

Peace Psychology Book Series
Series Editor: Daniel J. Christie

Eran Halperin
Keren Sharvit *Editors*

The Social Psychology of Intractable Conflicts

Celebrating the Legacy of Daniel Bar-Tal,
Volume I

 Springer

Peace Psychology Book Series

Series Editor: Daniel J. Christie

Eran Halperin

Keren Sharvit *Editors*

The Social Psychology of Intractable Conflicts

Celebrating the Legacy of Daniel Bar-Tal,
Volume I

 Springer

Peace Psychology Book Series

Volume 27

Series Editor

Daniel J. Christie

The Ohio State University Department of Psychology, Marion, Ohio, USA

The scope of threats to human security at the dawn of the 21st century is daunting. Terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, nuclear proliferation, failed states, ideological struggles, growing resource scarcities, disparities in wealth and health, globalizing trends, violations of human rights, and the continued use of force to advance individual, group and national interests, are all complex problems. At the same time, we are witnessing countervailing trends in the growing recognition and endorsement of nonviolent means of resolving differences, the importance of reconciliation processes in human relations, the promotion of cultures of peace, and the building of societal structures and global institutions that promote peace, human rights and environmental sustainability. During the past 20 years, peace psychology has emerged as a specialty in psychology with its own knowledge base, perspectives, concepts, and preferred methodologies to grapple with threats to human security and seize opportunities to promote human well-being. In regard to the problem of violence, peace psychology scholars and activists place human psychology and its links to other disciplines at the center of their efforts to prevent and mitigate episodes of violence and structural forms of violence. In addition to reducing violence, peace psychologists seek to develop theory and practices that promote relational harmony across levels (from interpersonal relations to global networks) and equitable human well-being. The Peace Psychology Book Series recognizes that the emerging and multi-faceted problems of human security challenge us as scholars and activists to develop psychologically-informed theory that will deepen our understanding of the major threats to human security, and create practices that will help us address some of the most urgent and profound issues that bear on human well being and survival in the 21st century.

Series Advisory Board

Herbert Blumberg, Goldsmiths College, United Kingdom; **Daniel Bar-Tal**, Tel Aviv University, Israel; **Klaus Boehnke**, International University Bremen, Germany; **Ed Cairns**, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland; **Peter Coleman**, Columbia University, USA; **Cheryl de la Rey**, University of Cape Town, South Africa; **Anthony Marsella**, University of Hawaii, USA; **Fathali Moghaddam**, Georgetown University, USA; **Maritza Montero**, Central University of Venezuela, Venezuela; **Cristina Montiel**, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines; **Nora Alarifi Pharaon**, International Islamic University, Malaysia; **Nora Alarifi Pharaon**, Tamkeen: Center for Arab American Empowerment, USA; **Antonella Sapio**, University of Florence, Italy; **Illana Shapiro**, University of Massachusetts, USA; **Ann Sanson**, University of Melbourne, Australia; **Richard Wagner**, Bates College, USA; **Michael Wessells**, Columbia University and Randolph-Macon College, USA.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/7298>

Eran Halperin • Keren Sharvit
Editors

The Social Psychology of Intractable Conflicts

Celebrating the Legacy of Daniel Bar-Tal,
Volume I

 Springer

Editors

Eran Halperin
Psychology
Interdisciplinary Center in Herzilya
Herzilya
Israel

Keren Sharvit
Psychology
University of Haifa
Haifa
Israel

ISSN 2197-5779

Peace Psychology Book Series

ISBN 978-3-319-17860-8

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-17861-5

ISSN 2197-5787 (electronic)

ISBN 978-3-319-17861-5 (eBook)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015940867

Springer Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

© Springer International Publishing Switzerland 2015

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made.

