Far too often people struggling for democratic rights and justice are not aware of the full range of methods of nonviolent action. Wise strategy, attention to the dynamics of nonviolent struggle, and careful selection of methods can increase a group’s chances of success. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, American Professor Gene Sharp researched and catalogued these 198 methods and provided a rich selection of historical examples in his seminal work, The Politics of Nonviolent Action (3 Vols.) Boston: Porter Sargent, 1973.

**The Politics of Nonviolent Action**

By Professor Gene Sharp

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**THE METHODS OF NONVIOLENT PROTEST AND PERSUASION**

**I. Formal Statements**
1. Public Speeches
2. Letters of opposition or support
3. Declarations by organizations and institutions
4. Signed public statements
5. Declarations of indictment and intention
6. Group or mass petitions

**II. Communications with a Wider Audience**
7. Slogans, caricatures, and symbols
8. Banners, posters, displayed communications
9. Leaflets, pamphlets, and books
10. Newspapers and journals
11. Records, radio, and television
12. Skywriting and earthwriting

**III. Group Representations**
13. Deputations
14. Mock awards
15. Group lobbying
16. Picketing
17. Mock elections

**IV. Symbolic Public Acts**
18. Displays of flags and symbolic colors
19. Wearing of symbols
20. Prayer and worship
21. Delivering symbolic objects
22. Protest disrobing
23. Destruction of own property
24. Symbolic lights
25. Displays of portraits
26. Paint as protest
27. New signs and names
28. Symbolic sounds
29. Symbolic reclamations
30. Rude gestures
V. Pressures on Individuals
31. “Haunting” officials
32. Taunting officials
33. Fraternization
34. Vigils

VI. Drama and Music
35. Humorous skits and pranks
36. Performances of plays and music
37. Singing

VII. Processions
38. Marches
39. Parades
40. Religious processions
41. Pilgrimages
42. Motorcades

VIII. Honoring the Dead
43. Political mourning
44. Mock funerals
45. Demonstrative funerals
46. Homage at burial places

IX. Public Assemblies
47. Assemblies of protest or support
48. Protest meetings
49. Camouflaged meetings of protest
50. Teach-ins

X. Withdrawal and Renunciation
51. Walk-outs
52. Silence

53. Renouncing honors
54. Turning one’s back

THE METHODS OF SOCIAL NONCOOPERATION

XI. Ostracism of Persons
55. Social boycott
56. Selective social boycott
57. Lysistratic nonaction
58. Excommunication
59. Interdict

XII. Noncooperation with Social Events, Customs, and Institutions
60. Suspension of social and sports activities
61. Boycott of social affairs
62. Student strike
63. Social disobedience
64. Withdrawal from social institutions

XIII. Withdrawal from the Social System
65. Stay-at-home
66. Total personal noncooperation
67. “Flight” of workers
68. Sanctuary
69. Collective disappearance
70. Protest emigration (hijrat)

THE METHODS OF ECONOMIC NONCOOPERATION: ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS
### XIV. Actions by Consumers
- 71. Consumers’ boycott
- 72. Nonconsumption of boycotted goods
- 73. Policy of austerity
- 74. Rent withholding
- 75. Refusal to rent
- 76. National consumers’ boycott
- 77. International consumers’ boycott

### XV. Action by Workers and Producers
- 78. Workmen’s boycott
- 79. Producers’ boycott

### XVI. Action by Middlemen
- 80. Suppliers’ and handlers’ boycott

### XVII. Action by Owners and Management
- 81. Traders’ boycott
- 82. Refusal to let or sell property
- 83. Lockout
- 84. Refusal of industrial assistance
- 85. Merchants’ “general strike”

### XVIII. Action by Holders of Financial Resources
- 86. Withdrawal of bank deposits
- 87. Refusal to pay fees, dues, and assessments
- 88. Refusal to pay debts or interest
- 89. Severance of funds and credit
- 90. Revenue refusal
- 91. Refusal of a government’s money

### XIX. Action by Governments
- 92. Domestic embargo
- 93. Blacklisting of traders
- 94. International sellers’ embargo
- 95. International buyers’ embargo
- 96. International trade embargo

### THE METHODS OF ECONOMIC NONCOOPERATION: THE STRIKE

### XX. Symbolic Strikes
- 97. Protest strike
- 98. Quickie walkout (lightning strike)

### XXI. Agricultural Strikes
- 99. Peasant strike
- 100. Farm Workers’ strike

### XXII. Strikes by Special Groups
- 101. Refusal of impressed labor
- 102. Prisoners’ strike
- 103. Craft strike
- 104. Professional strike

