

Peace History Society Newsletter

Spring 2009

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I find following Scott Bennett as President of PHS to be quite a daunting task, however, I am pleased to be working with everyone in this capacity, especially with all the good things that are happening in our organization. I have enjoyed my past service with PHS as a board member, working as membership chair over the past two years, and as co-chair of the 2005 PHS conference. I am excited once more to work with Tim Smith (PHS Secretary) on the 2009 PHS conference "Toward a Peaceful World: Historical Approaches to Creating Cultures of Peace," to be held at Winthrop University, October 29-31, 2009.

Despite the economic downturn, PHS is a vibrant organization. As of now, our membership is at 127, which represents significant growth over the past several years. This growth comes in part from the hard work of our Membership committee, now chaired by Doug Rossinow (our new Vice-President) and our Outreach Committee, chaired by Larry Wittner. Also, PHS co-chaired a conference with Historians Against the War in 2008, and has maintained a strong presence at many conferences, including the AHA, where members tabled for three hours handing out brochures and talking up membership in PHS.

Adding to the membership base of our organization and the international involvement, the PHS board approved the nomination of a twelve member International Advisory Council. All twelve nominees accepted, and have begun a three-year term of service. This board will provide our organization with a lot more news about peace movements, conferences, and trends from around the world. Our new International Advisory Council members are: Nadine Lubelski-Bernard (Belgium), Peter van den Dungen (Britain), Benjamin Ziemann (UK), Martin Klimke (Germany), Anne Kjelling (Norway), Elena Diez Jorge (Spain), Margarita Sanchez Romero (Spain), Ralph Summy (Australia),

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Peace History Website:

www.peacehistorysociety.org/



Virginia S. Williams
PHS President

From the President (con.)

Kevin Clements (New Zealand), Takao Takahara (Japan), Kazuyo Yamane (Japan). Some of these members have indicated that they will be able to attend the PHS meeting in October. Whether or not we are able to meet them in person in the coming months, we know that we will gain much from having them on board and that our organization will be stronger for having this infusion of international energy. We owe a big thank you to Harriet Alonso, Larry Wittner, and Scott Bennett, who worked on the nominating committee of the IAC.

The 2009 PHS Conference promises to be one of the best in recent years. Our keynote speaker will be the historian, activist-lawyer, Staughton Lynd, and one of the sessions, chaired by Carl Mirra, will highlight the achievements and struggles of his career. We are pleased to have awarded four graduate student travel stipends this year to deserving recipients. We will recognize them publicly at the conference. PHS will award the DeBenedetti Prize along with the PHS Lifetime Achievement Award this year. We will also recognize various other members for their contributions and service. We are going to have a hard time fitting all these good panels into two days, so we are going to have to start early and stay late each evening, but we also know how to have a good time as well. Please go to the PHS website for conference details and arrangements. Please make your conference arrangements early as not to miss the good rates on hotels.

Our journal, *Peace and Change*, continues to thrive under the editorship of Robbie Lieberman. While on sabbatical this year, Robbie's able assistant, Jason Hills has done a wonderful job, and all those who have worked with him have sung his praises. If we can convince him to join us in October, we will honor him in public; if we cannot, we will mail him our thanks. Other members have worked together to guest edit special editions of *Peace and Change* this year, for which we are thankful, and Robbie reports all the guest-edited volumes turned out great. Our journal continues to be one of our finest ways of disseminating our scholarly work.

I am looking forward to the future of PHS. I feel fortunate to be associated with such a great group of colleagues.

Respectfully,

Virginia (Ginger) Williams
Winthrop University

**Toward a Peaceful World:
Historical Approaches to Creating Cultures of Peace
Peace History Society Biannual Meeting
Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina
29-31 October 2009**

Winthrop University is delighted to host the October 2009 Peace History Society Conference. Covering 425 acres, Winthrop's campus is comprised of an historic, traditional central campus. All conference activities will be hosted by the University in a variety of attractive settings. The university is located in Rock Hill, South Carolina. A city of 60,000, Rock Hill offers many amenities, easily accessible from the campus. Located approximately 20 miles south of Charlotte, North Carolina along I-77, travelers can arrive by flying into Charlotte-Douglas International Airport or by car from I-77. Information about the University can be found at www.winthrop.edu Conference information can also be found on the Peace History Society website www.peacehistorysociety.org , however for planning purposes, the following material may be helpful.

