

The Declaration of the Candidate
Faculty
Critical Study
The Buddhist Theory of
Conflict Resolution – a Critical Study

By

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Ph.D. 1057

I hereby declare that the dissertation "The Buddhist Theory of Conflict Resolution – a Critical Study" is his own work and that he has successfully completed it under the supervision of the undersigned as his Supervisor for the Degree Examination.

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Abstract

Since 1945, after the end of the Second World War, there have been many attempts to resolve systematically violent conflicts in society. Theories of conflict analysis and resolution have evolved mainly in the western world. Though these theories combine insights from multidisciplinary perspectives, including eastern wisdom, they still have lacunas, unaddressed issues and problems. This study takes up the Buddhist approach to conflict and its resolution in order to fill up these lacunas and focus upon unaddressed issues.

The study attempts to acquire a better understanding of conflict and its resolution from the Pāli Canon, mainly from the *Sutta Piṭaka* and the *Vinaya Piṭaka* and also Pāli commentaries as primary sources. The study collects concepts, traditions and practices, which are scattered in various discourses and puts them under suitable categories. It attempts to evolve a Buddhist theory of conflict resolution based on Buddhist teaching.

Conflict resolution is a new field of work in Buddhist studies. The study, therefore, makes use of modern research on conflict resolution to understand social conflicts prevailing at the present time. It does this together with the background of Buddhist understanding. The study presents the historical evolution of these contemporary theories as the way to understand deeply the contemporary theories of conflict analysis and resolution. After the principles and approaches have been gathered from the Buddhist tradition and the Buddhist theory has been evolved, the study can make a critique of the proposed Buddhist theory and the existing contemporary theories. Finally, the study comes up with the holistic approach, through which both theories, the Buddhist and the contemporary, could be fruitfully utilized, clearing an effective way for dealing with social conflicts.