



# Global Nonviolent Action Database

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## Iroquois women gain power to veto wars, 1600s

*Time period notes: Exact time period not known*

1600's

1600's

**Country:** United States

**Location Description:** *Iroquois Nation*

**Goals:**

Iroquois women wanted more power to decide on issues of peace and war and the power to stop unregulated warfare between tribes.

### Methods

**Methods in 1st segment:**

- 057. Lysistratic nonaction
- 079. Producers' boycott

**Methods in 2nd segment:**

- 057. Lysistratic nonaction
- 079. Producers' boycott

**Methods in 3rd segment:**

- 057. Lysistratic nonaction
- 079. Producers' boycott

**Methods in 4th segment:**

- 057. Lysistratic nonaction
- 079. Producers' boycott

**Methods in 5th segment:**

- 057. Lysistratic nonaction
- 079. Producers' boycott

**Methods in 6th segment:**

- 057. Lysistratic nonaction
- 079. Producers' boycott

**Notes on Methods:**

While Gene Sharp describes Lysistratic nonaction as refusing to have sex with one's partner, the Iroquois described this method as a boycott of sex and childbearing.

## Classifications

**Classification:**

Change

**Cluster:**

Democracy

Peace

**Group characterization:**

- Women

## Leaders, partners, allies, elites

**Leaders:**

Not known

**Partners:**

Not known

**External allies:**

Not known

**Involvement of social elites:**

Not known

## Joining/exiting order of social groups

**Groups in 1st Segment:**

**Groups in 2nd Segment:**

**Groups in 3rd Segment:**

**Groups in 4th Segment:**

**Groups in 5th Segment:**

**Groups in 6th Segment:**

**Additional notes on joining/exiting order:**

Joining order not known

**Segment Length:** *Not known*

## Opponent, Opponent Responses, and Violence

**Opponents:**

Iroquois men

**Nonviolent responses of opponent:**

Not known

**Campaigner violence:**

Not known

**Repressive Violence:**

Not known

## Success Outcome

### Success in achieving specific demands/goals:

6 points out of 6 points

### Survival:

1 point out of 1 points

### Growth:

3 points out of 3 points

### Notes on outcomes:

The Iroquois men granted the women the power to veto the decision to go to war. They succeeded in gaining more power in relation to war and peace.

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During the 1600's the Iroquois Indian Nations, a group of several indigenous tribes in North America, engaged in warfare with many other tribes. The men controlled when and against whom they declared a war.

Tribal Iroquois women decided that they wanted to stop unregulated warfare, and thought of a way to convince the Iroquois men to give them more power in deciding issues of war and peace.

First, the Iroquois women boycotted lovemaking and childbearing. This type of boycott of sex is currently referred to as Lysistratic non-action. Iroquois men believed that Iroquois women knew the secret of birth, which made this a powerful tactic.

Second, the women began to restrict the warriors' access to supplies because they had complete control over planting and cultivating crops. The women prevented warriors from acquiring necessary supplies by withholding needed commodities such as dried corn and moccasins. Although the Iroquois men controlled politics, they could not go to war without the necessary supplies, which were controlled by the women.

The men eventually gave in to the women's demands and granted them veto power concerning all wars. This nonviolent action has been considered the first feminist rebellion in the United States.

## Research Notes

### Sources:

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Sharp, Gene. *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*. Boston: P. Sargent, 1973. Print.

Smith, Sharon. "Engels and the Origin of Women's Oppression." *International Socialist Review* 2 (1997). *International Socialist Review*. Web. 15 Apr. 2011. <[http://www.isreview.org/issues/02/engles\\_family.shtml](http://www.isreview.org/issues/02/engles_family.shtml)>.

### Additional Notes:

This nonviolent action has been considered the first feminist rebellion in the United States.

### Name of researcher, and date dd/mm/yyyy:

Nicole Vanchieri 17/04/2011

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