Banquet and Keynote Speaker:

The banquet will be held on the Winthrop campus in the Tuttle Dining Room, and the renowned peace activist, historian, and lawyer, Staughton Lynd, will give the keynote address on October 30 at 7:30 p.m. Lynd received his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University, and accepted a teaching position at Spelman College in Georgia, where he became active in the Civil Rights movement. Lynd later accepted a position at Yale University, during the Vietnam era protests. His own protest activities cost him his teaching position at Yale and in the history profession in general. Lynd went on to earn a law degree and to practice labor law, but continued to write impressive works of history such as: *Intellectual Origins of American Radicalism* (1968), *Labor Law for the Rank and Filer* (1982), *Nonviolence in America: A Documentary History*, by Staughton and Alice Lynd, and *Stepping Stones: Memoir of a Life Together*, by Staughton and Alice Lynd.

Conference Housing: All Rooms need to be reserved by September 30, 2009 to receive the conference rates.

The Inn at Winthrop: An on-campus conference facility that has twelve rooms for \$64.80 (including tax). Contact Ms. Kelly Shelton at 803-323-2300 for one of these rooms. Information about the Inn at Winthrop can be found at www.winthrop.edu/INN.

The Hampton Inn: The Hampton Inn is offering a conference rate of \$104.00 plus tax. Rooms at the Hampton Inn will require transportation to and from the conference, although Winthrop will offer limited van transportation. The Hampton Inn is surrounded by a variety of chain eat and drinkeries for post-conference gatherings. For reservations, call Ms. Cortney Peterson and reserve your room by September 29, 2009.

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Baymont Inn and Suites: The Baymont Inn offers less expensive rooms within a mile and a half of Winthrop's campus. These rooms rent for \$69.95 plus tax. To reserve a room call 803-329-1330 and say that you are with the Peace History Society.

The Oratory: The Oratory is a Catholic campus one half mile from Winthrop University's campus. We are reserving rooms at the Oratory for **graduate students and for conference participants who are traveling from outside the United States.** As of now, we have **eight sharable rooms available at \$35.00 per room.** If you are a graduate student or a person traveling from outside the U.S. and are interested in staying at the Oratory please call Ginger Williams at 803-323-4680 or email williamsv@winthrop.edu to make arrangements.

Transportation:

Rock Hill, SC and Winthrop University are easily accessible from the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Approximately 20 miles south of Charlotte (25-30 minute drive) along I-77 travelers should have little difficulty. All major car rental agencies have booths at the airport. These agencies will provide maps and directions to aid you in traveling to the University.

Coming from the north by car take Exit 82-B and follow directional signs toward Rock Hill. At the fourth traffic light, turn left onto U.S. 21 Bypass. Turn right at the first traffic light onto Eden Terrace. (Note: The Winthrop Coliseum is located on Eden Terrace, approximately 1.5 miles from U.S. 21 Bypass.) Eden Terrace ends at the main entrance to the campus. Enter the campus and turn right onto Memorial Circle. The Visitors Center is in Joynes Hall, the first building on the right. Should you need more explicit directions, please contact Dr. Ginger Williams at williamsv@winthrop.edu.

Conference Fees and Registration: All conference registration fees include the banquet, two lunches, a light reception, and morning coffee and bagels to begin our days. Also, non-members receive a one-year membership to the Peace History Society, which includes a subscription to our journal, *Peace and Change*. The registration fees for conference are as follows:

Non-Member:	\$ 115
Member:	\$ 90
Student Non-Member:	\$ 55
Student Member:	\$ 30

To register, send a check or money order made out to Peace History Society and mail it to Christy Snider, Department of History, 5010, Mt. Berry Station, Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA 30149, USA.

Please plan to register for the conference by September 30 so that we can plan to print enough programs.

Jenny Sparacin
 History Department
 Winthrop University
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 803-323-2173

AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION FORMS WAR AND PEACE STUDIES CAUCUS

We are writing to announce the formation of the War and Peace Studies Caucus of the American Studies Association.

