

CH. 8  
VIOLENCE: WHEN JUSTIFIED?

An ideology that preaches violence as the only (or even the best) method for achieving social reform is as immoral as it is impractical. But an ideology that rejects violence in all cases is inefficient, because in some cases only violence, or the threat of violence, can save an entire people from extermination or slavery. For example, half a century of peaceful resistance to the criminal regime of racial segregation in South Africa has produced no results except for the incarceration of black activists and the banning of anti-Apartheid organizations. Given the violence of the oppression and repression exerted by the South African government against the overwhelming non-white majority, to preach peaceful resistance amounts to collaborationism. There are only two possible solutions to that conflict: either the whites agree to share their

economic, political and cultural power with the blacks, or the latter will intensify their armed struggle, which may end in a blood bath for all.

Violence is justified only to counter violence, and even so as the last resort and respecting the lives of the non-combatants.