



Chasing Dangerous Women: The Social Justice Rhetoric of the Women Nobel Peace Laureates

Dr. Ellen W. Gorsevski

ICS Scholar in Residence, Fall 2011

Communication Dept./School of Media and Communication

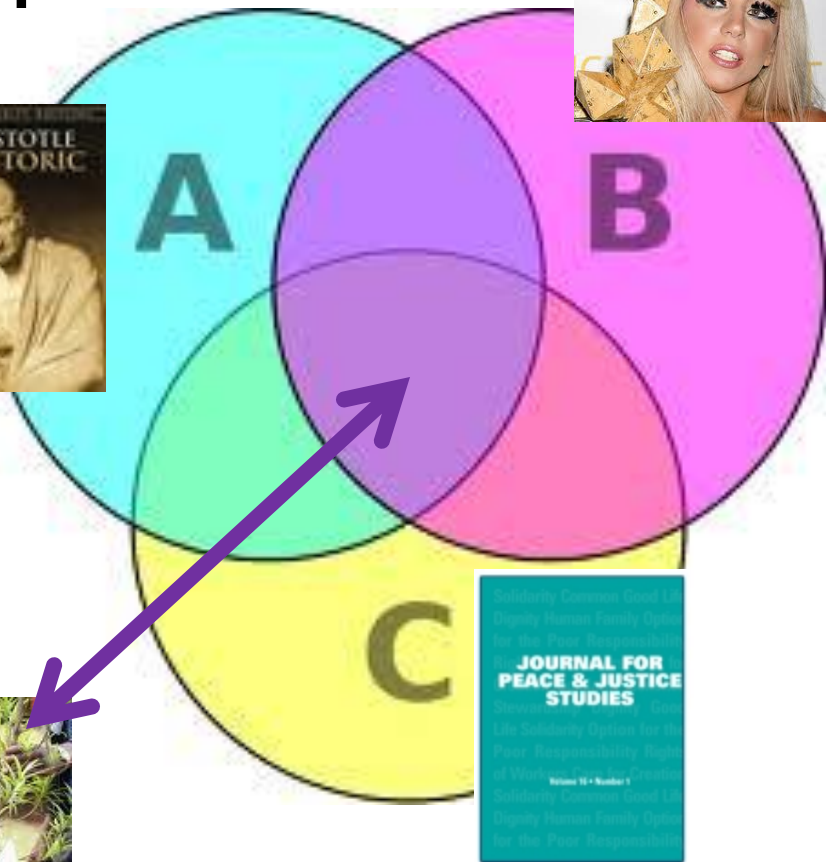
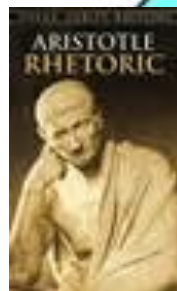


Key Points

- **Rationale:** Rhetoric, Cultural Studies, Peace & Conflict/Justice Studies
- **3 Case Studies:** Aung San Suu Kyi, Wangari Maathai, Shirin Ebadi
- **Conclusion & Directions of Future Research**

Introduction

- **What is shared by**
 - A) Rhetoric** [persuasive comm. arts/sciences],
 - B) Cultural Studies,** and
 - C) Peace and Conflict/Justice Studies?**
- **What can we learn from women peacebuilders?**



Aung San Suu Kyi

of Burma/Myanmar

- Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights.



Wangari Maathai

of Kenya

- Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.



Shirin Ebadi of Iran

- Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for human rights legal advocacy, especially for women and children.





Bertha von Suttner

of Austrian Empire/now Czech Republic

- Nobel Peace Prize in 1905 for organizing and expanding the European based **international Peace Movement**; she persuaded Alfred Nobel to create a Peace Prize.



Jane Addams

of USA

- Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 for her role as International President, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Hull House as part of her larger **Peace Movement activism**



Addams is on right

Emily Greene Balch of USA

- Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for leadership in Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) as part of her larger **Peace Movement activism**



Betty Williams & Mairead Corrigan

of Northern Ireland [UK]

- Jointly awarded Nobel Peace Prize, 1976; led **'Peace People'** movement advancing N. Irish Peace Process to the Good Friday Agreement. Agreement.



Betty Williams



Mairead Corrigan



Mother Teresa

of Macedonia

- Nobel Peace Prize, 1979, for activism promoting international **recognition of individual human worth and dignity**, regardless of race, ethnicity, caste, religion, class, etc.



