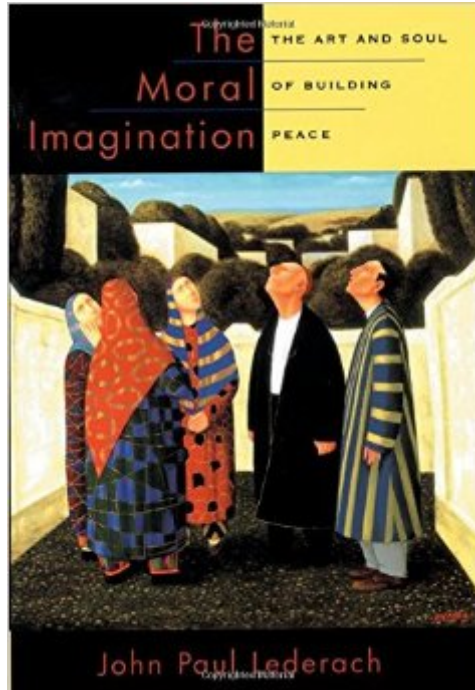


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# The Moral Imagination: The Art And Soul Of Building Peace



## Synopsis

John Paul Lederach's work in the field of conciliation and mediation is internationally recognized. As founding Director of the Conflict Transformation Program and Institute of Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University, he has provided consultation and direct mediation in a range of situations from the Miskito/Sandinista conflict in Nicaragua to Somalia, Northern Ireland, the Basque Country, and the Philippines. His influential 1997 book *Building Peace* has become a classic in the discipline. This new book represents his thinking and learning over the past several years. He explores the evolution of his understanding of peacebuilding by reflecting on his own experiences in the field. Peacebuilding, in his view, is both a learned skill and an art. Finding this art, he says, requires a worldview shift. Conflict professionals must envision their work as a creative act - an exercise of what Lederach terms the "moral imagination."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"John Paul Lederach, a theorist of great insight who also happens to be a practitioner of high skill, brings us deep into his own process of learning . . ." So said the well-known author William Ury in *The Moral Imagination*. I learned to look for the important web of relationships that lies hidden behind the violence of a conflict. Such webs contain spaces that may become starting places for reconciliation. Even before violence abates, in such spaces a peace-builder can get started. A skilled and engaging storyteller, Mr. Lederach offers instances from his own experience to illustrate the theories he lays out. For example, he tells how mothers, wives, and daughters built peace in a formerly violent marketplace where all parties needed to shop for necessities. In the arena of

workplace reconciliation where I work, Mr. Lederach has helped me assign meaning to much I have observed but not always recognized as important.

This is a metaphorically rich book about conflict resolution and preparing the essential infrastructure for dialogue. Anyone interested in resolving conflict at whatever level would benefit from the experiences Prof. Lederach shares.

I am only half way through right now. But this book is really helping me to see the heart of conflict resolution and peace building. I am naturally a very emotional person, but all during my undergrad I had to put on a very serious/fact finding hat to get through. Now during my graduate studies of Peace and Conflict Resolution I was having a hard time adjusting. Words like "love", "harmony", and "imagination" were really throwing me off. I am reading this book for my class and it is really helping me to put my heart and imagination into what I am learning which is helping me to internalize what I am learning. After all, I believe that to want to resolve the conflict of others, you have to have a little love and imagination in your heart. This book puts the heart back into peace building. It reminds us that it is ok to use your heart and intuition in your work. Everything is not always about technical methods and theories. A hooked reader.

Amazing book! Had to read it for a Master's class and I want everyone to read it. It gives a broad perspective of the world's struggles for peace among violence and provides hope for change in a myriad of ways.

Excellent book! Organizations/schools are increasing using as core literature, and has become common reference for my work in peacebuilding. I would also recommend for anyone... easy to understand and follow for people without any background in conflict resolution. For anyone studying or working in conflict resolution or peacebuilding, however, The Moral Imagination is a must read!

This book will change your perspective on conflict, how it forms, how it can be managed, and how it can be resolved. The author is realistic, understands the effect of cultural context, and the curative principal of respect in relationships. I learned a lot.

I am currently getting my Masters degree in International Peace, Conflict, and Development Studies, and this book has served as a text book in almost all my courses. It's easy to read, but not lacking in

depth. John Paul Lederach has a way of writing that truly moves and inspires his readers. This is definitely my favorite of his works. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in peace making and conflict transformation.

This is a very creatively written book that helps a conflict resolution professional to stretch his thinking in terms of conflict. Though a bit cryptic at times, the overall mental stimulation this book provides to the professional is excellent.

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