

# How Not To Go To War

## Establishing Departments for Peace and Peace Centres Worldwide

War has been institutionalised. Giant military industries, formed from thousands of companies and employers, ensure that every old generation of war profiteers is replaced by a new one. Admirals, generals and senior defence officials demand that trillions of dollars are funnelled every year into the coffers of arms companies. People whose careers depend on the cycle of arms and warfare, insist that any break in funding is some kind of betrayal or national humiliation. Manipulated by vested interests, mainstream media justify increased military spending with spurious appeals to patriotism.

In 2017, the world spent all time high \$1.7 trillion on its uniformed fighters. That's equivalent to about a thousand dollars per family on the planet. Yet all these weapons have not made the world less violent. In 2015, violence cost the global economy some 14 trillion dollars, a surge of 15% from 2008. That number might seem high, until one considers the escalating inequality, famine, pollution, disease, collapse of public services, environmental damage and climate change that follows in the wake of war.

Institutions endure. They can outlast the people that create them. The question asked by this book is, How can peace be institutionalised?

The book finds that the institutions of war need to be matched by institutions of peace. For every department of defence, there needs to be a department of peace that allocates public resources to forestall violence and militarism, by measures of pre-emptive conflict resolution rather than waiting for it to occur and then deploying violence against it. Such departments of peace will be distinct from foreign and development ministries, compromised as they are by espionage, export-promotion and securitisation of aid. By opening peace / social centres / franchises, in each city, town and village, the Peace Department can contain violence and foster a culture of peace.

Fundamental to all this is the pressing need for institutionalised Peace- a network of self-sustaining peace centres and social enterprises / companies, governmental peace departments and commentators that have peace as their core mission, in the same way that arms manufacturers and defence ministries institutionalise conflict.

The book shows how the establishment of Departments of Peace and Peace Centres worldwide will result in saving of trillions of US dollars which governments can utilise in jobs creation, healthcare, education and peace building.

Only by institutionalising peace at many levels of society, can the peace movement become powerful enough to face-down the many commercial and official networks that have a vested interest in armed violence. A better world has less violence and war. That is what this book aims to achieve. The time for action is now. There may not be a tomorrow to wait for.

### **BOOK ENDORSEMENTS:**

*'Vijay Mehta proposes that in countries and communities, in governments, private institutions and media, Peace Departments and Peace Centres be established to report on and promote peace.'*

**Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1996, and Former President of Timor-Leste**

*'I believe that the present system is coming to an end and that, with the guidance of books as "How not to go to war", of Vijay Mehta, the "peoples" of today will be able to fulfil the immense responsibility assumed when they decided to "save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war".'*

**Federico Mayor, Former Director-General, UNESCO**

*'Vijay Mehta's book is controversial, but it is courageously challenging. It is certainly a work for our time. It is important to read it. The stark truth it presents cannot be escaped.'*

**Lord Frank Judd, Former Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

*'I welcome this contribution to the discussion on how we can secure peace in our increasingly perilous world. Ministries of Peace could play a key role into promoting conflict prevention and resolution.'*

**John McDonnell MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer**

*'In his timely book, Vijay Mehta catalogues the enormous waste of valuable money on the arms industry, designed not to keep us safer, but to make the giant military manufacturing corporations even richer. Vijay's book is a vital read for everyone committed to peace instead of war and more equal and compassionate human society.'*

**Fabian Hamilton, Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament**

*'War is not inevitable. We need to create structures in our governments and societies which can avert conflict before it starts. The establishment of Department for Peace is a powerful tool which provides programmes for education and support for community organisations to be more humane.'*

**Dennis Kucinich, American Politician, Introduced US Department of Peace Legislation to Congress on July 2001.**

*'We must wage peace with sophistication and commitment just as we now wage war.'*

**Marianne Williamson, Author and Peace Activist on US Department of Peace Initiative**

*'This sounds just what is needed. I look forward very much to reading this book. How helpful it would be if we knew how to avoid war in our international relationships'*

