In this ground-breaking and much-needed book, Stellan Vinthagen provides the first major systematic attempt to develop a theory of nonviolent action since Gene Sharp’s seminal The Politics of Nonviolent Action in 1973. Employing a rich collection of historical and contemporary social movements from various parts of the world as examples and addressing core theoretical issues concerning nonviolent action in an innovative, penetrating way, Vinthagen argues for a repertoire of nonviolence that combines resistance and construction.

“The author combines the sociologist’s rigor and the historian’s overview with the activist’s practical experience, resulting in a convincing synthesis - the first of its kind, and a fundamental book in its field.”

Stellan Vinthagen is Inaugural Endowed Chair in the Study of Nonviolent Direct Action and Civil Resistance and Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. A council member of War Resisters’ International, academic adviser to the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC), he is co-founder of the Resistance Studies Network and editor of the Journal of Resistance Studies. Since 1980, he has been an educator, organiser and activist and has participated in more than thirty nonviolent civil disobedience actions, for which he has served in total more than one year in prison.