

(2025 August 2025) Is Non-violence the Only Way (Planet: Critical)

[My comments to this article:

Very much in the tradition Ms Tilly advocates for, Vaclav Havel, noting that violent resistance was not feasible in Stalinist Europe, proposed instead applying "The Power of the Powerless," the non-violent tactic of living "as-if" he were living in the free society of universal human rights his government had already signed onto, making the authoritarian regime look both absurd and in bad faith.

Among other successful examples of the "as if" tactic, Christopher Hitchens in *Letters to a Young Contrarian*, cites E. P. Thompson's application of in the disarmament movement during the Cold War nuclear arms race.

Whether or not it's viable for today's collective existential struggle remains to be seen, but its positive history can't be denied ]

[https://youtu.be/b0NnIHTVhis?si=hVq\\_p7GX0lO41oy2](https://youtu.be/b0NnIHTVhis?si=hVq_p7GX0lO41oy2)