

# international day of peace history

International Day of Peace History: A Journey Toward Global Harmony

**international day of peace history** is a fascinating story of how the world collectively embraced the idea of setting aside conflict and dedicating a day to the pursuit of peace. This day, observed annually on September 21, is more than just a symbolic gesture; it represents decades of effort by the global community to promote peace, resolve conflicts, and encourage non-violence. Understanding the origins and evolution of the International Day of Peace provides valuable insight into humanity's ongoing quest for harmony and coexistence.

## The Origins of the International Day of Peace

The concept of dedicating a specific day to peace can be traced back to the aftermath of World War II, when the horrors of global conflict led nations to seek new ways to prevent future wars. However, the formal establishment of an International Day of Peace came much later. It was in 1981 that the United Nations first recognized the idea by declaring a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace worldwide.

## Early Efforts and United Nations Involvement

The United Nations played a crucial role in shaping the International Day of Peace. In the early 1980s, during the height of the Cold War, the world was fraught with tension and the threat of nuclear war. Against this backdrop, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling for a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The goal was simple yet profound: to encourage all nations and peoples to observe 24 hours of peace.

Initially, the day did not have a fixed date and was observed on various days in September. It wasn't until 2001 that the UN General Assembly officially designated September 21 as the International Day of Peace, making it an annual event observed simultaneously worldwide.

## Significance of the Date September 21

Choosing September 21 as the fixed date for the International Day of Peace was deliberate. This date falls between the autumnal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere and the spring equinox in the Southern Hemisphere, symbolizing balance and harmony. It also avoids the crowded calendar of international observances, allowing the day to stand out and gain global attention.

## How the Day Has Evolved Over Time

The International Day of Peace has evolved from a simple call for ceasefire into a multifaceted

movement encompassing education, activism, and cultural events. Today, it is marked by a wide range of activities—from peaceful demonstrations and educational programs to art exhibitions and interfaith dialogues. These efforts aim to promote awareness about conflict resolution, human rights, and the importance of peaceful coexistence.

## Key Milestones in International Day of Peace History

Understanding the key milestones helps appreciate the day's growing importance and impact across the globe.

- **1981:** The UN General Assembly first proclaims a day dedicated to peace.
- **1982-2000:** Various dates in September are observed as Peace Day, with increasing participation from governments, NGOs, and civil society.
- **2001:** The UN fixes September 21 as the official International Day of Peace.
- **2007:** The General Assembly adopts a resolution calling for a global ceasefire on Peace Day, encouraging all nations to observe 24 hours of non-violence.
- **2011 and beyond:** The UN Secretary-General invites people worldwide to participate in peace-building activities, emphasizing education, awareness, and community engagement.

## Global Ceasefire and Non-Violence Initiatives

One of the most impactful aspects of the International Day of Peace has been the promotion of global ceasefires. The call for a 24-hour truce, although symbolic, has inspired numerous local and international peace initiatives, encouraging warring parties to pause hostilities in recognition of the day. While not always fully observed, these calls have raised awareness about the devastating effects of conflict and the urgent need for peaceful solutions.

## The Role of Peace Education and Youth Engagement

A significant part of the international day of peace history involves the engagement of young people and educational institutions. Recognizing that sustainable peace requires nurturing a culture of understanding from a young age, many organizations use this day to promote peace education.

### Peace Education Programs

Schools and universities around the world organize workshops, seminars, and creative projects that

teach students about conflict resolution, empathy, and global citizenship. These programs often include activities such as:

- Interactive discussions on the causes of war and peace
- Role-playing exercises to develop negotiation skills
- Art and music projects highlighting themes of harmony and unity
- Community service initiatives fostering cooperation

By embedding peace education into curricula, the International Day of Peace helps cultivate a generation that values dialogue and respect over violence.

