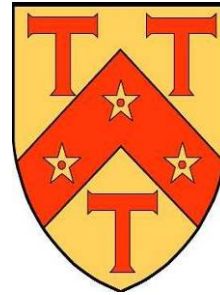


**CENTRE FOR
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UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RESISTANCE & POWER POLITICS

St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 15-18 March 2007

MAP & TIMELINE OF SELECTED CASES OF CIVIL RESISTANCE SINCE 1945

WITH A PROPOSED DEFINITION OF CIVIL RESISTANCE

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PROPOSED DEFINITION OF CIVIL RESISTANCE

CIVIL RESISTANCE is a type of non-violent action. It involves a range of widespread and sustained activities against a particular power, force, policy or regime – hence the term ‘resistance’. The adjective ‘civil’ in this context denotes that which pertains to a citizen or society (often implying that a movement’s goals are ‘civil’ in the sense of being widely shared in a society), and also that which is peaceful, polite, non-military or non-violent in character. Civil resistance is found throughout history, and can involve a wide variety of forms of action. It operates through several distinct mechanisms of change, including persuasion (e.g. by demonstrations, vigils and petitions); social, economic and political non-cooperation (e.g. by strikes, go-slows and boycotts); and nonviolent intervention (e.g. sit-ins, occupations, and the creation of parallel institutions of government). Civil resistance has been used in many types of struggle: for example, against colonialism, foreign occupations, military *coups d’état*, dictatorial regimes, racial and gender discrimination. It has also been used against particular policies of democratically elected governments, and against changes consequent on peace agreements. There is no assumption that the adversary power against which civil resistance is aimed necessarily avoids resort to violence: civil resistance has been used in some cases in which the adversary has been predisposed to use violence. Often the reasons for a movement’s avoidance of violence are related to the context rather than to any absolute ethical principle: they may spring from a society’s traditions of political action, from its experience of war and violence, from legal considerations, or from calculations about the improbability of achieving success by violent means.

Source: Adam Roberts, ‘Civil Resistance and Power Politics: The Questions’
Paper presented at the conference on Civil Resistance and Power Politics, p. 2

Key to Map:

- Cases on the programme
- Some other significant cases

Key to Timeline:

(All dates are approximate)

- Bold Text:** Cases on the programme
- Normal Text:** Some other significant cases
- Italic Text:* Further cases
- Underline: Cases that were arguably defeated
- This symbol indicates significant violence (in support of the movement’s goals)

SELECTED CASES OF CIVIL RESISTANCE SINCE 1945