Hell's Angel: Mother Teresa by Christopher Hitchens (1 of 3)

wsatb 62 videos Subscribe



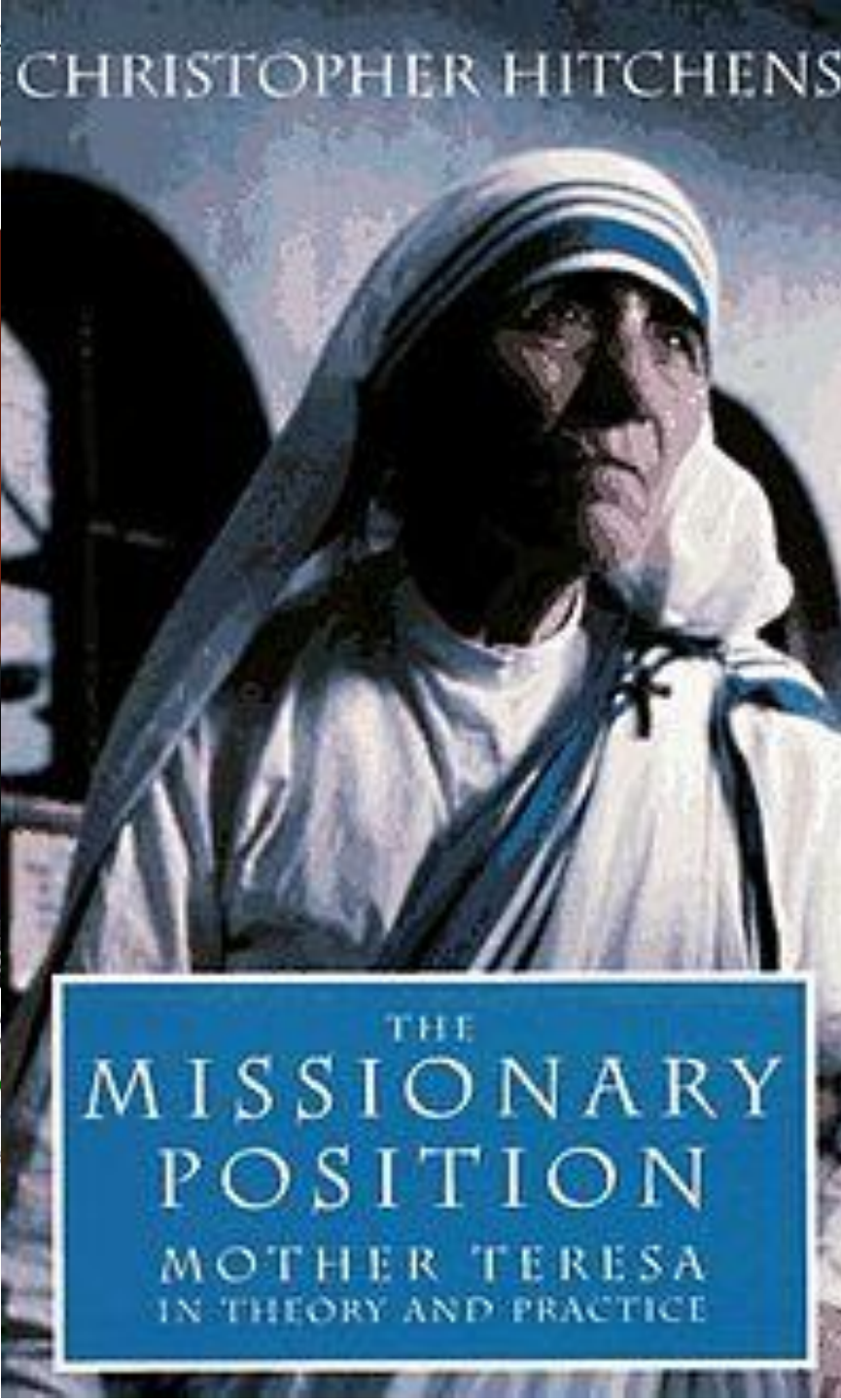
Like Add to Share

Uploaded by wsatb on Oct 23, 2007

Part 1 of 3 - During her lifetime Mother Teresa had become synonymous with saintliness. But in 1994, three years before her death, journalist Christopher

