

## BOOK REVIEWS

**An Introduction to the Science of Peace (Irenology)**

By J. G. STARKE [A. W. SIJTHOFF, LEYDEN, 1968, p. 214]

*An Introduction to the Science of Peace (Irenology)* is a stimulating book. Though small in comparison with other contemporary tomes, its readable chapters and verses abound with eclectic insight and topical synthesis. It presents a "world view" of the problems of a peaceful world with adequate law and organization from an observer and thinker of more than thirty years international standing; Starke's determined inspiration, surely necessary to the sustenance of any international lawyer today, spans back to his work under Kelsen and in the League of Nations Secretariat in the 1930's.

The idea of seeking out the conditions conducive to peace, and incidentally of the type of peaceful world community envisaged, is far from new. And a glance at the summarized chronology of peace plans (pp. 94-203) quickly shows just how ancient an exercise is the search. Even before Grotius there had been a proliferation of proposals—such as that of Dante which, if sacrificing democratic participation, aimed at the full development of man's potential. The attempts of this century to establish inclusive community organizations, one realizes, rests on a millennium or more of intellectual effort.

To the peace search Starke wants to contribute a new systemization. This is an age of technology, of universal laws, of understanding of cause and effect . . . of science. Why not then a science of peace (irenology)? "The science of peace", he says, "may be defined as that body of theories, concepts, hypotheses, principles, generalizations, general laws, deductions and propositions which can be formulated concerning the subject of peace" (p. 15). This is the challenge of the contemporary international lawyer; to get beyond the confines of logical analysis of mythically static systems of rules into the dynamic decision-making processes of the real world. To talk of legal rules without appreciating the infra-structure and conditions of the society in question is a limited intellectual achievement indeed.

The bulk of the book skips across the array of conditioning factors, integrating a brief description of recent trends of law and decision in particular problem areas. Certain factors are isolated as contributing to peace, others as detracting from that status. For elucidation a further demarcation is drawn between the maintenance of peace and the restoration of peace. Particular chapters are devoted to disarmament, the legal structures and peaceful co-existence.

The work confronts one with the fundamental hurdle of this type of endeavour, namely the continual interaction of all of the conditions

that constitute the social *milieu*. To describe various elemental features is not alone a science, for complex patterns of cause and effect, degree, quantity and quality remain. In other words while the author clearly recognizes this dynamic interaction of all participants, events and decisions, he is not prepared to venture into the chasm of multifactoral analysis.

More intensive inquiry, therefore, might employ a system of simplified functional analysis which would not hinder comprehension but would better locate the context of problems. In particular, for any interaction participants impact in certain situations. They pursue various objectives, employing a range of bases of power and employing these in strategies. The interaction results in an outcome which has an effect on surrounding conditions and the distribution of values. And there may be added another dimension by distinguishing more carefully the particular intellectual task involved. The exhortation is that, first, preferred policies be consciously articulated for problems in context. Now, in *An Introduction to the Science of Peace*, Starke does not avoid policy preferences (nor would we wish that he did). But they are at times implicit or hidden in description. Secondly, there is the tracing of trends of decision for any problem area—the normal recourse of the academic observer and a task that Starke performs well. Thirdly, there is the explanation of factors contributing to the trend. Then there is the projection of the trend into the future; if conditions remain the same, what will occur? Finally there is the manipulative task. How can conditions be controlled so that the desired ends can be better achieved? Performance of all of these tasks is necessary before descriptive texts fully merit the award of being scientific.

Within a relatively orthodox framework, Starke therefore issues the challenge of more detailed efforts to implement the status of peace. In calling for systematic inquiry he impleads the use of all available skills. And it may well be by the engaging of other fields of knowledge that the greatest break-throughs will come—by greater exploration of human personality in general and of the urge of aggression in particular, for example. Without this sort of exacting scientific investigation, and the consequent proposals for implementation and control of surrounding conditions, it is unlikely that intellectual efforts towards peace will have much impact. Man, instead of controlling the environment will remain the victim of background and events.

*An Introduction to the Science of Peace* is warmly recommended for the bookshelf, and, not only for the international lawyer. While it modestly purports to be no more than an introduction, it is probable that, like a stone in a pond, the ideas it expresses and the theme it presents will reverberate widely, to nudge observer and participant to sounder inquiry, and to renew dedication to the survival of mankind in circumstances of human dignity.

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