The caucus emerged from our conversations with many scholars who felt that while much recent scholarship studies conflict, violence, and responses to it in thoughtful and illuminating ways, scholars working on these issues can often remain separated because their alignment with particular subfields and historical periods prohibits collaboration with scholars working on similar issues in other fields or with regard to other historical moments. As a step towards fostering increased dialogue across subfields and historical periods, the caucus maintains that issues of war and peace constitute a major field of inquiry within American Studies scholarship and provides a dedicated intellectual space for the promotion of dialogue and collaboration among scholars interested in issues of conflict, violence, pacifism, and their intersections with other areas of inquiry within the broader field of American Studies.

We look forward to sponsoring panels at upcoming annual meetings and to creating informal opportunities for scholars to share ideas and build collaborative relationships both in person and verbally. Caucus membership is available to all ASA members. To join, visit our web page at http://www.theasa.net/caucus_war_and_peace_studies/. We hope that members will use the blog feature on this website to post Calls for Papers, start discussions about War and Peace related issues, and share ideas for moving the caucus forward. We have also formed a Facebook group that we hope will continue to provide an informal space for dialogue and networking. Membership there is likewise open to all, including those who are not members of ASA. To join us there, you can go to your Facebook account and search "American Studies War and Peace Studies," and then click "join group."

We look forward to developing a caucus that will become a critical space for the discussion of key issues in American Studies, and we hope that those of you whose interests intersect with these topics will join us.

Best,

David Kieran, American Studies Department, The George Washington University, kieran@gwu.edu

Ed Martini, History Department, Western Michigan University, edwin.martini@wmich.edu

Jay Mechling, American Studies Department, University of California, Davis, jemechling@ucdavis.edu

INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

PEACE HISTORIANS IN LEUVEN, 15-19 July 2008

The International Peace Research Association (IPRA) held its 2008 conference in Leuven, Belgium in July this year. The main theme of the conference was 'Building Sustainable Futures: Enacting Peace and Development'. About 400 participants met in the old university city.

The Peace History Commission (established at the Malta conference in 1994), had four sessions during the conference, in addition to a one day trip. David S. Patterson has taken over from Günter Wernicke as convener, and we are very grateful to him for organizing the PHC sessions.

After IPRA's somewhat fumbling opening of the conference and the first plenary, the commissions had their first slot (ours was titled **The United Nations and World Court: Ideals and Realities**). With Lawrence Wittner as chair and 14 people present, Kate Dewes and Robert Green presented "The World Court Project: History and Consequences". On July 8, 1996 the International Court of Justice gave its first advisory opinion on nuclear weapons. The project had been building movements from the grass roots up, on a very personal initiative without any sponsorship, meeting in people's kitchens, etc. In 1993, 22 states co-sponsored the presentation to the ICJ. It became the largest case presented to the ICJ (44 states and the World Health Organization).

Our second session (**Varieties of Peace Seeking in the Cold War – and Beyond**) was chaired by Davis S. Patterson, (8 people present). First Larry Wittner presented his paper, "Mass U.S. Peace Organizations Since 1957: SANE, the Freeze, and Peace Action", based on his article in *Peace Action: Past, Present, and Future* (Boulder: Paradigm, 2007, edited by Glen Harold Stassen and Lawrence S. Wittner). We heard about the history of SANE (founded in 1957), which quickly became the largest peace group in the US, with Freeze arising in 1979 and becoming the topic of referenda in various states, supported by popular protest. SANE and Freeze merged in November 1987 to form SANE-FREEZE with about 200,000 members. Peace Action played a major role in getting President Clinton to work for the CTBT. In 2003, Peace Action launched the Campaign for a New Foreign Policy.

Then Yiqing Chen presented her paper "China's Nuclear Arms Control Policies and U.S.-China Relations, 1979-2005", telling us that China's nuclear research program started in the middle of the 1950s, assisted by the Soviet Union. The US hoped to get China into the international nuclear regime, but the country was opposed until the late 1970s. It joined the Conference on Disarmament in 1980. Both the US and China saw nuclear issues as possibilities for cooperation, in spite of disagreement over human rights and democracy.