2,693 likes

As Se



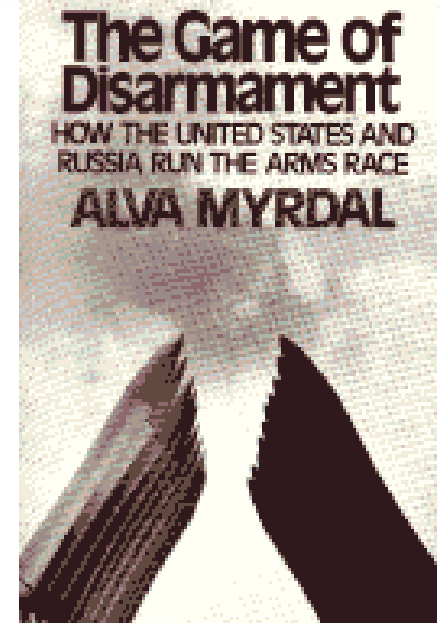
Alva Myrdal

of Sweden

- Nobel Peace Prize, 1982 for leading UN efforts to initiate **regulation/control of the international use and proliferation of nuclear weapons.**



Bundesarchiv, B 145 Bild-F032575-0030
Foto: Grafinghoft, Detlef | 27. September 1970



Rigoberta Menchu Tum

of Guatemala

- Nobel Peace Prize, 1992, led social justice and **ethnocultural reconciliation based on respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.**



Jody Williams

of USA

- Nobel Peace Prize, 1997, for leadership of **International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)**



VIOLENCE

(Direct)

Personal: assault, rape, brutality, terrorism, murder, ethnic cleansing,

Institutional: war, state-sponsored terror, industrial destruction of plant and animal life.

PEACE

(Negative)

Absence of personal and institutional violence

Nobel Peace Prize

(Indirect)

Structural: sexism, racism, discrimination, poverty, hunger, lack of education and health services.

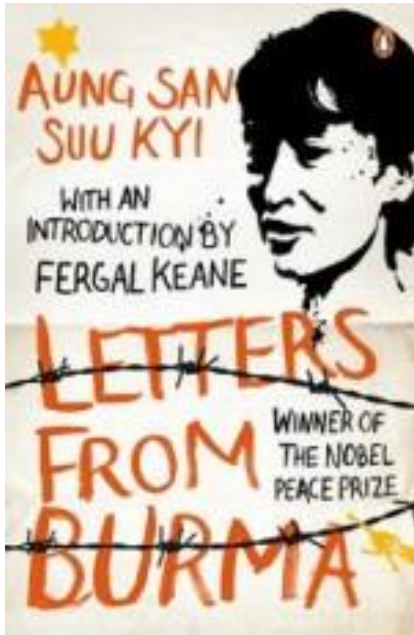
(Positive)

Presence of wellbeing, social justice, gender equity, human rights

Positive

Peace

Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar [Burma]



Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar [Burma]



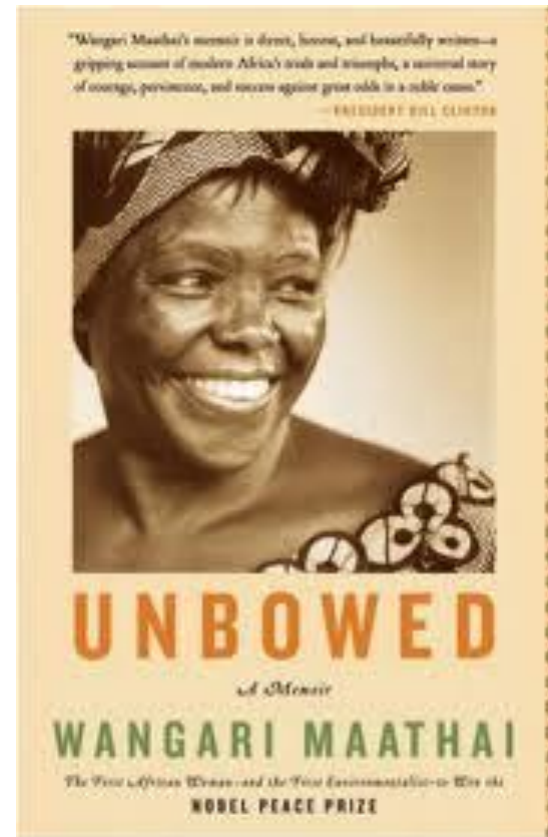
- Hlaing (2007) reports, “Suu Kyi was very hard-headed ... she did not like to listen to the advice of veteran politicians and retired military officers” (p. 365).

Suu Kyi, Culture, Nonviolence in Action: Enacting a Feminist Ethic of Care





Wangari Maathai of Kenya





April 1999: Wangari Maathai challenged security in Karura Forest outside Kenya's capitol, Nairobi.
(Photo: Simon Maina/AFP/Getty Images)

Wangari Maathai



When Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize, “she already knew what she wanted to do: continue planting trees.... Requests from local elementary schools to come plant trees were given equal weight to invitations to speak at Oxford University” (Ramanathan, 2006).