**Sir Mark Rylance, Actor, Theatre Director and Playwright**

*'My father Vijay has outlined a unique vision for World Peace that would contribute greatly to fostering more equal, peaceful, passionate societies around the globe. I therefore endorse his pragmatic proposal for the establishment of Department for Peace to be widely adopted by governments around the world.'*

**Renu Mehta, Philanthropist and Founder, Fortune Forum**

*'There are many ways to peace and Departments of peace is one of them, with a Minister of Peace in the cabinet. In this important book Vijay Mehta spells out masterfully and in detail what a Department of peace can do to bring us closer to peace. Get it, read it!'*

**Johan Galtung, Founder, Transcend International**

*'How Not To Go To War, with its call for institutions to parallel and hopefully replace institutions of war, takes such an obvious approach that it is surprising that so few people have explored it before. It is stating the obvious but still challenges the current culture and especially the military-industrial complex. With all the military disasters of recent years, though, the time is surely right to rethink our very ideas about security, with Vijay Mehta's new book a welcome aid to that task.'*

**Paul Rogers, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford**

*'Of Vijay Mehta's several full of merit books, How Not To Go To War, is undoubtedly the most important one. Mehta argues that the culture of war pervades our societies and that its institutionalisation urgently needs to be countered by that of Department for Peace and war prevention at all levels.'*

**Peter Van Dan Dungen, Author and Emeritus Professor, University of Bradford, UK**

*'How Not to Go to War details revolutionary ideas to promote a culture of peace, non-violence and conflict resolution. Vijay Mehta's groundbreaking and pragmatic ideas – including opening Peace Centres worldwide, encouraging governments to form Peace Departments and universities to develop peace studies - can help make this vision of sustaining peace a reality.'*

**Nadine B. Hack, CEO, beCause Global Consulting, Switzerland**

*'A peace ministry is a fantastic idea, one that would complete the circle within the governments of our world. I wish Vijay the very best of success in helping to manifest such a ministry'*

**Jeremy Gilley, Founder, Peace One Day**

*'Vijay Mehta remains a relentless advocate of and activist for peace. His latest arguments to turn the war machinery of arms production currently in operation into an institutionalised culture of peace testifies to his continued commitment.'*

**Henning Melber, Director emeritus of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Sweden**

*'I welcome Vijay Mehta's latest book, How Not To Go To War, as a timely, highly relevant, radically imaginative and much needed contribution to the urgent discussion on how to create a peaceful world.'*

**Rev. Brian Cooper, Co-ordinator, Uniting for Peace**

#### About the author:



Vijay Mehta is an author and peace activist. He is Chair of Uniting for Peace and founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity. His notable books include 'The Economics of Killing' (Pluto Press, 2012) and 'Peace Beyond Borders' (New Internationalist, 2016).

The Sunday Times described him as a "longstanding activist for peace, development, human rights and the environment, who along with his daughter Renu Mehta has set a precedent for striving to change the world" (The Sunday Times, February 01, 2009).

"Thank you for all you do Vijay – both the organisation Uniting for Peace and yourself are inspiration and give us all hope that both yourself and the organisation can bring a world without a war. Indeed it is possible, even in our own time." – **Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate 1976**

"This book, Peace Beyond Borders by Vijay Mehta, an astute non-European observer, uses this unprecedented, extraordinary experience as the centrepiece of a carefully crafted theory on the construction and maintenance of peace and prosperity on a global scale." – **Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Laureate 1996 and Former President of Timor-Leste**

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# HOW NOT TO GO TO



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**VIJAY MEHTA**

'In the ministerial appointments, we may well be appointing in the future, a Minister for Peace and Disarmament'  
Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party

'I'm happy to give my support to Ministry of Peace whose responsibility would include being a consistent voice for non-violent means of settling disputes'  
His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1989