Session three (**Peace Advocacy in the Low Countries**) was chaired by Scott H. Bennett, with 14 present. Peter van den Dungen presented his paper "Erasmus: 16th Century Pioneer of Peace Education and a Culture of Peace". Many of Erasmus' books were printed in Leuven. Erasmus was critical of the Catholic Church, from within. Would modern leaders have acted differently if they had read *The Education of a Christian Prince*, first published in Basle in 1516? Erasmus was first and foremost an educator, and he was regarded as an authority whose advice was often sought in appointments of teachers and in pedagogy. Erasmus died in Basle in 1536, and to celebrate his life an Erasmus Night (July 11/12) has been instituted.

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David S. Patterson then presented “Emily Hobhouse and the Controversy over the Destruction of Leuven in World War I”. During WWI the city center, including the University Library, was burned by the German occupants. After the war the city was meticulously rebuilt. Emily Hobhouse took a particular interest in the German destruction of Leuven and wrote “I spent a day in Louvain and was somewhat astounded to find that, contrary to Press assertions, it is not destroyed. Indeed out of a normal population of 44,000, 38,000 are living there today. It is computed that only an eighth of the town has suffered. The exquisite town hall is unscathed. The roof of the cathedral caught fire, the bells melting and crashing into the nave, but the flames were extinguished before too great damage was done to the main structure. [...] The library is, of course, a sad sight, for, in spite of great efforts, only the walls remain. It is whispered in Louvain that some of the more valuable volumes were removed to a place of safety [...]”

Our last session (**Conscience, Activism, and Legacy: a Biographical Approach to World War II COs**) was chaired by Peter van den Dungen, with 10 people present. Christian Scharnefsky presented his paper “Martyr for Peace? The German Protestant Conscientious Objector Hermann Stöhr (1898-1940)”. There were no CO rights in Germany during the second world war, objection was treated as desertion at the beginning of the war, and 250 COs were sentenced to death during the war. We know of only one CO during World War I: Hermann Stöhr. Could he be a role model for COs in WWII? He was imprisoned in 1939 for one year, then accused of “disruption of the armed forces”, brought to court, given the death sentence, and beheaded in June 1940.

Scott H. Bennett presented his paper “Igal Roodenko and Radical Pacifism: World War II CO and Postwar Activist”. Roodenko was born in New York City in 1917, of secular Jewish parents, was a radical pacifist, Direct Action, etc. Was imprisoned as a CO (Sandstone Prison in Minnesota), stated that he should not be treated as a felon. He was, officially, released early 1947, then joined the War Resisters League, protested against the Vietnam War, and was involved in anti-nuclear issues.

Due to late arrival, Klaus Schlichtmann presented his paper last, “A “Myth” over the Founding of the United Nations”. Collective security could only work if power was given to the United Nations Security Council. There is no collective security in the Treaty of Lisbon, for instance. Working for collective security seems to be why the UN works for disarmament, see Article 106 of the UN Charter. Unless the Charter is changed, the UN will become obsolete.

Peter van den Dungen had organized a day trip to the battlefields of World War I in Flanders, and 23 of us set out in a hired bus at 9 a.m. on Thursday the 17th. Our first stop was the ‘In Flanders Fields Museum’ in Ieper where we met our guide for the day, Dominiek Dendooven. After touring the museum – both the temporary exhibit and the permanent one, we had lunch at one of the local restaurants on the market square. Our next stop was the Vladslo German War Cemetery where over 25.000 soldiers were buried. Here we saw Käthe Kollwitz’s famous statue *The Grieving Parents*, a tribute to her son Peter who was killed already in 1914 and is buried nearby. We drove through the small town Diksmuide with the Ijzertower and saw its peace engravings (PAX and No More War). We visited the Dodengang (Trench of Death), with poppies in bloom, and at a later stop saw the field dressing station where the famous poem “In Flanders Fields” by the Canadian military surgeon John McCrae was written. The Essex Farm Cemetery (British) was our last stop before returning to Ieper for dinner at an old bistro (In’t Klein Stadhuis) which had been restored first in 1924 and then in 1952.

