

Beyond War Study Guide

Readings for a Nine week Study Series

Fall 2005



BEYOND WAR

Working Together We Can Build a World Beyond War

Fall 2005

Respected Study Series Participant,

Welcome to the Beyond War Study Guide and Book of Readings. The purpose of the Guide is to assist and inform you as you explore the key concepts and ideas of Beyond War in the context of a study series. Beyond War is a mainstream, nonpartisan, international movement whose mission is to explore, develop, and promote effective ideas, methods and actions that will help build a world in which conflicts are resolved nonviolently--a world beyond war.

As a Beyond War study group participant, you will be asked to commit to nine two-hour sessions that are typically scheduled on a weekly basis. In addition, your group facilitator will encourage you to do readings in this Guide plus related activities between sessions that will inspire you and prepare you for the next week's discussion. The process is one that offers insight, growth, change and, best of all, hope--all necessary if we are, indeed, going to build a world beyond war.

The Beyond War Study Guide is divided into nine chapters. The first contains readings that provide an overview of the Beyond War organization--both past and present. The eight subsequent chapters contain vital information about social change, effective communication, and what peoples and nations can do instead of war. Session 8 promotes synthesis and Session 9 explores life-affirming involvement in building a world beyond war. Background information and suggested activities will prepare you for each session.

A successful series will depend on each group member setting aside time to meet with the group each week and then time to delve deeply into the readings and suggested activities prior to the next session. The reward will be enhanced personal understanding and a lively group experience. Of course the ultimate payoff comes as a feeling of empowerment in learning how to create a safer world now and for future generations.

I wish you a series rich in discovery and collegiality.

Sincerely,



Gayle Landt
Editor

Executive Director, Beyond War

“Elevator Statements”

People often ask for a succinct way to describe Beyond War. Several suggestions follow:

“Beyond War educates citizens about what peoples and nations can do instead of war--because humans can't continue to war and survive.”

“Beyond War is a made up of a group of people who promote three foundational ideas: war is obsolete, we all live on one planet, and the means are the ends in the making--and we are the people who explore and advocate for what to do instead of war.”

“Beyond War's mission is to explore, develop, and promote effective ideas, methods and actions that will build a world in which conflicts are resolved nonviolently--a world beyond war.”

From the 1980s:

“Beyond War is a nonpartisan educational movement the goal of which is to bring about the end of war as a means of resolving conflict.”

Table of Contents for Nine Week Study Guide

Session One

Beyond War, the organization and an overview of the essential ideas it promotes

Session Two

Social Change--how it happens, historical examples

Session Three

How to talk to people who think war is a good idea or inevitable

Session Four

War is obsolete
(an ineffective way to respond to terrorism, the costs of war, danger from nuclear weapons)

Session Five

The central principle of Beyond War:
We all live on one planet--We are one.
The personal implications of this idea, the value of congruence

Session Six

The means are the ends in the making
What peoples and nations can do instead of war, Part I

Session Seven

What peoples and nations can do instead of war, Part II

Session Eight

Synthesis of the sessions, practical experience in talking about what peoples and nations can do instead of war

Session Nine

Exploring how I can participate in the important social change of moving the world beyond war in a way that enhances the quality of my life

OVERALL GOALS

FOR THE

BEYOND WAR STUDY SERIES

To introduce the participants to the **Foundational Ideas** of Beyond War, and provide an environment in which they can **explore and meaningfully internalize them**:

- War is obsolete
- We all live on one planet (We are One)
- The means are the ends in the making

To introduce the participants to the **Personal Imperatives** of Beyond War and provide an environment in which they can **explore and meaningfully internalize them**:

- I will resolve conflict. I will not use violence.
- I will maintain an attitude of goodwill. I will not preoccupy myself with an enemy.
- I will take initiative and respond to conflict using these implications even when others are lost in their fight or flight reflexes.
- I will work together with others to build a world beyond war.

To introduce the four categories of what peoples and nations can do instead of war that Beyond War promotes, and to provide participants with more in depth information about these categories **so that they will advocate for them**.

- nonviolent conflict resolution processes
- appropriate foreign aid
- international law
- cooperation and collaboration between nations

To present the idea that each individual can be a unit of social change, and provide an environment in which each participant can explore how he or she might like to participate in that change.

To provide an environment in which participants can learn, and bond with others who may want to work together to build a world beyond war.



Foundational Ideas upon which *Beyond War* is based:

War is Obsolete

We All Live on One Planet

The Means are the Ends in the Making

Responses that will lead to a world beyond war include commitment to these Foundational Ideas and the following Personal Imperatives:

I will resolve conflict.

I will not use violence.

I will not preoccupy myself with an enemy.

I will maintain an attitude of goodwill.

**I will work together with others to build
a world beyond war.**

These Ideas and Imperatives can serve as a road map for resolving many confusing, emotionally-charged conflicts.

Date _____ Location _____

Beyond War

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you wish to be in contact with Beyond War, please provide the following information:

Name: _____

e-mail address: _____

Telephone #s: _____

Mailing address: _____

Please Note: If you provide us with your email address, we will send you the Beyond War International Newsletter and let you know if a Beyond War representative is appearing in your area. Because we work very hard to keep our overhead as low as possible, this is currently our primary form of communication with those interested in our work. We will not share your email address or any of your contact information with any other organizations, nor will you receive more than 6-8 communications per year.

In addition to receiving the electronic newsletter, **I would like to be involved** in the work of building a world beyond war. Please check any that apply:

- Attend an introductory meeting
- Host an introductory meeting
- Participate in the study series
- Please contact me to discuss the possibilities