

“The **pen** is mightier than the **sword**”

The meaning behind the expression “The pen is mightier than the sword” is that communication of ideas, writings, and speech can be a more powerful device in solving problems, when dealing with people, than resorting to violence with weapons.

The idea originated with **Edward George Bulwer Lytton** (1803-1873) who wrote this proverb in 1839. His original quote: “Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword.” An example of this was when leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mohandas K. Gandhi used speech and writings to promote people to protest and thereby created social change through nonviolent methods.