## **Youth-Led Movements and Social Media Campaigns**

In recent years, youth-led movements have amplified the reach of the International Day of Peace through social media and grassroots activism. Young people leverage digital platforms to organize virtual events, share stories of peacebuilding, and advocate for global issues like disarmament, climate justice, and human rights. Their energy and creativity have been vital in keeping the spirit of Peace Day alive and relevant in the digital age.

## **International Day of Peace Symbols and Traditions**

Symbols have always played an essential role in the peace movement, serving as universal signs of hope and unity. The International Day of Peace is no exception.

### **The Peace Dove and Olive Branch**

The dove carrying an olive branch is one of the most widely recognized symbols associated with peace. This imagery dates back to biblical times and was popularized in the 20th century by artists like Pablo Picasso. On Peace Day, this symbol is often used in ceremonies, artworks, and educational materials to represent the aspiration for tranquility and reconciliation.

### **Peace Bells and Global Ceremonies**

Many countries participate in ringing peace bells at noon GMT on September 21 as a call to reflection and solidarity. These ceremonies often include moments of silence, prayer, or meditation, emphasizing the collective commitment to peace. The Global Peace Bell, located at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, is a focal point for such observances.

# **Why Understanding the International Day of Peace History Matters Today**

Reflecting on the history of the International Day of Peace allows us to appreciate the progress made and recognize the challenges that remain. In a world still marred by conflicts, inequality, and injustice, this day serves as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to foster peace.

By learning about its origins, milestones, and evolving practices, individuals and communities can find inspiration to take meaningful action—whether through education, advocacy, or simple acts of kindness. The international day of peace history encourages us to look beyond borders and differences and work toward a future where peace is not just an ideal but a lived reality.

Whether you are a student, educator, activist, or simply someone who hopes for a better world, engaging with the International Day of Peace offers a chance to connect with a global movement dedicated to harmony and understanding. Each year on September 21, millions come together to celebrate the power of peace and renew their commitment to building a world free from violence.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When was the International Day of Peace established?**

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.

### **What is the primary purpose of the International Day of Peace?**

The primary purpose of the International Day of Peace is to promote peace among nations and peoples and to encourage ceasefires and non-violence worldwide.

### **On what date is the International Day of Peace observed?**

The International Day of Peace is observed annually on September 21.

### **Who proposed the idea of the International Day of Peace?**

The idea of the International Day of Peace was proposed by the United Nations General Assembly to create a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace.

### **How has the International Day of Peace evolved since its inception?**

Since its inception, the International Day of Peace has evolved from a day of global ceasefire to include various activities such as educational programs, cultural events, and campaigns promoting peace and non-violence.

# What was significant about the year 2001 for the International Day of Peace?

In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the cessation of hostilities on the International Day of Peace, encouraging all nations to observe a global ceasefire.

## Additional Resources

International Day of Peace History: Tracing the Origins and Evolution of a Global Commitment to Peace

**international day of peace history** offers a compelling lens through which to examine the global community's enduring aspiration for harmony and non-violence. Established as a moment for nations, organizations, and individuals worldwide to reflect on the pursuit of peace, this day has evolved significantly since its inception, becoming a pivotal fixture in the international calendar. Understanding the origins, milestones, and ongoing significance of the International Day of Peace provides insight into how the world collectively addresses conflict resolution and promotes global unity.

## The Genesis of the International Day of Peace

The roots of the International Day of Peace trace back to the aftermath of two devastating world wars in the 20th century, which underscored the necessity for sustained efforts toward peacebuilding. The United Nations (UN), founded in 1945 in the wake of World War II, became the primary global institution tasked with fostering international cooperation and preventing future conflicts. However, it was not until 1981 that the concept of a dedicated day for peace was formally proposed.

In 1981, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of an International Day of Peace. This proposal was driven by a growing global consciousness about the importance of peace and the role of education and public awareness in achieving it. The initial observance was set for the third Tuesday of September, coinciding with the opening day of the UN General Assembly to emphasize the link between peace and the UN's mission.