At 8 p.m. sharp we were standing with hundreds of others at the Menin Gate – a memorial to the missing in World War I where all the names are engraved - for the Last Post memorial commemorating the dead. The ceremony has taken place every evening since 1928 (except during WWII).

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The main conference provided us with a guided tour of historical Leuven one evening, a reception at the City Hall another evening, and a closing banquet the last night, after a ceremony honoring three founders of peace research: Chadwick Alger, Elise Boulding, and Herbert Kelman.

According to information from IPRA, the papers are available on the CD-ROM distributed to all the conference participants upon registration, and are to be found online at:

<http://soc.kuleuven.be/iieb/ipra2008/papers/index.php?action=papercommissionoverview>

WORLD CIVIC FORUM HOLDS INAUGURAL FORUM IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA, 5-8 MAY 2009

The World Civic Forum (WCF), jointly initiated by Kyung Hee University and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), held its inaugural forum on May 5-8, 2009 at the COEX in Seoul, Korea under the main theme of "Building Our Humanitarian Planet." The WCF 2009 emerged from the leading collaboration between the UN and institutions of higher learning, and aimed to develop into an ongoing global institution with the partnership of like-minded actors such as NGOs, international organizations, governments, private enterprise, and the media. There were panels of "Museums for Peace: Constructing a Peace Culture in the World" with cooperation of the International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP). There is a project of making a peace museum and a peace park at Kyung Hee University. Dr. Peter van den Dungen (the General Coordinator of the INMP), Professor Ikuro Anzai (Honorary Director of Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University) and Kazuyo Yamane (a board member of the INMP), were invited to attend a meeting with professors of Kyung Hee University where Professor Hahnkyu Park is in charge of the great project. It is encouraging to know about such a big project and it will be the second university where a peace museum exists following Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.

With best wishes,
Kazuyo Yamane

NONKILLING HISTORY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Center for Global Nonkilling is a nonprofit organization focused on research, education and action projects aimed at promoting change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world. The Center draws from over 15 years of experience of its predecessor, the Center for Global Nonviolence and appeal by the World Health Organization (Violence and Health Report, 2002) and the Nobel Peace Laureates' Charter for a World without Violence.

As part of the Center's initiatives, Nonkilling Research Committees on various areas of knowledge are being established as consultative bodies to promote the advancement of interdisciplinary scientific evidence on the possibilities of nonkilling societies. These Committees will provide creative input on research agendas, academic events, courses and publications. You can find a list of existing Committees at: <http://www.nonkilling.org/node/7>.

The Center would like to establish an active "Nonkilling History Research Committee", and is honored to invite Peace History Society and H-Peace members to join in this effort. Actual involvement as a member is flexible, ranging from simply supporting the idea to actively participating in the development of publications and events. As an example, in 2010 the Center will publish a collective volume on "Nonkilling History", as part of the Committees specific projects. For further details on this initiative, the Center or nonkilling please contact Joam Evans (jeavans@nonkilling.org). or take time to visit the following websites (still partially under construction):

Center for Global Nonkilling: <http://www.nonkilling.org>

Global Nonkilling Channel at YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/globalnonkilling>

School of Nonkilling Studies: http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/School:Nonkilling_studies

UPCOMING PEACE AND CHANGE ISSUE

Volume 34, Number 3 (August 2009): A special issue devoted to the Iraq War

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David E. Woodard



The Dayton International Peace Museum's May Newsletter is now available on our website;

<http://www.daytonpeacemuseum.org/dipmNL0509.pdf>

The Peace Museum's newsletter is now being published bi-monthly.

The "For Pete's Sake" music event was a fantastic event attended by over 400 people.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the University of Dayton for allowing us the use of the Kennedy Union, Dayton Daily News for their excellent article on the event, the wonderful performers and everyone else that worked so hard to make it such a successful event.

Author and Artist Phil Yeh visited the museum to work on a peace mural with students and adults.

Participants received one of Phil's books "The Winged Tiger's World Peace Party Puzzle Book" with a custom cartoon signing by Phil. It was a pleasure and honor to be included as one of Phil's stops on his worldwide peace & literacy promotion journey. We are looking forward to working with Phil on future projects. Check out Phil Yeh's website to learn more, <http://www.wingedtiger.com>.

