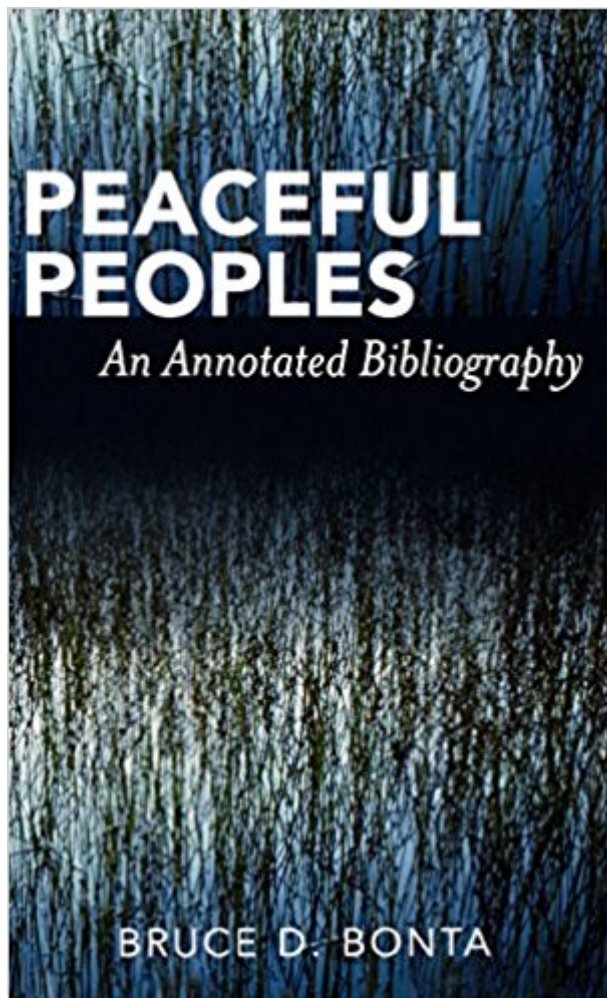


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# Peaceful Peoples



## Synopsis

Peaceful peoples are societies that have developed harmonious social structures which allow them to get along with each other, and with outsiders, without violence. Most of these peoples foster a spirit of cooperation rather than competition, promote sharing rather than glorifying greed, and live in harmony with the earth as well as with other people. Perhaps most importantly, they believe that peacefulness is the defining characteristic of their humanity. Some of the peoples included in the book are from the Western tradition such as the Amish, Hutterites, Mennonites, Quakers, and Tristan Islanders; from South America, the Piaroa; from Africa, the Fipa; from South Asia, the Paliyan, Malapandaram, and Nayaka; from Southeast Asia, the Semai, Chewong, and Buid; and from Micronesia, the Ifaluk. This selected bibliography includes annotated references to books, articles, and other English-language publications that provide significant information about a peaceful society. The author has combed the literature of fields such as anthropology, psychology, sociology, history, and religious studies for appropriate works, with a cutoff date of 1992. Scholars and peace activists who are interested in societies that foster peacefulness have difficulty finding references to the literature. Numerous indexes and abstracts do not include subject headings such as "peaceful peoples." Furthermore, indexing services often do not cover chapters in edited volumes, an important part of this literature. The book includes a very detailed name and subject index that provides access to the intriguing social psychological, and cultural similarities and difference existing among the peoples.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 301 pages

Publisher: Scarecrow Press (June 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810827859

ISBN-13: 978-0810827851

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #4,409,429 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Politics #833 in Books > Textbooks > Reference > Bibliographies & Indexes #54368 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science

## Customer Reviews

...of use to scholars in the sub-discipline... 'ethnopsychology'...interesting and thought-provoking... (Reference Reviews)...recommended for all libraries... (Choice)...a scholarly labor of love... (Peace And Conflict)

Bruce D. Bonta has 30 years of experience as an academic reference librarian at the Library of Congress, at Colby College, and, since 1971, at Penn State, where he is now the History/Area Studies Librarian. He has written a number of articles for library journals and co-edited *The Role of the American Academic Library in International Programs* (JAI Press, 1992).

In "Peaceful Peoples: An Annotated Bibliography," Bruce Bonta has created a reference source which calls attention to societies which, by their very nature, tend to be quiet, obscure, and little-known. It makes the reader think about the wistful paradox that those people, and those peoples, who are always the most worth knowing, are so often the least well-known, simply because they never "get in anyone's face," so to speak. Their peacefulness, oftentimes, can confer upon them a certain social invisibility. Mr. Bonta includes a useful little introduction, which should not be skipped over. In it, he talks a bit about his own motivations for compiling this book, e.g., offering an alternative to the mindset encouraged by some of the writings of Konrad Lorenz; he tries to articulate the book's specific research value to peace activists, or to scholars of any kind; he defines the terms he employs (very simply and straightforwardly); and he talks a little about the criteria he employs for including any given people, and for including any particular reference source. In the body of the book, he focuses upon 47 disparate peoples from around the globe, who, for one reason or another, can be considered to be unusually unwarlike. The reference materials compiled range from anthropological writings, to sociology, to social psychology, to "pure" histories. Each of the 47 sections begins with a paragraph about the people in question, in which they are placed in a geographical and historical context. Then, for each people, anywhere from 5 to 25 reference sources are offered for the reader to seek out on his or her own. Each reference source is carefully and usefully annotated. Usually, there are about 2 books discussed per page. The peoples we learn about here include, among many others, the Amish, the Balinese, the !Kung, the Quakers, the Tahitians, and the Zapotec. The Tasaday are NOT included. The real value of this book is in calling attention to these peoples -- once you've made a decision to think about them, it is up to you not to romanticise them, but to simply see them as they are, without rose-colored glasses. They're just people, just like you. A great idea for a book. Two thumbs up.

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