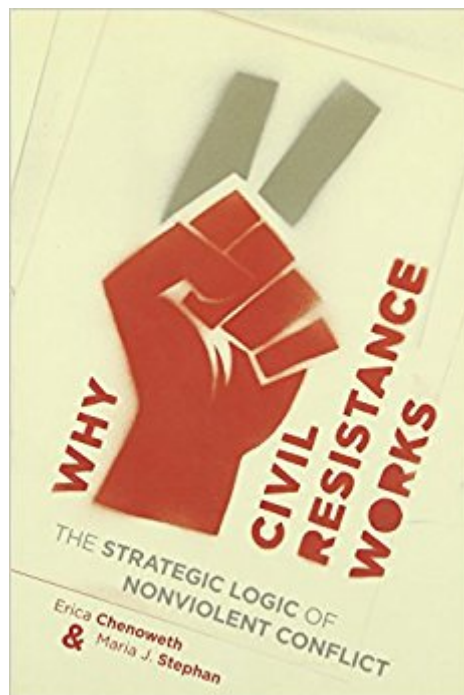




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# Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic Of Nonviolent Conflict (Columbia Studies In Terrorism And Irregular Warfare)



## Synopsis

For more than a century, from 1900 to 2006, campaigns of nonviolent resistance were more than twice as effective as their violent counterparts in achieving their stated goals. By attracting impressive support from citizens, whose activism takes the form of protests, boycotts, civil disobedience, and other forms of nonviolent noncooperation, these efforts help separate regimes from their main sources of power and produce remarkable results, even in Iran, Burma, the Philippines, and the Palestinian Territories. Combining statistical analysis with case studies of specific countries and territories, Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan detail the factors enabling such campaigns to succeed and, sometimes, causing them to fail. They find that nonviolent resistance presents fewer obstacles to moral and physical involvement and commitment, and that higher levels of participation contribute to enhanced resilience, greater opportunities for tactical innovation and civic disruption (and therefore less incentive for a regime to maintain its status quo), and shifts in loyalty among opponents' erstwhile supporters, including members of the military establishment. Chenoweth and Stephan conclude that successful nonviolent resistance ushers in more durable and internally peaceful democracies, which are less likely to regress into civil war. Presenting a rich, evidentiary argument, they originally and systematically compare violent and nonviolent outcomes in different historical periods and geographical contexts, debunking the myth that violence occurs because of structural and environmental factors and that it is necessary to achieve certain political goals. Instead, the authors discover, violent insurgency is rarely justifiable on strategic grounds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the first major scholarly book to make a well-supported argument that, contrary to what many people believe, nonviolent resistance is more effective than armed resistance in overthrowing regimes, an advantage that is maintained even when the target is not democratic. (Robert Jervis, Columbia University) Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan offer a fresh, lively, and penetrating analysis of the conditions under which nonviolent resistance succeeds or fails. Using a wealth of data and in-depth case studies, they show that the scholarly emphasis on forceful approaches is misguided: nonviolent movements are often better able to mobilize supporters, resist regime crackdowns, develop innovative resistant techniques, and otherwise take on and defeat repressive regimes and build durable democracies. (Daniel Byman, Georgetown University and senior fellow, Saban Center at the Brookings Institution) After the breathtaking events of 2011, can anyone doubt that nonviolent civil resistance is an effective tool for political change? In this provocative, well-written, and compelling book, Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan demonstrate that nonviolent civil resistance is usually a better way to force political change. They identify the conditions favoring its success and provide a convincing explanation for why nonviolent resistance is so effective. Their analysis is rigorous yet accessible, and their conclusions have profound implications for anyone seeking to understandâ•or promoteâ•far-reaching social and political reform. (Stephen Walt, Harvard University) This is social science at its best. Years of critical study culminate in a book on one dominating issue: how does nonviolent opposition compare with violence in removing a regime or achieving secession? The authors study successes and failures and alternative diagnoses of success and failure, reaching a balanced judgment meriting careful study. (Thomas C. Schelling, Harvard University, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics) All of us dedicated to peaceful protest as a way to change the world can take heart from this book. (Amitabh Pal Progressive) The work belongs in all academic libraries.... Highly recommended. (Choice) Well researched, skillfully written, insightful, and timely. (Joseph G. Bock Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict)

Combining statistical analysis with case studies of specific countries and territories, Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan detail the factors enabling nonviolent resistance campaigns to succeed and, sometimes, fail. They find such campaigns present fewer obstacles to moral and

physical involvement and commitment, and higher levels of participation contribute to enhanced resilience, greater opportunities for tactical innovation and civic disruption (and therefore less incentive for a regime to maintain its status quo), and shifts in loyalty among opponents' erstwhile supporters, including members of the military establishment. Chenoweth and Stephan conclude successful nonviolent resistance ushers in more durable and internally peaceful democracies, which are less likely to regress into civil war. Presenting a rich, evidentiary argument, they originally and systematically compare violent and nonviolent outcomes in different historical periods and geographical contexts, debunking the myth that violence occurs because of structural and environmental factors and that it is necessary to achieve certain political goals. Instead, the authors discover, violent insurgency is rarely justifiable on strategic grounds.

I was impressed at how many ways the authors looked at civil resistance campaigns to see if civil resistance indeed works better than violent resistance. No matter which dimension they used to evaluate a campaign's efficacy, Chenoweth and Stephan always came up with the same conclusion: disciplined nonviolence works! I also enjoyed learning about all the elements needed for a nonviolent campaign to be truly successful, short-term and in the long run. Randy Converse

This is a brilliant book on a very timely subject. It's a must read for anyone interested in learning about effective ways of waging struggle and actually winning. With all the so-called "force" of the U.S. military, we haven't exactly been doing too much winning in the last 50 years, now have we? This book shows how to change that and provides a path to dominance for those people and nations that learn these valuable lessons.

Erica Chenoweth's book revolutionizes our understanding of strategic nonviolent action and supercharges the case for nonviolence over violence. This is absolutely a "must read" for anyone interested in this topic.

Heard about this book while taking a Peace Studies college course. Love it!!

An absolutely amazing book that really breaks down civil resistance and the steps that go into it. This was one of the main books that I used for the writing of my senior thesis in college and I still find myself picking it up to refresh myself in this area. If you are at all interested in strategic nonviolence, you won't regret reading this book!

My go to guide for violent and non violent resistance research.

All great books!!!

It is a really good book to have date about civil resistance. I liked it.

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