Now showing in the Peace Museum's main hall, "The State of Peace", Ohio's peace history of over 200 years is a part of our past seldom explored. Come find your missing peace.

Dr. Peter van den Dungen
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NEW AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The **OXFORD INTERNATIONAL HISTORY OF PEACE** (editor in chief Dr. Nigel Young, and with contributions from many PHS members) is scheduled for publication this October. Early ordering will save \$100 dollars: \$395 instead of \$495 (for the four volume set). See:

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Reference/?view=usa&ci=9780195334685>

"Misleading Analogies and Historical Thinking: The War in Iraq as a Case

Study," by PHS executive board member Robert Shaffer, appeared in *Perspectives on History*, the American Historical Association newsmagazine, in January 2009. Shaffer contrasted a brief but historically sophisticated October 2002 op-ed piece by John Dower, the noted American historian of Japan, with the shallow historical analogies advanced by Bush administration spokespeople and their supporters regarding the "lessons" of the American rebuilding of Japan after World War II for the then-prospective invasion and occupation of Iraq. Shaffer showed how he used Dower's article and others in his classes, at Shippensburg University, to encourage students to be skeptical of misleading and simplistic "lessons of the past." The essay is available on the AHA's website, at

<http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2009/0901/0901tea1.cfm>.

STEPPING STONES: *Memoir of a Life Together*

From Staughton Lynd, keynote speaker at the Fall 2009 PHS Meeting:

Alice and I have written a joint autobiography entitled **STEPPING STONES: *Memoir of a Life Together***, with a foreword by our longtime friend, Tom Hayden. The publisher, Lexington Books, has brought out a handsome hardback edition for university libraries. However, perhaps due at least in part to the economic recession, we have been told that whether Lexington will do a paperback edition will depend on how many academic libraries order the \$70 hardback edition! That decision will be made in June or soon thereafter.

Our book is primarily intended for young people who cannot afford the hardback edition. It would be enormously helpful if, during the next few months, several dozen PHS and HAW folks could ask their academic libraries to buy copies of *Stepping Stones*.

ANTICOMMUNISM AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

"Another Side of the Story"

Edited by Robbie Lieberman and Clarence Lang

From Palgrave Macmillan

Pub date: Apr 2009

272 pages

\$79.95 - Hardcover (0-230-60524-9)

The original essays in this book highlight the destructive impact of McCarthyism on the African American Freedom Movement. Recovering little-known stories of black radical activism, they challenge the idea that the Cold War was, on balance, beneficial to the movement. The book emphasizes what was lost when anticommunism forced the movement to submerge broader issues of economic justice, labor rights,

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feminism, and peace. The authors illustrate the often neglected or understated human costs of the Red Scare, focusing on local and individual stories that offer insight into larger national and international trends.

Author Bio

Robbie Lieberman is Professor of History at Southern Illinois University and the editor of *Peace & Change: A Journal of Peace Research*. Her publications include “*My Song Is My Weapon:*” *People’s Songs, American Communism and the Politics of Culture 1930-1950*, which won the Deems-Taylor Award from ASCAP; *The Strangest Dream: Communism, Anticommunism and the U.S. Peace Movement 1945-1963*; and *Prairie Power: Voices of 1960s Midwestern Student Protest*.

Clarence Lang is Assistant Professor of African American Studies and History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Praise for Anticommunism and the African American Freedom Movement

"This trailblazing, challenging, and exceedingly thoughtful book establishes a New Paradigm for the consideration of the most profoundly monumental change in this nation in recent decades: the retreat of Jim Crow. This book should not only be read, it should be pondered and studied intensively, for there are nuggets of wisdom on every page."--Gerald Horne, Author of *Red Seas: Ferdinand Smith and Radical Black Sailors in the U.S. and Jamaica* and the forthcoming *Mau Mau in Harlem?: The U.S. and the Struggle to Free Kenya* (Palgrave Macmillan)

