



Franz Deutsch

Peace Leaflets A Starting point for Dialogue

WHAT IS A PEACE MUSEUM?

This often asked question tries to elicit a clearly circumscribed definition. The founding principles of the First Austrian Peace Museum in Wolfsegg may serve as a guide for such an endeavor:

A peace museum provides a forum for discussion on the senselessness of war and belligerence.

A peace museum is a communication center for people who are interested in the advancement of peace in small and large communities, and who are willing to make a personal contribution to it.

A peace museum is like a research lab. It seeks to answer such questions as "Where and when does war start? Where does peace begin?" The only manner in which these questions can be satisfactorily answered is with peace education.

Peace museums whose final aim is the creation of a global network are the spiritual homes of friends of peace from all over the world.

Generally speaking, the inherent risk of any definition is that it may not be all-encompassing and could somehow limit the further development of a given subject. This applies particularly to ideas and their development through new insights. With regard to peace museums, this definition is not meant to be a straightjacket, but merely a term of reference

There are institutions which partially function as peace museums, like the Ghandi Museum, the Holocaust Museum, the Anne Frank House, the Jägerstätter House and others. These institutions are very appropriately called peace-related museums, they fulfil a very important role.

**ERSTES ÖSTERREICHISCHES FRIEDENSMUSEUM
FIRST AUSTRIAN PEACE MUSEUM**



In this "eleventh hour" mankind's greatest concern is not only the prevention of war, but the making of a liveable life for everyone. That is why institutions and associations which are dedicated to these tasks like Amnesty International, Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund, the Red Cross, and the Nobel Institute deserve our support.

I am convinced that only grand ideas will sustain our hope for the continued existence of our wonderful world!