



Strategy for a living revolution

George Lakey

"The biggest mistake made by individuals and groups seeking change is the failure to choose tactics carefully and plan a realistic strategy. Too many times they expect quick change with little effort. However, as action without a plan is poor, planning without action is worse. This book gives a clear understanding of nonviolence as an effective means for developing a mass movement for change and leaves no doubt about the hard work required to bring it about." -- César Chávez

"We've urgently needed a book like this -- and I can think of no one better qualified to write it than George Lakey. Out of careful historical research and out of his own extensive experience in nonviolent direct action, Lakey has developed the theory for a nonviolence which is revolutionary in more ways than one. If I had to choose one book on nonviolence to recommend, this would be it."

-- Jerry Farber
author of University of Tomorrowland

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- III. CULTURAL PREPARATION. 1st stage of growing a movement for a living revolution. How to be a good consciousness-raiser.
- IV. BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH. 2nd stage with emphasis on community, on democratic forms of organization, on experiments in alternative institutions, and on organizing under police repression.
- V. PROPAGANDA OF THE DEED. 3rd stage is confrontation; how to respond to repression; how confrontation can lead to widespread support.
- VI. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NONCOOPERATION. Strikes, boycotts, other tactics on massive basis are projected as 4th stage of development.
- VII. INTERVENTION AND PARALLEL INSTITUTIONS. 5th stage could bring about actual power shift. How

people can take over governmental functions now exercised on behalf of the rich and powerful.

- VIII. THE WORLD IN REVOLUTION. The global context for American change, with a vision of a new world society; implications of this strategy for Third World peoples.
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about the author

George Lakey combines the roles of activist and writer. His first time in prison was for a civil rights sit-in; with Martin Oppenheimer he wrote A Manual for Direct Action. He was co-chairperson of A Quaker Action Group, which sent the Phoenix sailing ship with medical supplies to North and South Vietnam; he was project director for the latter voyage (1967).

Trained as a sociologist at the University of Pennsylvania, George has taught at the Martin Luther King School of Social Change in Pennsylvania, and has led training workshops in Europe and New Zealand.

Presently he works with a network collective of the Movement for a New Society at 4722 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. With his wife, Berit Mathiesen Lakey and their three children, he is a member of the Philadelphia Life Center, a cluster of communes devoted to struggle for fundamental change.