

escalation. Stefanick does consider this possibility, concluding that nuclear retaliation against carriers would be unlikely, but against attack submarines themselves quite likely. The thrust of his critique of the Maritime Strategy is that it would be practically impossible to execute as intended, and could disadvantage the US in a conventional war by tying up too many of its attack submarines in hunting down Soviet SSBNs.

Unfortunately, neither of the books spends much time assessing the prospects for arms control in this area – Daniel devotes only five pages out of 214, and Stefanick fewer than two out of 370! Both authors are pessimistic about arms control, although Daniel endorses a ban on “plunging” ballistic missiles (suitable for barrage attack); while Stefanick notes that limits on the number of attack submarines might benefit the US, and concedes that SSBN “sanctuaries” (areas within which an opponent’s ASW activity is prohibited) might become more attractive in the future. It is true that a substantial literature on ASW controls exists, mainly from the 1970s. However, in view of rapid changes in technology, doctrine (such as the Maritime Strategy itself), and politics (such as the sharp drop in numbers of SSBNs expected to result from a START agreement), greater attention to the issue of strategic ASW controls would have been warranted.

– Ron Purver

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The Future of Immortality and Other Essays for a Nuclear Age Robert Jay Lifton

New York: Basic Books Ltd., 1987, 368 pgs., US \$21.95 cloth, US \$10.95 paper

■ In this collection of essays, Robert Lifton explores the pain, confusion, and destruction of recent holocausts of our past (Nazi Germany, Hiroshima, and My Lai)

in an effort to develop an understanding of the “human potential for evil” and its implications for the all-too-possible future holocaust of nuclear destruction. He asserts that this painful and frightening confrontation of our collective responsibilities for past and future events is an essential means through which we can bring about changes necessary to ensure human survival in this nuclear age of “total universal vulnerability.” His initial discussion of the future of immortality, the continuity of the human race, is overwhelming in its use of heavily philosophical and symbolic terminology which may turn off some readers and, hence, reduce the broader impact of this book. But I encourage people to read on, for this book is not just an intellectual exercise. It is a passionate, challenging and hopeful effort to address human destructiveness.

What makes Lifton’s approach different and, hence, enlightening is his linking of psychological theory to social and historical context. He has taken some of the classic psychoanalytic concepts such as guilt, death anxiety, and psychic numbing and connected them to human behaviour in “atrocious producing situations” – situations which create “collective disturbance and mass murder.”

One of the psychological mechanisms Lifton invokes as “an important clue for understanding the psychological behaviour of people who have become associated with actual or potential mass killing” is doubling. This is process by which a relatively autonomous second self emerges and is the one involved in atrocities. This permits the individual to be able to see himself or herself as a normal person – a parent, spouse, and member of the community. This doubling is encouraged by situations of inescapable moral contradiction which transform killing, in the case of Nazi Germany, into a healing process for the group, or in the case of My Lai, into a way of assuring continuity with fallen comrades.

For this reviewer, the process of reading this book was often pain-

ful and depressing. In it, one faces the enormity of human destructiveness and an analysis which makes it all so understandable, and, hence, all the more frightening. And yet, in Lifton’s writing one is able to envision ways to challenge what some see as an inevitable and irreversible path to human destruction. In his final essay, Lifton suggests principles for change, always focussing on the influence of each of us, as individuals and collectively, in the maintenance of life. One comes away from Lifton’s writing with an optimism grounded in some very harsh realities.

– Loreleigh Keashly

Ms. Keashly is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of New Brunswick.

The Road to Peace

Ernie Regehr and
Simon Rosenblum (editors)

Toronto: James Lorimer, 1988, 206 pgs., \$12.95 paper, \$24.95 cloth

■ The editors of this useful guide to strategies for disarmament in the era of *glasnost* work for Project Ploughshares. They have a genuine concern that the recently signed Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty “will become a symbol of false hope if the momentum for disarmament and the fires of public opinion that produced it are not maintained.”

With eight authors involved, there is some overlapping in the coverage of the various fields of arms control and disarmament reviewed, but generally this study is fairly concise, informative, and free from most of the emotive jargon that passes for commentary on peace issues.

Retired General Leonard V. Johnson, in reviewing the evolution of nuclear war-fighting strategies and their proponents, says Canada has been drawn into a partnership with such strategists, but

he has little to say about similar Soviet strategies. He argues that as a condition for continued membership in NATO, Canada should insist on a nuclear no-first-use policy and a non-offensive defence policy in Europe. A more detailed discussion of this non-provocative defence idea is included in Rosenblum’s chapter on proposals for European disarmament.

Two interesting chapters deal with how increased knowledge has changed our vision of what nuclear war would really be like, written by Don Bates, and a thorough review of verification techniques, their possibilities and political limitations, by Gary Marchant and Al Banner.

John Barrett sums up a study of Canada’s arms control and disarmament policies by suggesting that the Mulroney government, for reasons connected with promoting the free trade deal and high technology research, has undermined Canada’s arms control policies by its cautious reluctance to spell out forthright views on the American strategic defence initiative.

Bill Robinson argues the dangers of the militarization of space and urges ways to produce common security in space through treaties banning space weapons and cooperative programmes for space monitoring. The two editors conclude this volume with a call for making Canada a nuclear-weapon-free zone. This controversial proposal is not to seek immunity from nuclear war, but “is a peacetime measure to restrict the spread of nuclear weapons, to withdraw political and technical support from the nuclear arms race, and to build trust between nations and regions of the globe.” The list of actions required of Canada are detailed. They may be more easily spelled out than acted upon in today’s world, but they are worth discussing, along with the other proposals made in this slim volume. – John R. Walker
Mr. Walker writes a column on international affairs for Southam News. □

Reviews of French language publications can be found in *Paix et Sécurité* “Livres” section.