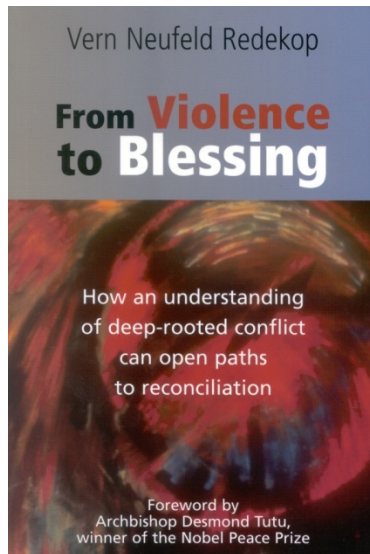


# From Violence to Blessing: How an Understanding of Deep-Rooted Conflict Can Open Paths to Reconciliation

Vern Neufeld Redekop



Oka. Rwanda. Somalia. Sudan. Belfast. Afghanistan. The list of conflicts keeps growing, but our understanding of their causes does not. As we watch the television news or read the newspaper accounts we say to ourselves, “How can human beings act this way towards each other?”

In this important and timely book, Vern Neufeld Redekop looks behind the headlines and uncovers the roots of such deep hatreds. He shows how a disposition towards violence is deeply ingrained – not only in these infamous conflicts, but in many other human situations. These inclinations towards violence often subvert the potential for peace and reconciliation.

Redekop takes his readers on a guided tour of violence in the world. He then presents, in a clear and accessible way, the implications of René Girard’s work on how, as a culture, we tend to act our repeated patterns of violence.

But *From Violence to Blessing* is about getting beyond the “mimetic violence” that René Girard describes. Sharing his extensive experience as one of Canada’s foremost leaders in conflict resolution, Redekop shows how deep-rooted conflict and violence can slowly be transformed into peace and reconciliation.

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