

**PART THREE**

**THE DYNAMICS OF**

**NONVIOLENT STRUGGLE**



# INTRODUCTION TO THE DYNAMICS

Part Three offers a relatively brief summary of the workings, or dynamics, of nonviolent struggle in conflicts. Anyone seeking to understand or use nonviolent struggle needs to have a good grasp of these dynamics. The application of this technique produces a fluid, changing, interactive process that is never static. The workings of this technique are also very complicated.

Persons and groups seriously interested in the operation of this technique are encouraged to examine the more detailed study in Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*, Part Three, *The Dynamics of Nonviolent Action* (Boston: Porter Sargent, 1973 and later printings). That text and this summarized discussion are based on twentieth century cases and analyses. They make only minor reference to the importance and application of strategy. The chapters in Part Four of this book focus exclusively on the impact that strategic planning can play in increasing the future effectiveness of this technique as it is developed and practiced in the twenty-first century. However, before proceeding to a discussion

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The chapters of Part Three are heavily based on the extreme condensation of *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*, prepared by Jaime Gonzales Bernal and published in Spanish in Mexico as *La Lucha Política Noviolenta: Criterios y Técnicas* (private printings, 1987); Santiago, Chile: Ediciones ChileAmérica CESOC, 1988. Revised, expanded edition with a new translation, Miami: Hermanos al Rescate. 1998. Part Three, however, is a newly revised English text.

of strategy, we must first examine the dynamics of this technique in greater depth. How does it work in conflicts?