### XXIII. Ordinary Industrial Strikes
- 105. Establishment strike
- 106. Industry strike
- 107. Sympathetic strike

### XXIV. Restricted Strikes
- 108. Detailed strike
- 109. Bumper strike
- 110. Slowdown strike
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Working-to-rule strike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Reporting “sick” (sick-in)</td>
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<td>113</td>
<td>Strike by resignation</td>
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<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Limited strike</td>
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<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Selective strike</td>
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<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Generalized strike</td>
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<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>General strike</td>
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<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Hartal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Economic shutdown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**XXV. Multi-Industry Strikes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Withholding or withdrawal of allegiance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Refusal of public support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Literature and speeches advocating resistance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**XXVI. Combination of Strikes and Economic Closures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Boycott of government-supported organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Refusal of assistance to enforcement agents</td>
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<td>130</td>
<td>Removal of own signs and placemarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Refusal to accept appointed officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Refusal to dissolve existing institutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**XXVII. Rejection of Authority**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Reluctant and slow compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>Nonobedience in absence of direct supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>Popular nonobedience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>Disguised disobedience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>Refusal of an assemblage or meeting to disperse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>Sitdown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Noncooperation with conscription and deportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Hiding, escape, and false identities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Civil disobedience of “illegitimate” laws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**XXVIII. Citizens’ Alternatives to Obedience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Selective refusal of assistance by government aides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>Blocking of lines of command and information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Stalling and obstruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>General administrative noncooperation</td>
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<td>146</td>
<td>Judicial noncooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Deliberate inefficiency and selective noncooperation by enforcement agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Mutiny</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
XXXI. Domestic Governmental Action
149. Quasi-legal evasions and delays
150. Noncooperation by constituent governmental units

XXXII. International Governmental Action
151. Changes in diplomatic and other representations
152. Delay and cancellation of diplomatic events
153. Withholding of diplomatic recognition
154. Severance of diplomatic relations
155. Withdrawal from international organizations
156. Refusal of membership in international bodies
157. Expulsion from international organizations

THE METHODS OF NONVIOLENT INTERVENTION

XXXIII. Psychological Intervention
158. Self-exposure to the elements
159. The fast
   a) Fast of moral pressure
   b) Hunger strike
   c) Satyagrahic fast
160. Reverse trial
161. Nonviolent harassment

XXXIV. Physical Intervention
162. Sit-in
163. Stand-in
164. Ride-in
165. Wade-in
166. Mill-in
167. Pray-in
168. Nonviolent raids
169. Nonviolent air raids
170. Nonviolent invasion
171. Nonviolent interjection
172. Nonviolent obstruction
173. Nonviolent occupation

XXXV. Social Intervention
174. Establishing new social patterns
175. Overloading of facilities
176. Stall-in
177. Speak-in
178. Guerrilla theater
179. Alternative social institutions
180. Alternative communication system

XXXVI. Economic Intervention
181. Reverse strike
182. Stay-in strike
183. Nonviolent land seizure
184. Defiance of blockades
185. Politically motivated counterfeiting
186. Preclusive purchasing
187. Seizure of assets
188. Dumping
189. Selective patronage
190. Alternative markets
191. Alternative transportation systems
192. Alternative economic institutions
XXXVII. Political Intervention

193. Overloading of administrative systems
194. Disclosing identities of secret agents
195. Seeking imprisonment
196. Civil disobedience of “neutral” laws
197. Work-on without collaboration
198. Dual sovereignty and parallel government

Further readings suggested by Dr. Richard Cordero, Esq., on judicial discipline reform:

1. The Dynamics of Institutionalized Corruption in the Courts; 22jan9; http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/docs/Dynamics_of_corruption.pdf
2. How A Bankruptcy Fraud Scheme Works Its basis in the corruptive power of the lots of money available through the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and unaccountable judicial power; http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/Follow_money/How_fraud_scheme_works.pdf
4. Synopsis of an Investigative Journalism Proposal Where the leads in evidence already gathered from a cluster of federal cases would be pursued in a Watergate-like Follow the money! investigation to answer the question: Has a Federal Judgeship Become a Safe Haven for Coordinated Wrongdoing?; 2apr9; http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/Follow_money/DrCordero-journalists.pdf
5. Academic And Business Venture Proposal For Collaboration Among Professionals Seeking To Expose Judicial Abuse Of Power, Self-Serving Self-Policing, And Wrongdoing And Bring About Reform Of Judicial Accountability And Discipline

   The DeLano Case, a hands-on, role-playing, fraud investigative and expository course for law, journalism, and accounting school students; and

   The Disinfecting Sunshine on the Federal Judiciary Project, An academic and business venture consisting of:
   1) multidisciplinary research and investigation to expose
      a) the inner workings of the most secretive branch of government, the Judiciary;
      b) its abuse of its self-policing system to self-exempt from discipline; and
      c) the resulting engagement by judges in riskless coordinated wrongdoing; and
   2) advocacy of
      a) official investigation of individual and coordinated wrongdoing in the Judiciary;
      b) legislation reforming the system of judicial accountability and discipline and providing for the effective policing of judges’ conduct through
      c) establishment of an independent citizens board for judicial accountability and discipline authorized to publicly receive complaints about judges’ conduct and disability; exercise subpoena power; hold hearings; impose sanctions, including payment of damages by judges and the Judiciary to those harmed by their wrongdoing; and recommend to Congress the impeachment of judges so that those remaining on the bench deliver Equal Justice Under Law.

http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/DeLano_course/17Law/DrRCordero_course&project.pdf