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Makings of a NonKilling World

Glenn D. Paige

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Must killing be a modus vivendi in human affairs? Is nonkilling too far-fetched? Most of us believe that killing is not desirable. Yet humankind continues to kill incessantly, ruthlessly. Why?

In the pages that follow, Glenn D. Paige, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Hawai'i and the founder and president of the nonprofit Center for Global Nonviolence, cuts to the chase and takes us through the gamut of problems and issues relating to killing/nonkilling, and provides us with extensive documentation and arguments from various perspectives. In the preface of his book, "Nonkilling Global Political Science" (Honolulu: Xlibris, 2002, 2007), of which the first two chapters are reproduced here, he offers his reason for choosing nonkilling (such a stark term, he notes) in contrast with the more conventional approach of addressing the broader questions of peace and nonviolence. It is precisely the clarity of the term—nonkilling—serving as his end-vision that enables him to explore "killing as [the] source and sustainer of other forms of violence." As he sees it, our creed for killing came about as a result of the emphasis of

* The introduction to this article was written by Marshall Sheen, a member of the editorial board of *TJIA* and professor of American Studies at Tamkang University. Prof. Sheen was responsible for the conversion of Prof. Paige's work reproduced here and he was assisted by two graduate students from American Studies, Messrs. Chu-chi Lin and Yin-shi Wu, who are also members of the *TJIA* staff. They did much of the manual work, and for them, it was labor-intensive. Prof. Sheen also assumes responsibility for the title of this article. It is his sincere hope that this reproduction does justice to Prof. Paige's unique and important work.

certain tendencies, however arbitrary, that eventually embraced our way of life (e.g., Machiavelli's admiration and conceptualization of the ruthlessness of Cesare Borgia in "The Prince"). According to Professor Paige, in the course of human events, nonkilling alternatives were available, but disregarded—and yes, those alternatives are still there.

On behalf of the editors of TJIA, I would like to thank Professor Paige for giving us the opportunity to reprint a portion of his seminal and groundbreaking work that is endorsed by doers and thinkers alike, including Nobel laureates. The aforementioned book has been translated into twenty-five different languages around the world, and the number keeps growing. There will be a Chinese edition as well. Indeed, "This book is an ideal millennial gift to humanity." (from the back cover of "Nonkilling Global Political Science")