## Why 1981? The Political and Social Context

The early 1980s were marked by heightened Cold War tensions, nuclear arms build-up, and numerous regional conflicts. Against this backdrop, the International Day of Peace emerged as a symbolic and practical tool to counteract the prevailing atmosphere of hostility. The day aimed to galvanize public opinion, promote dialogue, and encourage governments to resolve disputes peacefully.

By anchoring the day to the UN General Assembly's opening, the initiative sought to remind world leaders of their responsibility to prioritize peace in their deliberations. This strategic timing also helped integrate the day into the diplomatic calendar, ensuring visibility and engagement from the

international community.

## **The Evolution of the International Day of Peace**

Over the years, the observance of the International Day of Peace has undergone significant changes in both timing and scope. A landmark moment came in 2001 when the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to designate September 21 as the fixed date for the International Day of Peace, regardless of the UN calendar. This change was intended to create a consistent global observance that would enhance participation and awareness.

### **Key Milestones and Expanding Focus**

The transition to a fixed date marked a turning point in the day's history, allowing for more coordinated and widespread activities. Since then, the International Day of Peace has become a platform for a variety of peace-related initiatives, including:

- Ceasefire campaigns encouraging temporary halts in conflicts worldwide
- Educational programs promoting non-violence and conflict resolution skills
- Community events such as peace walks, concerts, and art exhibitions
- Advocacy for disarmament, human rights, and social justice

Each year, the UN selects a theme that reflects pressing global issues, such as climate change's impact on peace, the role of youth in peacebuilding, or the importance of inclusive dialogue. These themes serve to focus international attention and inspire concrete actions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **Analyzing the Impact and Challenges of the International Day of Peace**

The International Day of Peace has undoubtedly succeeded in raising awareness and inspiring grassroots as well as governmental initiatives. It serves as a reminder that peace is not merely the absence of war but a complex state involving justice, equality, and respect for human rights.

However, the day also faces challenges inherent in global peace promotion. Some critics argue that a single day of observance risks becoming symbolic rather than transformative, with limited long-term impact on entrenched conflicts. Others highlight disparities in participation, noting that regions most affected by violence may have fewer resources to engage in the day's activities.

## Balancing Symbolism and Tangible Outcomes

To address these concerns, organizations and activists increasingly emphasize integrating International Day of Peace activities into broader peacebuilding strategies. For example, linking the day to ongoing peace negotiations, community reconciliation efforts, and education reforms can amplify its effectiveness.

Moreover, technology and social media have played a growing role in expanding the day's reach. Virtual campaigns and global online events have democratized participation, enabling individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds to contribute to the peace dialogue.

## Global Participation and Notable Initiatives

The International Day of Peace is observed by governments, NGOs, schools, and communities worldwide. Some notable initiatives include:

1. **Peace One Day:** Founded in 1999, this organization has been instrumental in promoting a global ceasefire on September 21, striving to reduce conflict and save lives.
2. **UN Peace Bell Ceremonies:** The UN headquarters in New York rings its Peace Bell annually on this day, symbolizing a call for global harmony.
3. **Educational Outreach:** Schools integrate peace education into curricula, fostering the next generation's commitment to non-violence and cooperation.
4. **Art and Culture Events:** Music festivals, exhibitions, and performances celebrate cultural diversity and peacebuilding through creative expression.

These varied forms of engagement highlight the multifaceted nature of peace and the importance of inclusive, diverse approaches in promoting it.

## The Role of Youth and Civil Society

Youth involvement has become a cornerstone of the International Day of Peace's evolving history. Recognizing young people as agents of change, the UN and partner organizations channel efforts to empower youth-led peace initiatives. This focus aligns with global recognition that sustainable peace requires inclusive participation across generations and sectors.

Civil society's role is equally critical, as grassroots movements often drive innovative peacebuilding approaches tailored to local contexts. Their involvement ensures that the International Day of Peace remains grounded in real-world challenges and responsive to the needs of communities affected by violence.

