

WHY NONVIOLENT STRUGGLE?

A PRIMER ON THE CORE DYNAMICS OF STRATEGIC NONVIOLENT ACTION

Struggle or submit

Your story may go like this. First, you face an injustice, want to defend something vital, overcome an oppression, or attain a great ideal. But good intentions, attempts at a negotiated compromise, and conventional politics fail. So the dispute escalates.

You now face serious conflict. Since you won't drop the issue or give up, that leaves two options: violent confrontation or nonviolent struggle.

You know the terrible price of violence. You agree nonviolent methods would be preferable, if they could work. You want to explore how nonviolent struggle might work for you. What is it really? Who has used it? Where did it work? How could you train and prepare for it?

And that's when you find this paper. It says right there on the front page that it seeks to bring some clarity to what nonviolent struggle is, and what it can offer. So you read on.

Continued...



Social Power: Stronger than Gun Powder

Except for the law of gravity, few things have impacted the lives of so many people — yet been understood by so few — as the methods of nonviolent struggle.

Over the last 100 years, nonviolent struggle has become the principal, and most powerful technique to

undermine ruthless regimes, uproot social oppression, and defend human rights. Yet, too few people can convincingly define what nonviolent action is, explain how it works, and much less defend it as a strategic choice.

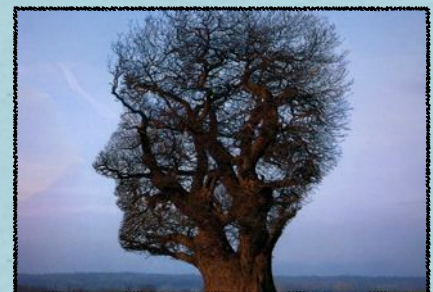
This is about to change.



THE US CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT combined, for over 15 years, civil disobedience actions, marches and boycotts to loosen the shackles of institutionalized racism.



THE PHILIPPINES, IN 1986, saw mass nonviolent struggle succeed where protracted armed struggle had failed: it toppled and ousted the Marcos dictatorship.



STRATEGY AND CREATIVITY are part of the powerful "weapons cache" in the minds of successful nonviolent organizers. And we heard humor often hides in there too.