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Articles

Alice Ackermann

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Andrea Talentino

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Ariella Vraneski

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Intergroup Conflict Reduction Through Identity Affirmation: Overcoming the Image of the Ethnic or Enemy “Other”

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The Religion of War and Peace:
Better Understanding of International Conflict

Florence Ross

Call to Action To Elders Worldwide: The Need to Highlight Their Abilities, Wisdom, and Compassion as Citizen Diplomats, and Leaders for Social Change

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About the Authors

Armand Abecassis, is a Professor of General and Comparative Philosophy at the Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux, France. His areas of specialization are comparative Philosophy of Religion; Symbolic and Imaginary thought of Mediterranean peoples. He has written and published approximately 30 books, and written over 60 articles in specialized journals. In addition Professor Abecassis is fluent in Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, English, Spanish, Greek, Latin and his native French. He has received The Academy of Moral and Political Sciences award and is member of The World Alliance of Religions. He is the founding Member of the Advisory Board: Peace Research Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Alice Ackermann was born and educated in Germany, and now is a U.S. citizen. She received her Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1992, and then taught undergraduate and graduate courses in international relations, European studies, conflict analysis/resolution, peace studies, and international security studies at Washington State University, the University of Miami (Florida), and at Lancaster University, The Richardson Institute (UK). Dr. Ackermann's current research interests focus on conflict prevention, reconciliation, ethnic conflict, and the emergence of new norms in international relations. Dr. Ackermann's research has been published in the *Journal of Conflict Studies*, *Security Dialogue*, *Peace and Change*, *European Security*, and *The International Spectator*. She is the author of *Making Peace Prevail: Preventing Violent Conflict in Macedonia* (Syracuse University Press, 2000), and the producer of an award-winning documentary on the prevention of violent conflict, *From the Shadow of History* (Cinema Guild, 1997) which has aired on the History Channel and Public Television in the United States, and has been screened internationally. In 1996, Dr. Ackermann was a Fulbright scholar at the German governmental institute, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik. Recently she was awarded another Fulbright scholarship, also to Germany. Dr. Ackermann is the recipient of several grants, including two from the Washington-based United States Institute of Peace, and has worked as a consultant for the United States Agency for International Development. Dr. Ackermann has also been interviewed extensively on the Balkans, including by The BBC, Deutsche Welle, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Currently, Dr. Ackermann serves as the chair of the International Studies Association (ISA) Peace Studies Section, and also as the ISA annual conference program chair for that Section.

Thomas E. Boudreau is author of *Sheathing the Sword: The U.N. Secretary-General and the Prevention of International Conflict* and *Universitas: The Social Restructuring of American Undergraduate Education*. He has taught as a visiting professor at Syracuse University and the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently a visiting assistant professor at American University.

Florence Ross is a Citizen Diplomat from birth, with subsequent experiences as the President of secular, political, and religious organizations, an organizer of Human Relations Workshops for youths and adults, a lobbyist to Congressmen, a cancer researcher and an administrator, all performed in recognition that the world needed repair and transformation. From these attempts to build bridges between people of different ages and cultures, in an atmosphere where peace could grow with moral and spiritual ideas dominating, I learned that actual change comes from grassroots activism, nurtured relationships that become trusted ones and from direct dialogue. As a grandmother and great grandmother with a loving biological and extended family in countries the world over, I have seen the effectiveness of my elder status as a source of security, inspiration and example to emulate. Functioning as a participant in the Peace Summit of 1986, called by President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev, the titles of “Grandmother of the World” and “Best Citizen Diplomat” were conferred upon me for chastizing the alienating policies of both countries. A little old lady taught that Citizen Diplomacy works! Entering Graduate School at age 73 to pursue a Masters Degree and graduating with a Ph.D at age 81, I was able to share intimate knowledge of unique events of the 20th century in which I had been a participant with fellow students and teachers. Of significance was that courageous aging recaptures the life potential of the older adult and challenges the younger person toward multi-cultural and intergenerational partnerships.

Dennis J.D. Sandole received his Ph.D from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland in 1979. He is Professor of Conflict Resolution and International Relations at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) at George Mason University. A founding member of ICAR, his research and practice in conflict resolution deal with the violent ethnic conflicts of post-Cold War Europe, and the role of the *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe* (OSCE) in dealing with these. His most recent book is *Capturing the Complexity of Conflict: Dealing with Violent Ethnic Conflicts of the Post-Cold War Era* (1999).

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Ariella Vraneski is the head of the Conflict Resolution Research Group of the Center of Urban and Regional Studies at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning of the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, and a research affiliate of the Institute for Conflict Resolution

& Analysis at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Her dissertation (Technion, highest honors, 1994), focused on the transferability and applicability of conflict analysis & resolution concepts and tools within different organizational and cultural settings. Dr. Vraneski, has received many research and teaching awards and fellowships from organizations in Austria, Italy, Israel and the United States. She is the author or co-author of eight books and numerous articles, chapters and reports on topics that combine between conflict transformation, comprehensive planning, social & environmental justice, community participation and sustainable development. Her more recent work aims at a synergistic inclusion of selected regional planning concepts and tools into the conflict resolution curriculum and practice. Dr. Vraneski is currently working on a book aimed to link between creativity, conflict analysis & resolution and peace building. She can be contacted at avranesk@gmu.edu and ariellav@techunix.technion.ac.il



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