# Looking Ahead: The Continuing Relevance of the International Day of Peace

As global dynamics shift with emerging conflicts, technological advancements, and environmental challenges, the International Day of Peace remains a vital instrument for fostering dialogue and solidarity. Its history reflects ongoing efforts to adapt peace advocacy to contemporary realities while maintaining the universal aspiration for a world free of conflict.

The day's success lies not only in symbolic observance but in its ability to inspire action—whether through policy changes, community engagement, or individual commitments to peaceful coexistence. By tracing the international day of peace history, one appreciates the complex interplay between diplomacy, civil society, and cultural expression in the enduring quest for peace.

## International Day Of Peace History

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**international day of peace history: The Oxford Handbook of Peace History** Charles F. Howlett, Christian Philip Peterson, Christian Peterson, Deborah D. Buffton, David L. Hostetter, 2023 The Oxford Handbook of Peace History uniquely explores the distinctive dynamics of peacemaking across time and place, and analyzing how past and present societies have created diverse cultures of peace and applied strategies for peaceful change. The analysis draws upon the expertise of many well-respected and distinguished scholars from disciplines such as anthropology, economics, history, international relations, journalism, peace studies, sociology, and theology. This work is divided into six parts. The first three sections address the chronological sweep of peace history from the Ancient Egyptians to the present while the last three cover biographical profiles of peace advocates, key issues in peace history, and the future of peace history. A central theme throughout is that the quest for peace is far more than the absence of war or the pursuit of social justice ideals. Students and scholars, alike, will appreciate that this work examines the field of peace history from an international perspective and expands analysis beyond traditional Eurocentric frameworks. This volume also goes far beyond previously published handbooks and anthologies in answering what are the strengths and limits of peace history as a discipline, and what can it offer for the future. It also has the unique features of a state-of-the-field introduction with a detailed treatment of peace history historiography and a chapter written by a noted archivist in the field that provides a comprehensive list of peace research resources. It is a work ably suited applicable for classrooms and scholarly bookshelves--

**international day of peace history: A History of Italian Colonialism 1900-1914** Giuseppe Finaldi, 2025-11-13 This book examines Italy's colonial history from the turn of the twentieth century to the outbreak of the First World War. This first volume engages with a period of huge social, political and cultural change in Italy resulting in a new dynamism on the African and expansionist front. Offering a sweeping account of events and a vast array of characters, it tells the story of a nation bent on conquest in China, Africa and the Mediterranean, of indigenous resistance

in Libya and East Africa, of defeat and of victory. It recounts how Italy dreamed and pursued an empire, and how reality was never far from tripping up this, the least of the European Great Powers. From the ramifications of the defeat at Adowa in 1896 through the rule of Prime Minister Giovanni Giolitti to the attack on the Ottoman Empire in 1911 and beyond, the history of Italian colonialism is followed here up to the looming of the First World War. This volume is of great value to students and scholars alike interested in Italian, European, African and colonial history.

**international day of peace history:** *Catholic Social Teaching and Theologies of Peace in Northern Ireland* Maria Power, 2020-07-07 This book investigates the response of the Catholic Church in Northern Ireland to the conflict in the region during the late Twentieth Century. It does so through the prism of the writings of Cardinal Cahal Daly (1917-2009), the only member of the hierarchy to serve as a bishop throughout the entire conflict. This book uses the prolific writings of Cardinal Daly to create a vision of the 'Peaceable Kingdom' and demonstrate how Catholic social teaching has been used to promote peace, justice and nonviolence. It also explores the public role of the Catholic Church in situations of violence and conflict, as well as the importance for national churches in developing a voice in the public square. Finally, the book offers a reflection on the role of Catholic social teaching in contemporary society and the ways in which the lessons of Northern Ireland can be utilised in a world where structural violence, as evidenced by austerity, and reactions to Brexit in the United Kingdom, is now the norm. This work challenges and changes the nature of the debate surrounding the role of the Catholic Church in the conflict in Northern Ireland. It will, therefore, be a key resource for scholars of Religious Studies, Catholic Theology, Religion and Violence, Peace Studies, and Twentieth Century History.

