Note to the Reader

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries the field of Political Science in our civilization is characterised by ever stronger and more destructive fundamental changes to meaning and purpose in the scientific methodology of the researches and goals of Political Science as an academic discipline. This is reflected in the most explicate and resolute desertion of verifiable evidence and justification for the use of various forms of violence and even lethality by the forces of protectionist state-law – different kinds of assault on life up to and including all-out war, all with the justification of protecting individuals, collectives and societies by compromising their freedom, justice and equality. This change has come to supplant any comprehensive understanding of the individual and humankind in general, the understanding that all questions of protection of man, all kinds of conflicts between people and their communities, can be resolved in every society on the principles of nonviolence and nonkilling as basic humane postulates of human relationships. Primarily, because violence and killing contain a paradigm of endangerment and destruction of life on our planet, the perpetual maintenance of hatred, the cause of conflicts and devastating cataclysms in the human race. On the other hand, there where the blessed light of civilization comes, nonkilling appears as the most humane form of social honor and celebration of life, and the eternal security of individuals and the whole of civilization. This could be seen earlier, but is strongly advancing in this time when present generations of people are looking for ways of survival and the creation of new human societies founded on the principles of eternal security and welfare for everyone — on the principles of nonkilling.

Why on nonkilling principles? Simply, because all human experience from the past and nowadays conclusively proves that killing is destruction of the life-principle in existence. Killing brings hatred into and between people, separates them from each other, and creates societies in which charges of hatred, intolerance and mistrust grow into various forms of violence and eventually into killing of each other. And from that, and after that again, hatred smoulders, waiting for the time which presents a chance to master the human spirit once more and inflict new pain upon civilization. And so continuously, human society, on the principle of killing, moves within the circle but never moves out of it, the circle in which the entire human race is compacted into a gladiator arena, armed with hatred and lethal weapons for mutual killings. Even those in the audience, in the boxes of emperors and patrician rulers, cannot find true happiness and safety in this social chaos.
Nonkilling? Nonkilling is a stretched out hand of cooperation and love among people, mutual respect, caring one for all, and vice versa, which resolves various interests and conflicts in the manner of nonkilling. Nonkilling unites people! A society guided by the principles of nonkilling breaks up the circle of Golgotha and leads individuals and human masses into a future of cooperation and mutual happiness where principles based on mutual killing do not exist. Similar to Balkan “wheel dancing”, in which human hands and destinies are intertwined and supportive of each other in the eternal game of life.

In the context of social relations in our civilization at the boundary of the second and third millennia, the scientific researches and initiative activities of Prof. Dr. Glenn D. Paige, show that nonkilling and the establishment of this way of life and understanding of interpersonal relationships are already implied in different parts of the world. His work Nonkilling Global Political Science contains the author’s personal achievements in the creation of a scientific discipline of nonkilling and the classification of historical and contemporary components of thought for man’s spiritual guidance in the future. Built on traditions of theoretical settings and practical realizations offered by the masterminds of the world movement for nonviolence and nonkilling – Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Petra Kelly and their followers – Paige’s work has been translated until now into over 30 languages and represented in the teaching of Political Science and related disciplines worldwide. Now, at the beginning of the second decade of 21st century, it is coming to the Central South Slavic Balkan region in a translation from the English Language. In this way Glenn Paige and the Center for Global Nonkilling (www.nonkilling.org), of which he is the founder and chairman, are offering scientific and organizational help to individuals and groups of people, organizations and institutions, all nations on the Balkan Peninsula, for the creation of conditions conducive to the removal of violent and lethal forms of conflict resolution from the social system. This book welcomes everyone, especially university departments of Political Science, History, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Ethics, Theology, Literature and the Arts, the Secondary and Higher schools, and institutions that participate in the creation of governmental statutes and administrative guidelines, and the like. It can be read as an historical and literary work, but above all, Dr. Paige’s achievement may be in research and teaching related to the improvement of political and general social relations through educational and political systems.

In that part of the world, in only the last century, five wars have been waged in which lives were directly lost, and due to consequences of these wars, around 10 million people died. In those mutual killings of human beings no one was spared, nor did any nation profit. There was no victor, because all sides had causalities and none achieved hegemony. In these wars not only were soldiers killed but whole populations of innocent people were forced to struggle, and many died. Historically, deeper in the Balkan past nothing was better or more humane. Humans were always killing humans! In the Balkans, some entire cultures were lost in wars and genocides.
And today, at the beginning of the third millennium of the new era, you can still see the tears on Balkan faces because of the evils of the most recent wars, in the last decade of the twentieth century. This point is stressed in the Initial material for the formation of the Nonkilling Balkans Forum, as an association of the Center for Global Nonkilling.

Glenn Paige’s work, in its historical examples and research results, proves that people by nature are not murderous beings, that they are capable of both killing and nonkilling, that in their minds and feelings they hold the basis for kindness and love, and can, if they want, organise themselves and their communities so that our present and future generations can live in harmony, where there will not be killing of people by people. In essence, it is the desire and goal of every man, and of those who have just started life, and those who in their intellectual creations tend to reflect societies of eternal security, happiness and prosperity for all the generations of mankind that follow us. It is natural that every human being wants happiness and blessings for himself and for his own – health, home, car, table full of food, fashionable clothing, travel, good schools, adequate work, a life full of friendships and rejoicing – but the essence of those desires is life. Because life is the grates value pursued by man.

Glenn Paige’s Nonkilling Global Political Science is an exceptional textbook of how to build nonkilling human societies, how to change our beliefs and way of life in the direction of creating possibilities for nonkilling societies. This book can initiate, for example, changes in a range of interpersonal and institutional relations and responsibilities regarding nation, state, patriotism… It suggests changes to definitions of variable thoughts in which, instead of celebrating of life, societies demand human slavery to categories which lead toward death. In Paige’s definition, patriotism could be a sacred human feeling only when a man desires happiness for his country in a way that respects all human beings in the world. When such a man gives an oath of allegiance to his nation, he will swear that he will protect them with everlasting love towards the entire human race.

Every region in the world is characterised by the constitution and mentality of the people who live there and the conditions which bring about choices in their minds in interpersonal relationships. But, every region in the world is the same in the fact that people live there and that the real interest of every man is essentially the same – to create the conditions to sustain life and create human welfare. But the greatest human welfare is nonkilling, as the most humane form of relations between people. This book offers a way to organise our minds and our feelings to accept the truth that a society of nonkilling is the undoubtedly most humane alternative to aggressive, violent and lethal relations in civilization.

By Rifet Bahtijaragić