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer International Publishing AG Switzerland is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Preface

Intractable intergroup conflicts rage around the world and pose threats to the well-being and security of individuals and nations as well as to international stability. They persist for lengthy periods and are refractory to resolution despite attempts to achieve it. An understanding of these conflicts and potential ways of managing, transforming, and resolving them is therefore of utmost importance to human societies. As intractable conflicts are complex phenomena, understanding them requires diverse perspectives of different scholarly disciplines including international relations, political science, sociology, psychology, history, geography, anthropology, and others. In the domain of social and political psychology, one of the most influential scholars of intractable conflicts is Daniel Bar-Tal.

In his work, Bar-Tal has been advancing a social-psychological perspective on intractable conflict. This perspective maintains that conflicts are waged, managed, and sometimes resolved by human beings. Therefore, an understanding of intractable conflicts must take into consideration human psychological processes. The social-psychological perspective recognizes that the context of intractable conflict has implications for the psychology of individual members of the involved societies, yet at the same time, individual psychological processes shape collective behaviors in the context of the conflict. Hence, although psychological processes take place at the individual level, they have implications for the macro-societal level.

Bar-Tal is best known for his contribution to studying the sociopsychological infrastructure that develops in societies that are involved in intractable conflicts. According to his theory, this sociopsychological infrastructure consists of shared societal beliefs of ethos of conflict and collective memory, as well as collective emotional orientations that underlie cultures of conflicts. He has studied the contents of these elements of the sociopsychological infrastructure, the processes through which they are acquired and maintained, their functions, the societal mechanisms that contribute to their institutionalization, as well as their role in the crystallization of social identity and development of a culture of conflict. In addition, he studied sociopsychological barriers to peacemaking and ways to overcome them.

Bar Tal's studies were published in 20 books and over 200 articles and chapters in major journals, books, and encyclopedias. The aim of the present book is to pay tribute to Bar-Tal's contribution to the field in light of his approaching retirement

from his position at Tel-Aviv University. In order to do so, we attempted to bring together some of the many scholars who have been influenced and inspired by his work. These scholars offer extensions of Bar-Tal's work while connecting and integrating it with other prominent theoretical frameworks in social and political psychology. They demonstrate the breadth of influence of Bar-Tal's work on recent developments in the study of the social-psychological aspects of intractable conflicts. It is our hope that bringing these contributions together can further advance and enrich our knowledge in this field.

For us, this book is anything but a standard academic or scientific project. As former students of Daniel Bar-Tal, we consider him a mentor, a close friend, and maybe beyond all that, an inspiration to our work on the psychology of intractable conflicts. Even before commencing with the project of editing this book, we had the impression that dozens if not hundreds of scholars of conflicts around the world share the same feeling. After more than a year of communicating with the various contributors to this book, we can say with certainty that many of them consider Bar-Tal to be one of the most important theoreticians worldwide in the fascinating field of the social-psychological aspects of intractable conflicts. For many of those involved in this book, Bar-Tal is a unique social and political psychologist, who has had wide influence on both research and practice in the fields of political psychology, conflict resolution, and peace studies. Additionally, as we can testify based on first-hand experience, Bar-Tal has educated dozens of young scholars and practitioners, leading them to study conflict from a broad perspective, while utilizing an interdisciplinary approach and diverse methodologies. Many of the chapter authors in this book (in addition to the two of us) are Bar-Tal's former students.

When we began working on this project we intended to publish just one volume. However, when we started contacting potential contributors, it became apparent that so many scholars wanted to take part in the tribute to Bar-Tal, that it became necessary to divide the book into two volumes. The first volume refers to the contribution of Bar-Tal's work to understanding intractable conflicts in general, and the second volume refers to his contribution to understanding the Israeli–Palestinian conflict in particular. The present volume, which is the first in the series, includes 15 chapters by some of the most prominent scholars of intergroup and intractable conflicts worldwide. The first section of the volume presents a general overview of Bar-Tal's theories. Reykowski (Chap. 1) introduces Bar-Tal's theory and main contribution to the field. Then, Elcheroth and Spini (Chap. 2) discuss the generalizability of Bar-Tal's theory to other conflicts, beyond the Israeli–Palestinian case. The next three sections of the volume deal with different aspects of the sociopsychological infrastructure of intractable conflict. The second section addresses the cognitive elements of the sociopsychological infrastructure, namely the ethos of conflict and collective memory. In Chap. 3, Cohrs et. al. offer a new perspective on ethos of conflict, through the lens of the society's social representations. Then, Jost et. al. (Chap. 4) introduce a system justification approach to the ethos of conflict, and Paez and Liu (Chap. 5) deal with the manner in which collective remembering of conflict-related events feeds into the ethos of conflict. The third section of the volume examines three specific central societal beliefs that develop in societies involved in