"Lieberman and Lang have assembled an arresting collection of essays unabashedly tackling the troubled marriage of Communism and the movements for Black Freedom, Peace, and Mexican-American rights after World War II. While acknowledging an unbroken history of idealism and activist resistance to domestic exploitation over the decades, a range of scholars make available fascinating new research to remind us what was lost in a tragic era when fear and expediency led to a misguided ‘crusade’ against those imperfect but devoted militants standing in the vanguard of social justice."--Alan M. Wald, H. Chandler Davis Collegiate Professor, University of Michigan; Author of *Trinity of Passion: The Literary Left and the Anti-Fascist Crusade* (2007)

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CONFRONTING THE BOMB

A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement

Lawrence S. Wittner

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Confronting the Bomb tells the dramatic, inspiring story of how citizen activism helped curb the nuclear arms race and prevent nuclear war. This abbreviated version of Lawrence Wittner's award-winning trilogy, *The Struggle Against the Bomb*, shows how a worldwide, grassroots campaign—the largest social movement of modern times—challenged the nuclear priorities of the great powers and, ultimately, thwarted their nuclear ambitions. Based on massive research in the files of peace and disarmament organizations and in formerly top secret government records, extensive interviews with antinuclear activists and government officials, and memoirs and other published materials, *Confronting the Bomb* opens a unique window on one of the most important issues of the modern era: survival in the nuclear age. It covers the entire period of significant opposition to the bomb, from the final stages of the Second World War up to the present. Along the way, it provides fascinating glimpses of the interaction of key nuclear disarmament activists and policymakers, including Albert Einstein, Harry Truman, Albert Schweitzer, Norman Cousins, Nikita Khrushchev, Bertrand Russell, Andrei Sakharov, Linus Pauling, Dwight Eisenhower, Harold Macmillan, John F. Kennedy, Randy Forsberg, Mikhail Gorbachev, Helen Caldicott, E.P. Thompson, and Ronald Reagan. Overall, however, it is a story of popular mobilization and its effectiveness.

"Wittner's outstanding book employs massive research . . . to show how concerned citizens . . . have altered the course of history. . . . Monumental." —*Journal of American History*

"Wittner's impressively researched, clearly written, and balanced assessment of the antinuclear weapons movement belongs on the shelf not only of every serious student of the nuclear arms race but also of everyone who is concerned about the safety of humanity." —*American Historical Review*

"The saga of the world disarmament movement, whose complex strands Lawrence Wittner has brilliantly woven together . . . , deserves the widest possible readership."
—*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*

Lawrence S. Wittner is Professor of History at the State University of New York, Albany, and former President of the Peace History Society. He is the author of the trilogy, published by Stanford University Press, *The Struggle Against the Bomb: One World or None* (1993), *Resisting the Bomb* (1997), and *Toward Nuclear Abolition* (2003).

THE CHARLES DEBENEDETTI PEACE HISTORY PRIZE, 2007-2008

The members of the committee to award the Charles DeBenedetti Prize in Peace History are pleased to announce that Penny Roberts, of the University of Warwick, Great Britain, and Toshihiro Higuchi, a graduate student at Georgetown University, will share the prize for the 2007-2008 cycle, based on their equally outstanding articles. The prize, whose namesake was one of the pioneers in the field of peace history, is the major award given by the Peace History Society, and is given to the author of a journal article or chapter in an edited volume which best exemplifies the goals and methods of peace history. In a highly competitive field of the many articles published in *Peace & Change* in 2007-08, as well as the two dozen articles from other journals or books which were separately nominated for the prize, the prize committee members – Robert Shaffer (Shippensburg), Marian Mollin (Virginia Tech), and Ian Lekus (Harvard) – unanimously agreed that these two essays, one on sixteenth century France and the other on twentieth century Japan, were equally worthy of the prize. The authors will, therefore, share the \$500 prize money. Descriptions of the two articles follow. In a future issue of the *PHS* newsletter, brief comments will be given on some of the other articles which the prize committee members also found to be very important for historians of peace and for peace activists.

In “The Languages of Peace During the French Religious Wars,” Penny Roberts convincingly places peace history at the very heart of early modern French history. This 2007 article, published in *Cultural and Social History*, draws upon an outstanding synthesis of late 16th century archival sources, including printed texts from royal officials, preachers, poets, as well as manuscripts documenting from local communities and confessional groups. In this article, Roberts bridges political, cultural, social, and religious history, while asking her readers to consider just what peace is, the historical and cultural construction of peace, what peacemaking entails, and how peace and conflict are intrinsically interrelated.

