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Book Review of "Design For a Better World" by

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much for themselves in the political arena, the job market, the school system, and the criminal justice system is a tribute to their courage in the face of adversity and their intelligence in exploiting differences among their white oppressors.

This is a compact synthesis of historical and current research on blacks in America. Although there is considerable overuse of academic jargon, the book should be ideal as a text for high school and college courses in sociology, anthropology, social work, family studies, and history.

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DESIGN FOR A BETTER WORLD

The important and ongoing question of "How to 'wage peace' in a world which seems intent on waging war?" is the subject of Hanna Newcombe's *Design for a Better World*. In what is a massive undertaking—setting forth a comprehensive framework for restructuring attitudes and institutions internationally—Newcombe is to be commended for her effort.

Skeptical of utopian formulas, Newcombe nonetheless attempts to chart an ambitious course for reform at all levels. Suggesting that "the present world is fraught with frightful dangers" (e.g., the threat of nuclear annihilation, ecological doom, resource wars, widespread starvation, worldwide tyranny, universal terrorism), Newcombe contends that we can no longer take for granted "the survival of the human species" (p. 1). We must fundamentally restructure individual attitudes and international institutions.

The three components of peace are nonviolence, order, and justice. The intent is to restructure attitudes and institutions in an effort to promote these goals. The attitude changes required for creating a better world involve an increase in "international-mindedness" and a decrease in feelings of national sovereignty.

Newcombe's institutional changes involve both short-term reforms (strengthening the United Nations) and long-term reforms (creating a

"world government" or a "series of world authorities"). Given current opinion concerning the United Nations, and given its past record (sometimes excellent, sometimes meaningless), it seems unlikely that even Newcombe's short-term goals are achievable, not to mention her long-term goals.

All of Newcombe's proposals are designed to lead to an open, participatory, democratic national and international structure. Critical of what we call "democracy" in the West ("far from sufficient," in her words), Newcombe calls for a more participatory system, a system of participation which is institutionalized into the core of the political system, where citizens' expressed wishes are translated more directly into government policy.

"Full direct democracy" is a possibility, given the advanced state of technological development which could allow people to "push buttons or knobs in their homes, attached to television sets" (p. 187). This idea, while attractive, would of necessity be limited to more economically advanced systems. Some of the less developed countries might find food and medical care higher priorities than television sets.

Newcombe's design, which cannot be fully described in so short a review, seems somewhat utopian and impractical at points. While she is not overly optimistic regarding the prospects of this design being implemented, she makes very serious efforts to show "how" and "why" this design might be put into effect. But often, she seems not so sensitive to the forces working against her plan as she might be. In the long run, however, Newcombe recognizes that "the implementation gap must be left gapping and unsolved" (p. 324).

Newcombe attempts so much in this book, but arrives at so little; provides so much information, but so few guidelines for implementation; gives us so many ideas, but so few practical alternatives. For example, Newcombe never seems to decide which avenue of reform is more worthwhile, a grand scheme, or a series of small, incremental steps. In this manner, the author never gives us as clear and coherent a design as one might like. Newcombe says that we must be flexible in pursuing these goals, and thus does not want to lock us into any one way of proceeding. But this design for a better world is too flexible, too loosely presented and thus seems to lack direction.

In spite of these few faults in Newcombe's work, she is to be congratulated for this effort. Presented here is a comprehensive effort to promote peace and democracy by an ambitious plan to change attitudes and institutions. This is a significant contribution to the debate on how we should proceed into a hazardous future. We need more dreamers like

Hanna Newcombe, people who will force us to rethink and reevaluate our conceptions of the future; people who remind us that we can do better, that we must do better.

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THE POLITICS OF WAR AND PEACE:
A SURVEY OF THOUGHT

War and *peace* are perhaps the most fundamental processes of any human society. In fact, one very strong tradition in sociology is constructed on the basis of the *problem of order* defined in terms of the following words of Hobbes: *"Bellum omnium contra omnes."*

In Brayton and Landwehr's book, a very successful effort has been made to compile the views of prominent authors dating before the birth of Christ until the late 1970's on issues like

(i) The causes of war.
(ii) The just war.
(iii) Civil-military relations.
(iv) Goals of war.
(v) War and world society.

The predominant format of the book is brief selections of original texts (translated or in original form) prefaced every time by a brief description of the relevant author. Although the immediate aim has been "drawing together the views of leading thinkers and writers on these matters within successive Western civilizations across the centuries," Judeo-Christian views and the thoughts of Mao Tse-Tung are also included in the text. Instead of opting for a conventional anthology, Brayton and Landwehr decided to rework the original texts by employing a systematic frame of reference which is very easy to follow and to understand.

This little book promises to be a very useful "library" for the layman, politician, student, and lecturer on the particular subject. However, this is not the only merit of the book.

In an introductory chapter the author gives a brief historical outline of reflections on war, peace, and related topics since the time of the ancient

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