung developed these five viewpoints to guide the peace process and resolve conflicts, aiming to foster global peace. His works attempt to define peace within the context of social dynamics, leveraging a blend of theoretical insights and practical experience. From his perspective, this study can significantly contribute to conflict resolution efforts. By providing insights into the underlying dynamics and factors influencing conflict, it can guide practitioners in developing effective strategies for managing and mitigating disputes. Additionally, the findings may enhance the understanding of conflict mechanisms, enabling stakeholders to address issues more proactively and create sustainable solutions.

7. Acknowledgments

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the College of Local Administration, Khon Kaen University, Thailand, for providing me with a scholarship to pursue my postgraduate degree.

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