



The Dynamics of Conflict: A Guide to Engagement and Intervention

By Bernard Mayer

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"Mayer once again demonstrates his unique ability to weave theory and practice together with real-world examples—whether about warring nations or a family dispute—to help readers better understand both the fundamentals and nuances involved in working in the conflict arena. *The Dynamics of Conflict* is a very important read for anyone who works with people in conflict."—Peter Salem, executive director, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

"In his latest book, Mayer explores the theoretical underpinnings of conflict as it relates to cognitive, emotional, and behavioral dimensions. Personal stories and examples provide practical skills in communication and negotiation, including how to deal with power, impasse, and cross-cultural issues. The book is a must-read for conflict resolution professionals and will also be easily understandable to the public at large—a great tool for businesses, parents, governmental agencies, mental health professionals, and educators!"—Nina Meierding, Negotiation and Mediation Training Services; former president, Academy of Family Mediators

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"A rare blend of practical experience and theoretical knowledge. Insightful, useful, and thought provoking. I recommend it!" —William Ury, coauthor,

Getting to Yes, and author, The Third Side

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

When it was published in 2000, Bernie Mayer's *The Dynamics of Conflict Resolution* quickly became one of the seminal works in the conflict resolution field. The book bridged the gap between abstract theoretical approaches and practical handbooks and became an immensely valuable and accessible resource for experienced and novice practitioners, as well as for professors and students of conflict management who needed a deep yet practical view of conflict and methods for dealing with it.

The Dynamics of Conflict is the second edition of Mayer's classic book. While building on the strengths of the first edition, this thoroughly revised and updated book keeps pace with the most current trends and research in the field and explores four key concepts: interactional dynamics, system dynamics, culture and conflict, and conflict engagement. Like the first edition, the focus of the new edition is on the ways we can productively think about conflict and conflict intervention, rather than on specific techniques and processes. Mayer presents ideas about conflict as a set of conceptual tools that build on one another and contribute to a multifaceted view of conflict and conflict intervention but that also stand on their own.

Filled with illustrative examples, the book draws from the author's thirty years of experience with interpersonal, family, community, organizational, labor management, environmental, public policy, and international disputes and includes instances of conflicts that have been in the news. In addition, this vital resource contains information on the most important work that has been done in the past decade on culture, systems, and conflict engagement and shows how conflict concepts apply to new technologies such as online communication and conflict resolution efforts on the Web.

In the concluding chapter Mayer explores how conflict intervention efforts fit into more general values about peace, democracy, and social justice, and the personal impact that conflict work as a field has on conflict specialists.

About the Author

Bernie Mayer is a professor at the Werner Institute, Creighton University, and a founding partner of CDR Associates. He has been working in the conflict field since the late 1970s as a mediator, facilitator, trainer, researcher, program administrator, and consultant. He is the author of *Staying with Conflict*, which won the 2009 outstanding book awarded from the CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, and *Beyond Neutrality*, the winner of CPR's 2004 book award.

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