

Before World War II peace workers were warning America that if another war were allowed to engulf the world it would destroy western civilization. That war was allowed and did engulf the world. Did it destroy our civilization? In his book "Out of Darkness" written during the war, John Haynes Holmes says yes, and sees hope for a new civilization slowly growing out of small scattered groups of devoted individuals such as the Fellowship of Reconciliation has built up which will live on through the dark ages ahead. Kenneth Patchen in his poem "What is the beautiful?" echoes Holmes' statement in these lines:

I believe that we are going into the darkness now;
 Hundreds of years will pass before the light
 Shines over the world of all men ...
 And I am blinded by its splendor.

NO SECRET AGREEMENTS??? Russia agreed to enter the war against Japan only after getting Roosevelt and Churchill to agree that 1) the Kuriles be handed over to Russia 2) the Mongolian People's Republic be preserved as an "independent state" and 3) Russia's former rights in the Far East which were "violated by the treacherous attack of Japan in 1904 be restored." This last concession included in turn a host of others. During the war before last Russia was exposing secret treaties of the Allies. Russia is not alone in favoring only those secret treaties from which she draws advantage. This is a common pattern for all the Powers--great and small.

SPY SCARE "It would appear that Russia has been spying on Canada," reports The New Yorker. "If Americans and Canadians grow indignant at Russia for stealing atomic information, they are being innocent beyond belief. If the United States is not at this moment spying on fifty or sixty other nations, to find out what is going on inside their borders, then it is not only innocent, it is derelict. The United Nations Organization, which in its present form is a league of dis-united nations whose problems are on the table and whose spies are behind the arras, is our last chance to substitute order for disorder, government for anarchy, knowledge for espionage. We better make it good. Remember, an intelligence service is, in fact, a stupidity service; if we were really intelligent, we wouldn't be willing to stake our children's lives on our country's spies."

MAGNIFICENT DISSENT Justices Murphy and Rutledge took issue with the majority of the Supreme Court in the case of General Yamashita, sentenced to hang as a war criminal. They said Yamashita "was rushed to trial under an improper charge, given insufficient time to prepare a defense... and summarily sentenced to be hanged. In all this needless and unseemly haste there was no serious attempt to prove or to charge that he committed a recognized violation of the laws of the war."

"The immutable rights of the individual," the Murphy dissent continues, "belong not alone to the members of those nations that excel on the battle field. They belong to every person in the world, victor or vanquished, whatever may be his race, color or beliefs."

HIGH TIME TO REPENT Meeting at Columbus, Ohio, with Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam presiding, the Federal Council of Churches heard the report of a commission headed by a Yale professor of theology. The report recommended that the United States Government rebuild the devastated cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It said of the attack on these cities: "The moral cost was too high. We have sinned grievously against the laws of God and against the people of Japan - we are compelled to judge our chosen course inexcusable."

THE WHITE PROBLEM "Why the white man chose the 'skin test' for superiority, no one quite knows," says Lillian Smith in a provocative pamphlet, The White Christian and His Conscience. She then goes on to suggest the following novel hypothesis.

"The more profound reasons we barely perceive. We know the white man--certainly the white Nordic--has a deeprooted need to feel superior to others. We know he has an emotional insecurity, a fear of personal relationships, that have contributed to an urgent sense of sin. We know that our family life has often bred hate-love feelings that make for insecurity, for ambivalence in parent-child relationships. Some of us believe this deep-seated conflict may have driven the white Nordic into a regressive worship of his own image, into a group-narcism, into a 'self-love', an infantile desire to be first; that all these factors together: economic insecurity, historical accidents, a sense of sin springing from certain Puritan concepts, and a feeling that he has betrayed the Christianity he professes, have combined to plunge him into a way of life that is like quicksand. This is a field that needs further study by psychiatrists and anthropologists, for there are things about the white man we need to know."

"ONE WAR IS ENOUGH" From an article by this title in the February Atlantic Monthly, we quote two pungent paragraphs. The editors comment that Edgar Jones, the author, has had "forty months of war duty".

"We Americans have the dangerous tendency in our international thinking to take a holier-than-thou attitude toward other nations. We consider ourselves to be more noble and decent than other peoples, and consequently in a better position to decide what is right and wrong in the world. What kind of war do civilians suppose we fought, anyway? We shot prisoners in cold blood, wiped out hospitals, strafed life-boats, killed or mistreated enemy civilians, finished off the enemy wounded, tossed the dying into a hole with the dead, and in the Pacific boiled the flesh off enemy skulls to make table ornaments for sweethearts, or carved their bones into letter openers. We topped off our saturation bombing and burning of enemy civilians by dropping atomic bombs on two nearly defenseless cities, thereby setting an all-time record for instantaneous mass slaughter.

"Peter Bowman summed up our victory to date in Beach Red when he wrote, 'Battle doesn't determine who is right. Only who is left.' We destroyed fascists, not fascism; men, not ideas. Our triumphs did not serve as evidence that democracy is best for the world, any more than Russian victories proved that communism is an ideal system for all mankind. Only through our peacetime efforts to abolish war and bring a larger measure of freedom and security to all peoples can we reveal to others that we are any better than our defeated opponents."

INCONSISTENT? Wartime political prisoners including conscientious objectors have been freed in occupied Germany and Japan. At present we have in our federal prisons more than 3,000 men charged with Selective Service violation. These include, besides Jehovah's Witnesses and pacifist absolutists, Puerto Rican nationalists who were imprisoned because of their refusal to recognize the sovereignty of the United States; Hopi Indians, whose long-standing tradition of peace led them to refuse military service; Negro-Americans who found it impossible for them to serve in a Jim Crow army.

INFANTRY OUTMODED Brig. General H. C. Holdridge (Ret.) who was a recent visitor to Syracuse under the auspices of the local Committee Against Peacetime Conscription, served in the army for thirty years. Undoubtedly he is a military authority. In his presentation here he made a strong point of one of the best arguments we have seen against peacetime conscription. It is this: In view of atomic bombs, rockets, radar and jet propulsion, what kind of training will 18-year-old boys be given in twelve months or less? In other words, the General pointed out that the "reactionary" army mind still thinks in terms of the outmoded infantry training consisting of combat team training involving large groups of men, field maneuvers and rifle use. Such training has no relevance whatever to revolutionized warfare.

STARVATION--- RUMOR OR FACT? "Hungry but not Starving" was the way one Syracuse newspaper in February optimistically head-lined the plight of the people of Europe. Less optimistic were reports in the London-Economist, the Christian Century, and from Quaker and Red Cross observers (see quotes on "Babies" and "Refugees" on the enclosed sheet). All informants admit that individual cases of starvation have occurred. Whether 'mass starvation' has taken place is a matter of semantics, not facts. Those who deny it--as Mrs. Roosevelt in My Day--admit that the mortality rate has increased tremendously. Whether the statistic tables speak in terms of starvation or in terms of tuberculosis (one in five have TB in Warsaw) and infant mortality (has increased from 16 to 40 per cent in Budapest), the only solution is more food --NOW.

In the light of some of the recent grousing which accompanied America's change-over from snow-white to cream-colored bread, the following quotation from the Feb. 1 edition of a liberal English weekly may be interesting: "The average American consumption of meat is up from 125 lb. in the pre-war years to 165 lb. Evidently, the USA fought for a fifth freedom for Europe--the freedom to starve."

By the way, the Syracuse Peace Council has just shipped from its new clothing depot, 722 N. Salina St., 1700 lbs. of clothing for European need. Let the good work go on.