**international day of peace history: Introducing Peace Museums** Joyce Apsel, 2015-12-14 Nominated for the 2017 Dayton Literary Peace Prize in non-fiction This volume examines peace museums, a small and important (but often overlooked) series of museums whose numbers have multiplied world-wide in recent decades. They relate stories and display artifacts—banners, diaries, and posters for example about such themes as: art and peace, antiwar histories, protest, peacekeeping and social justice and promote cultures of peace. This book introduces their different approaches from Japan, which has the largest number of sites, to Bradford, UK and Guernica, Spain. Some peace museums and centers emphasize popular peace symbols and figures, others provide alternative narratives about conscientious objection or civil disobedience, and still others are sites of persuasion, challenging the status quo about issues of war, peace, disarmament, and related issues. *Introducing Peace Museums* distinguishes between different types of museums that are linked to peace in name, theme or purpose and discusses the debates which surround peace museums versus museums for peace. This book is the first of its kind to critically evaluate the exhibits and activities of this group of museums, and to consider the need for a critical peace museum studies which analyses their varied emphasis and content. The work of an experienced specialist, this welcome introduction to peace museums considers the challenges and opportunities faced by these institutions now and in the future.

**international day of peace history:** *The Routledge International Handbook of Life and Values Education in Asia* John Chi-Kin Lee, Kerry J Kennedy, 2024-06-28 This Handbook provides a comprehensive look at the educational scope of life and values that characterize 21st-century Asia, as well as those values shared across cultures. Some values are deeply resonant with the region's past while others reflect modernity and the new contexts in which Asian societies find themselves. Exploring these values of different types and the way they are constructed in Eastern and Western contexts, the contributors delve into the diversity of religious, moral and social education to promote greater understanding across cultures. While a range of values is identified here, there is no single set of values that can be applied to all people in all contexts. The time has long gone, even for single societies, when values can be imposed. Yet this Handbook emphasizes both the extent and importance of values to individuals and their societies—how they respond to these values may provide the key to better and more caring societies and to better lives for all. Academics and teachers will find this Handbook resourceful because it raises important theoretical issues related to

social values and their formation in distinctive contexts and provides novel insights into the diverse educational landscape in Asia. Policymakers and educators will also find this text helpful in learning to think about new ways to improve the quality of people's lives.

**international day of peace history: World Encyclopedia of Peace** Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Yǒng-sik Cho, 1999

**international day of peace history: Advocate of Peace and Universal Brotherhood**, 1895

**international day of peace history: The Inglorious Arts of Peace** Elsbeth Heaman, 1999-01-01 Heaman examines the ways in which British North America was advertised at home and abroad in the pursuit of productivity, markets, capital, and immigrants, and evaluates the exhibitions' impact on private industry, the government, and Canadian identity. She also considers the participation of women and native peoples at local and international exhibits, showing how they transcended the limited spheres of representation imposed upon them.

**international day of peace history: The Global Challenge of Peace** Matt Perry, 2021-08-15 This book scrutinizes the events of 1919 from below: the global underside of the Wilsonian moment. During 1919 the Great Powers redrew the map of the world with the Treaties of Paris and established the League of Nations intending to prevent future war. Yet what is often missed is that 1919 was a complex threshold between war and peace contested on a global scale. This process began prior to war's end with mutinies, labour and consumer unrest, colonial revolt but reached a high point in 1919. Most obviously, the Russian Revolutions of 1917 continued into 1919 which signalled a decisive year for the Bolshevik regime. While the leaders of the Great Powers famously drew up new states in their Parisian hotel rooms, state formation also had a popular dynamic. The Irish Republic was declared. Afghanistan gained independence. Labour unrest was widespread. This year witnessed the emergence of anti-colonial insurgency and movements across Europe's colonies; in metropolitan centres of Empire, race riots took place in the UK and during the 'red summer' in the US, anti-colonial movements, as well as an important moment of political enfranchisement for women but their expulsion from the wartime labour force. 1919 has many legacies: the first Arab spring, with the awakening of nationalism in the Wilsonian and Bolshevik context; the moment (as a consequence of Jallianwala Bagh) that Britain definitively lost its moral claim to India; the definitive announcement of Black presence in the UK; the great reversal of women's participation in the skilled occupations; the first Fascist movement was founded.