intractable conflicts and have been discussed in Bar-Tal's theorizing. Vollhardt and colleagues (Chap. 6) address societal beliefs about victimhood, Cohen-Chen and her colleagues (Chap. 7) address beliefs about conflict irresolvability, and Čehajić-Clancy (Chap. 8) addresses beliefs about moral responsibility. The fourth section of the volume shifts the focus to the emotional and affective elements of the socio-psychological infrastructure of intractable conflict. Jarymowicz (Chap. 9) discusses collective emotions like fear and hope, and Dupuis and her colleagues (Chap. 10) discuss collective angst. To complete the affective aspect, Bruneau (Chap. 11) offers an expansion of the toolkit by using neuroimaging techniques in the study of intergroup conflicts. To end the first volume with a more optimistic and to some extent more practical perspective, the fifth and final section includes four chapters dealing with various ways in which Bar-Tal's theorizing can be utilized to promote peace. Tropp (Chap. 12) and then Hameiri and Halperin (Chap. 13) review psychology-based conflict resolution interventions and discuss the ways in which Bar-Tal's work influenced their formulation and utilization. Then, Staub (Chap. 14) highlights the role of passivity and active bystandership in the attempt to overcome evil, and finally, Taylor and Christie (Chap. 15) summarize research in the tradition of peace psychology, which can assist in identifying peace building tools.

Eran Halperin, Keren Sharvit

Contents

Part I Bar-Tal’s Theory of Intractable Conflicts

- 1 **Intractable Conflicts—How can they be Solved?
The Theory of Daniel Bar-Tal** 3
Janusz Reykowski
- 2 **Can There be a General Theory of Intractable Conflict?** 17
Guy Elcheroth and Dario Spini

Part II Perspectives on Ethos of Conflict and Collective Memory

- 3 **Ethos of Conflict and Beyond: Differentiating Social
Representations of Conflict** 33
J. Christopher Cohrs, Özden Melis Uluğ, Lea Stahel and Reşit Kızıloğlu
- 4 **Ethos of Conflict: A System Justification Perspective** 47
John T. Jost, Chadly Stern and Joanna Sterling
- 5 **The Collective Remembering of Conflict and Its Role
in Fueling an Ethos of Conflict in Society** 61
Dario Páez and James H. Liu

Part III Specific Societal Beliefs and their Implications

- 6 **Victims under Siege: Lessons for Polish–Jewish Relations
and Beyond** 75
Johanna Ray Vollhardt, Michal Bilewicz and Mateusz Olechowski
- 7 **Hope(lessness) and Collective (In)action
in Intractable Intergroup Conflict** 89
Smadar Cohen-Chen, Martijn van Zomeren and Eran Halperin

8 Dealing with Ingroup Committed Atrocities: Moral Responsibility and Group-Based Guilt	103
Sabina Čehajić-Clancy	
Part IV The Emotional Aspect of Intractable Conflicts	
9 Fear and Hope in Intractable Conflicts: The Automatic vs. Reflective Attributes of Collective Emotional Orientations.....	119
Maria Jarymowicz	
10 Collective Angst in Intractable Conflicts: How Concern for the Ingroup’s Future Vitality Shapes Adversarial Intergroup Relations.....	131
Darcy R. Dupuis, Roni Porat and Michael J. A. Wohl	
11 Putting Neuroscience to Work for Peace.....	143
Emile Bruneau	
Part V From the Lab to the Field: Promoting Peace with Psychological Tools	
12 Dismantling an Ethos of Conflict: Strategies for Improving Intergroup Relations.....	159
Linda R. Tropp	
13 Sociopsychological Barriers to Peacemaking and Overcoming Them: A Review of New Psychological Interventions	173
Boaz Hameiri and Eran Halperin	
14 Practical Wisdom: Educating for Active Bystandership to Prevent Violence and Build Peace	189
Ervin Staub	
15 Promoting Harmonious Relations and Equitable Well-Being: Peace Psychology and “Intractable” Conflicts.....	203
Laura K. Taylor and Daniel J. Christie	
Index.....	213

