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18 February 2016

Martin Luther King, Jr.: Nonviolent Resistance

Martin Luther King, Jr. states in his speech “Nonviolent Resistance” that there are three different ways in which oppressed people deal with their situation: resignation, violence and nonviolent resistance. Some people are so exhausted that they prefer the convenience of living in a familiar situation of oppression instead of putting themselves in danger because they are afraid of the unknown problems of emancipation. King, Jr. rejects this attitude, because passive acceptance is as immoral as supporting the unjust system. Other people concentrate on hate and violence to overthrow the system of oppression. This attitude is also rejected by the author because violence always destroys communities and makes it impossible for future generations to live in peace. In King’s opinion the only moral and appropriate way to achieve the goal of equality is nonviolent resistance. By nonviolent resistance, a mass movement which reconciles both extremes peacefully because it combines the resistance with the peacefulness of acquiescence, the black people can remain in the South and win the support of the public.

(169 words)