**international day of peace history: The Roerich pact. History and modernity. Catalogue of the Exhibition (National Academy of Art, New Delhi)** Коллектив авторов, 2018-04-26 The exhibition is held in Shimla Art Gallery of the Lalit Kala Academi (National Academy of Art, New Delhi) and in the International Roerich Memorial Trust (the Roerichs' Estate in Naggar) within the framework of the international exhibition project by the International Centre of the Roerichs and the International Roerichs' Heritage Preservation Committee, initiated on April 2, 2012 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Выставка проходит в Галерее искусств в Шимле при Национальной академии изящных искусств (Академии Лалит Кала, Нью-Дели) и в Международном Мемориальном Тресте Рерихов (имение Рерихов в Наггаре) в рамках международного выставочного проекта Международного Центра Рерихов и Международного Комитета по сохранению наследия Рерихов при поддержке Министерства иностранных дел Российской Федерации, начатого 2 апреля 2012 года в штаб-квартире ЮНЕСКО в Париже

**international day of peace history: International Security Studies** Neari Rivers, 2019-06-01 This acclaimed curricular book provides a comprehensive review in the field of peace, justice, and security studies. This book is a small step in developing a better understanding of these issues. The chapters collected here represent many of the facets of this argument presented by key scholars collectively in this field. We believe that this book based research chapters will be helpful to the both decision-makers and the general public. In this nuclear age, this book will make a new contribution to promoting peace, progress and security. Now nuclear weapons threaten to destroy not only everything that our civilization has created over the age but life on earth as well, reason

must triumph while there is still time. In keeping with the multifaceted nature of the subject, multiple perspectives, among them political science, philosophy, religious studies, sociology, and anthropology, are fully represented in this indispensable resource.

**international day of peace history: Peace Museums** Peter van den Dungen, 2024-12-31 This book is the first comprehensive study of the history, nature, and purposes of peace museums, comprising twenty-one essays by a leading authority in the field. It presents a powerful argument for the need for this new kind of museum that informs and inspires visitors that a world of peace and nonviolence is both necessary and possible. Whereas there are numerous museums about war and the armed forces, museums about peacemaking and peacemakers are rare; indeed, the very concept of peace museums is still largely unknown. This is a reflection of the traditional writing and teaching of history which is dominated by narratives of war and warriors, with little or no attention being paid to the history of efforts to prevent and abolish war. Peace museums are ideal instruments to bring the long, fascinating, and vitally important history of peace to life for a large public. Among the essays included are histories of two (forgotten and unknown yet) heroic efforts to prevent World War I, and then World War II, through museums that educated and alerted visitors about the disasters ahead if war was not avoided, and ways to steer a different course following the catastrophe that was the Great War. At a time when a barbaric war in Europe, continuing wars in Africa, and ominous threats of war in Asia, are raising the specter of nuclear war and World War III, the need for anti-nuclear bomb and anti-war museums is greater than ever. Such museums are essential for the development of a global culture of peace and nonviolence. The book provides inspiration and hope for everyone interested in efforts to overcome an existential threat to civilization that is wholly man-made.

**international day of peace history: The Herald of Peace and International Arbitration** , 1904

**international day of peace history: Youth Literature for Peace Education** C. Carter, L. Pickett, 2014-10-16 Carter and Pickett explore how educators and families can teach peace education through youth literature and literacy development. Showing how to assess, choose, and make use of literature that can be used to teach both literacy and peace education, they walk through individual methods: recognizing and teaching different portrayals of conflict in youth literature, analyzing characterization, and examining the role of illustrations. Educators who want to incorporate peace education within a broader, literacy-focused curriculum, and peace educators looking for age-appropriate materials and methodologies will find Youth Literature for Peace Education a rich and interdisciplinary resource.