Contributors

Michal Bilewicz University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Emile Bruneau Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA

Sabina Čehajić-Clancy Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Daniel J. Christie Ohio State University, Columbus, USA

Smadar Cohen-Chen Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA

J. Christopher Cohrs Jacobs University Bremen, Bremen, Germany

Darcy R. Dupuis Department of Psychology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

Guy Elcheroth University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Eran Halperin School of Psychology, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Israel

Boaz Hameiri The School of Psychological Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel

School of Psychology, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Israel

Maria Jarymowicz University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

John T. Jost Department of Psychology, New York University, New York, NY, USA

Reşit Kışloğlu Jacobs University Bremen, Bremen, Germany

James H. Liu Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand

Mateusz Olechowski University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Dario Páez University of Basque Country, Vizcaya, Spain

Roni Porat Department of Psychology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
Department of Psychology, IDC, Herzliyya, Israel

Janusz Reykowski Polish Academy of Science, Warszawa, Poland

Dario Spini University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Lea Stahel Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Ervin Staub University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA

Joanna Sterling Department of Psychology, New York University, New York, NY, USA

Chadly Stern Department of Psychology, New York University, New York, NY, USA

Laura K. Taylor Queen's University, Belfast, UK

Linda R. Tropp Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA

Özden Melis Uluğ Jacobs University Bremen, Bremen, Germany

Martijn van Zomeren University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands

Johanna Ray Vollhardt Department of Psychology, Clark University, Worcester, MA, USA

Michael J. A. Wohl Department of Psychology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

Part I
Bar-Tal's Theory of Intractable Conflicts

Chapter 1

Intractable Conflicts—How can they be Solved? The Theory of Daniel Bar-Tal

Janusz Reykowski

For almost 30 years Daniel Bar-Tal's primary scientific interests were focused on one specific subject, though a very complex and very difficult one—intergroup conflicts in their especially vicious form, namely, intractable conflicts. His approach to this complex social phenomenon is very different from approaches that are predominant in social psychology. This is because the main inspiration for his studies was not merely intellectual curiosity—it was his experience of living in a region where intractable conflict shapes the life of everybody who lives there. It was therefore his experience as a concerned citizen who was trying many times to change the course of events to facilitate a peaceful solution of the conflict that shaped his approach. Based on this experience and on extensive research, for which he recruited a large group of collaborators, mainly doctoral students, he has developed an elaborated theory of intractable intergroup conflict that deals with the origin of such conflict, with the mechanisms that maintain it and with the processes that may contribute to its peaceful resolution. It is a general theory that can be applied to various kinds of intergroup intractable conflicts in various places around the world. But unlike other social psychologists whose research is focused mainly on relationships between small groups he has studied conflicts of macro social scale—between nations and large political entities.

His unique approach to intractable conflicts is related to and, to some extent, also driven by his more general conception of social psychology. He believes that social psychology should not limit itself to studies of the relationships between individuals and between small groups—it should also include psychological processes that regulate behavior of large social groups such as nations. Thus, he postulates the extension of social psychology into the societal domain; that is building a sub-discipline—societal psychology. In this chapter, I will discuss Bar-Tal's approach to intractable conflict beginning with his conception of societal psychology. Next, I will review the popular understanding of intractable conflicts and describe Bar-Tal's unique theory focusing on his conception of the nature and origin of such

J. Reykowski (✉)
Polish Academy of Science, Warszawa, Poland
e-mail: januszre@warman.com.pl