Wangari Maathai



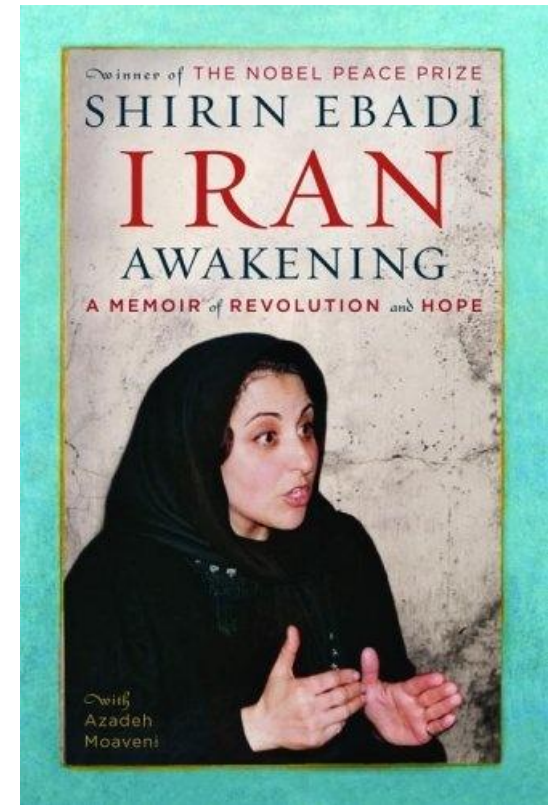
Julian Bond, actress Rosario Dawson, politician Al Gore and Dr. Wangari Maathai during the 40th NAACP Image Awards on February 12, 2009 in Los Angeles, California.
Photo by Vince Bucci/Getty Images North America)



Shirin Ebadi of Iran



- Exiled from Iran (escalated death threats), Ebadi opens her new book, *The Golden Cage*, with: “If you can’t eliminate injustice, at least tell everyone about it.”



Shirin Ebadi



The Dalai Lama with fellow Nobel Peace Prize Laureates (L-R) former IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, Mairead Corrigan, Jody Williams of the US, Iranian lawyer Shirin Ebadi and former South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk lay a wreath at the cenotaph for atomic-bomb victims, during the 11th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima western Japan on 14 November 2010. Reuters/Kyodo/Japan <http://www.tibetsun.com/archive/2010/11/15/dalai-lama-exile-parliament-hails-suu-kyis-release/>

Shirin Ebadi



Shirin Ebadi at the Nobel Peace Prize concert, 2003, co-hosted by Catherine Zeta-Jones & Michael Douglas.



Preliminary Conclusions

Women's peacebuilding rhetoric is:

- rooted in a place and culture,
- collaborative,
- confrontative,
- creative, and
- networked.



Rhetoric of Women Nobel Peace Laureates

To convey their
messages, women
Nobel Peace laureates
use

- visual and activist
rhetorical forms,



Jody Williams and Mairead Corrigan demonstrating against Iraq war,
Washington, DC, 2003 <http://www.peacecouncil.org/maguirenews.html>

Rhetoric of Women Nobel Peace Laureates

Rhetoric includes,

–traditional, text-based communication

- speeches, essays, books, faxes;

– new, e-based communication

- web, tweets, youtube, texting, email, etc.



Jodi Williams, Shirin Ebadi and Mairead Maguire join forces to fight use of rape in war.
<http://www.scoop.it/t/women-of-the-revolution?page=4>

Preliminary Conclusions

- Women focus on local/national issues;
- Local/national issues of interest to women often transcend localities to appeal to a globalized public sphere.



Jody Williams demonstrating against Iraq war, Washington, DC, 2003

Photo: Linda Panetta, Optical Realities Photography

http://apps.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds/get_involved/conversation5.html

Directions for Ongoing Research

What is shared or different comparing early with recent women Nobel Peace Prize winners?

– i.e., communication practices to foment cultural change?



YouTube Search Browse Movie

Taking Root The Vision of Wangari Maathai

nyumbani 8 videos

Like Share

25,380

Uploaded by nyumbani on Sep 25, 2008

Taking Root tells the dramatic story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai

73 likes, 0 dislikes

Ongoing Research, cont'd.

What theoretical contributions emerge from studies of women peace leaders' communication and their role in promoting a shift to social justice in:

- local,
- regional, and
- global cultural spheres?



<http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/>

Thank You!



- Any questions?