**international day of peace history: Report of the ... Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration** , 1902

**international day of peace history: Report of the ... Annual Meeting of the Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration** , 1901

**international day of peace history: Report of the 1st-22d Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, 1895-1916** , 1902

**international day of peace history: Imperial Pilgrims** Shawn A. Aghajan, 2022-03-29 This book is an Augustinian interrogation of contemporary Christian accounts of empire, just war, and terrorism. Though Augustine's voice has guided much of the Christian discourse in these conjoined arenas, it has not shielded his work from being misappropriated to serve ends that are inimical to his own. The US war on terror is the most recent and egregious example of violence that many theologians have unjustly baptized as Augustinian. By reading Augustine pastorally rather than merely polemically, this work offers a counter-narrative and an alternative praxis for the American Christian trying to reconcile her baptism with her citizenship.

**international day of peace history: Trading Justice for Peace?** Sigríður Guðmarsdóttir, Paulette Regan, Demaine Solomons, 2022-03-01 Conflict in its various manifestations continues to be a defining feature in many places throughout the world. In an attempt to address such conflict, various forms of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) have been introduced to facilitate the

transition from social conflict to a new dispensation. The introduction and subsequent proceedings of TRCs in South Africa, Canada and Norway are widely regarded as good examples of this approach. Against this background, a number of researchers from VID Specialized University and the University of the Western Cape had an exploratory meeting in Oslo in 2018 where the possibility for a joint research project under the broad theme of 'discourses on reconciliation' was first discussed. This led to two further research symposia in Cape Town and Tromsø in 2019. With the inclusion of specialists working on the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation process, these meetings demonstrated common ground and a shared understanding of the issues at stake. Moreover, it pointed to the differences between the South African, Canadian and Norwegian Commissions. In comparing the South African, Canadian and Norwegian experiences, researchers identified that these countries were, in fact, at different stages of their respective truth and reconciliation processes. This has prompted scholars to revisit and problematise these processes in relation to ongoing societal challenges. In all cases, it is quite apparent that reconciliation between individuals and groups remains a significant challenge.

**international day of peace history: Pope Francis and Mercy** Gill K. Goulding, CJ, 2023-09-15 This theological study examines how Pope Francis lives out mercy in his own Petrine ministry and calls for it to be lived out by the people of God. The centerpiece of Pope Francis's pontificate from the very first days has been his proclamation of the importance of the mercy of God. While facing global problems of climate change, terror, political destabilization, refugees, and dire poverty, the Holy Father has articulated the mission of the Church through mercy, love, and forgiveness to reveal the compassion of God for all and particularly for those most vulnerable existing on the margins of society. In this compelling study, Gill Goulding, CJ, examines for the first time the critical and determinative role of mercy in Francis's papacy using his homilies, allocutions, encyclicals, and addresses as primary sources. Goulding traces the theme of mercy in Francis's thought, attending to its Ignatian foundations and its Christological, Trinitarian, and ecclesiological significance for the Church today, particularly the impact of his reappropriation and elevation of the discourse of mercy on the work of the Curia in Rome. Goulding enters into dialogue with other theologians, including Romano Guardini, Walter Kasper, and Hans Urs von Balthasar, to demonstrate a continuity between Francis and his predecessors, especially Benedict XVI, in this area of mercy. In addition, Goulding argues that the influence of St. Ignatius Loyola, in particular his Spiritual Exercises, needs to be taken into account, paying special attention to Francis's call for the practice of discernment. Throughout Pope Francis and Mercy, Goulding lays the groundwork for future research and suggests a wider appreciation of the necessary tools to enable an engagement with mercy in our contemporary world.

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