During the Wars of Religion, understandings of peace differed not only along religious sectarian lines, but also according to local conditions, philosophical positions, and political imperatives. Roberts argues that although “French kings sought reconciliation as [their] highest goal... the languages of peace erected a sometimes insuperable barrier of mutual misunderstandings between the [Huguenot and Catholic] faiths that no degree of royal diplomacy could break down.” The duties of French kings included maintaining the peace, as promulgated through a variety of religious rites, gestures, and edicts, and the King and his various representatives embodied the historic, collective aspiration of the French people for peace.

During the Wars of Religion, however, the usual means of issuing royal edicts of pacification proved unsuccessful (and perhaps even counterproductive) as the conflicts dragged on. Both Catholics and Huguenots invoked similar languages and traditions of peace, but their interpretations of what peace entailed varied widely. Both sides debated the merits of a good peace versus a bad one, and viewed the Crown’s shifting priorities and alliances with great suspicion. While both sides of the sectarian schism agreed that religious disunity was bad for the kingdom, disagreements abounded over what means should be used to secure peace and which religion should prevail. For some, religious coexistence was the price to escape the decades-long cycle of violence, while for others, the existence of two faiths – and the acceptance thereof – perpetuated that same ongoing violence. Frequently, local conditions more than religious affiliation shaped how the king’s subjects embraced or remained suspicious of his edicts of pacification.

Roberts’ concise, richly documented article is a most welcome reminder that the field of peace history is hardly limited to scholars writing about the period from the late 19th century to the present. At the same time, the questions that her research into the languages of peace raises about the relationship between peace and war, about creating a sustainable peace, and about languages of peace grounded in local conditions and varying within a given religion all speak to contemporary concerns. In these ways, and in placing peace history at the center of a traditional topic in early modern European history, “The Languages of Peace During the French Religious Wars” is a model for peace historians working on topics across the span of time and space.

Toshihiro Higuchi’s “An Environmental Origin of Antinuclear Activism in Japan, 1954-1963: The Government, the Grassroots Movement, and the Politics of Risk,” which appeared in *Peace & Change* in July 2008, argues that the

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DEBENEDETTI PRIZE (con.)

dangers of nuclear fallout to Japanese fishermen, to the Japanese fishing industry, and to Japanese consumers from the American weapons test at Bikini atoll in 1954 was key, along with the memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the formation of a mass antinuclear movement in Japan. Based on an impressive array of archival sources from both the United States and Japan, Higuchi closely examines the rise of that antinuclear movement, and its efforts to mobilize workers, women (primarily in their role as consumers), and others to press a conservative Japanese government to oppose nuclear testing by the superpowers. Following the twists and turns of both the peace movement and of Cold War governments in the 1950s and early 1960s, Higuchi also argues that the main organization behind Japan's antinuclear movement, the left-oriented Gensuikyo, was partly responsible for its own demise as it used the fallout argument for short-term political gain, but then glossed over the environmental problems posed by Soviet nuclear testing. It was thus out-manuevered by the Japanese government on that issue from 1961 to 1963 in appealing to public opinion in Japan and around the world.

Higuchi's essay interweaves environmental, consumer, women's, and labor history with peace history, and details the interplay between social movements and government policy. Higuchi's incorporation of scientific and geographical data, along with his multi-archival and multi-lingual sources, provides an exceptionally rich context for his narrative. Well-written and well-organized, Higuchi's essay will be of interest to specialists in the fields of modern Japanese history, the Cold War, environmental history, and the antinuclear movement, but it will also appeal to students new to these subjects. Finally, and not least among his achievements, the author's sensitive examination of what he calls the "tragedy" of Gensuikyo constitutes an object lesson for historians and activists seeking to learn from the past in order to build enduring social movements for peace.

Articles published in 2009 and 2010 will be eligible for consideration for the next cycle of the DeBenedetti Prize. The call for submissions will be posted on the PHS website.

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