

Peace can only be achieved by common effort, and not exclusively for only a few countries. Peace can only be developed by cooperation, not by confrontation. The concept of the Logic of Peace and the approaches of civilian conflict management connected to it, therefore, form a contrast to a Logic of Security. Rearmament und deterrence do not guarantee peace but rather provoke the escalation of conflicts and violent reactions. Making peace requires the prevention and reduction of violence. In order to be successful, a comprehensive conflict analysis which does not only focus on immediate trigger events for violence but uncovers the root causes of conflict is required. Both allocation of blame and the creation of concepts of the enemy are not helpful. They rather obstruct the view of possible options for action.

In order to overcome the dynamics of violence, the Logic of Peace consequently emphasizes the application of methods of civilian conflict management which have been continuously developed since the 1990s. Approaches such as the Civil Peace Service, conflict-sensitive development work and unarmed civilian peacekeeping demonstrate the effectivity of the principle of nonviolence in real life.

However, it requires perseverance and stamina.

*Violence prevention*

*Conflict analysis*

*De-escalation*

*Human rights*

*Civilian conflict management*

Violence, crises and political tensions dominate the daily headlines. Many people have the feeling that they live in an increasingly insecure environment. The conviction that only nonviolent approaches can lead to peace used to be deeply rooted in German society. Nowadays, it is being questioned by numerous political actors. Fear and concepts of the enemy are built up; calls for walls and isolation as well as demands for rearmament and military actions are growing louder.

Which alternatives exist to promote peace, not war? Which political steps need to be taken to create peace rather than tensions? How can human rights be protected and security ensured by peaceful means?

The project **“The Logic of Peace: thinking ahead in dialogue with peace organizations and politics”** aims to further develop the concept of a Logic of Peace by including key actors and politics into the debate.

The Project is run by the German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management, a network of associates, aiming to promote peaceful conflict management.

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## The Logic of Peace:

thinking ahead in dialogue  
with peace organizations and politics

*Violence prevention*  
*Conflict analysis*  
*De-escalation*  
*Human rights*  
*Civilian conflict management*

Network of the German civil society  
to promote peaceful conflict management

Thinking and acting based on the Logic of Peace means tackling problems and conflicts from a new perspective. In doing so, the following questions occur: What is the problem? What caused the problem? What is our own responsibility for the development of the conflict? Which actors have to be involved in order to commonly find a solution? Which ethical principles lead our decisions? And finally: What is the reaction to failure?

The answers to these questions enable us to develop alternative approaches to conflict resolution.

Differences can be underlined by contrasting the Logic of Security and the Logic of Peace:

**Logic of Security:** The problem is a threat which needs to be averted. It has external reasons and has to be controlled, if necessary, by applying violent means. This is my legal right. In case of failure I increase my efforts.

**Logic of Peace:** The challenge is the violence itself which should be prevented. It occurs between conflict parties. Their relationships need to be clarified and if I am part of the problem I should become part of the solution. This can be achieved by dialogue and conflict management. The process and possible solutions follow global ethical standards. In case of failure I make sure that mistakes can be corrected.

A reflection based on the Logic of Peace leads to changes including:

- » The relationships between individuals, groups and states
- » Sociopolitical structures which cause violence
- » Methods and instruments of conflict management

|  | ▼ LOGIC OF SECURITY   | ▼ LOGIC OF PEACE  |
|--|---|---|
| What is the problem?                                   | <b>Threat, danger, instability</b><br><i>Approach:</i><br><b>Averting danger and defending oneself</b>                                    | <b>Impending violence, outbreak of violence</b><br><i>Approach:</i><br><b>Violence prevention and containment</b>   |
| What caused the problem?                               | <b>External reasons / Others</b><br><i>Approach:</i><br><b>Allocation of blame / setting oneself apart / self-affirmation</b>             | <b>Complex conflicts</b><br><i>Approach:</i><br><b>Conflict analysis including taking responsibility</b>  |
| With which aims and measures is the problem addressed? | <b>Self protection, turning away</b><br><i>Approach:</i><br><b>Deterrence / threats and rearmament / military action</b>                  | <b>Cooperative problem solving by including relevant actors</b><br><i>Approach:</i><br><b>De-escalation and conflict management, ensuring dialogue and process orientation</b>    |
| How do the actors justify their actions?               | <b>One's own (national) interests prevail</b><br><i>Justification leads to:</i><br><b>Norms are subordinate and adjusted to interests</b> | <b>Application of human rights and international law</b><br><i>Justification leads to:</i><br><b>Value-oriented review of one's own interests and correction when required</b>    |
| What is the reaction to failure?                       | <b>No self-criticism</b><br><i>Sequences of action:</i><br><b>Increase of efforts / escalation or withdrawal and passivity</b>            | <b>Open reflection / evaluation of previous activities</b><br><i>Sequences of action:</i><br><b>Acknowledgement of problems and mistakes / Search for nonviolent alternatives</b> |