

1990

## A Strategy for Peace

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### Recommended Citation

Fitch, W.B. (1990) "A Strategy for Peace," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 43 : No. 3 , Article 41.  
Available at: <http://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol43/iss3/41>

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these seemingly diverse threads tied to his central "revolutions" theme. His treatment of U.S.-Soviet relations, his most prescriptive chapter, begins with what is now recognized as his classic description of the Soviet Union, "A world power of a new type." First presented in 1983, this short but thorough analysis presents the Soviet Union as a one-dimensional military power. If you read only one chapter, read this one! The author offers some very explicit advice to U.S. policymakers.

Perhaps the book's only weakness lies in the three chapters on the "Carter legacy," based on speeches delivered by Dr. Brzezinski in the early years of the Carter administration. They provide an excellent synopsis of that administration's policy goals and objectives, including human rights. These essays would fit well into almost any other book or anthology, but they have less contemporary relevancy in this future-oriented book. Simply stated, the book moves too fast to pause for decade-old pronouncements.

Finally, the book is almost eerily prophetic. Brzezinski's concepts on arms control and trilateral relations are the same that underlie the INF and CAFE negotiations on security in Central Europe. Additionally, his statement that "the central substance of the political revolution is the attraction of democratic ideals" rings particularly true in light of the demonstrations last year in the People's Republic of China. National security leaders who choose not to be

exposed to Dr. Brzezinski's ideas do so at great peril.

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Bok, Sissela. *A Strategy for Peace*. New York: Random House, 1989. 202pp. \$17.95

Admiral Stephen B. Luce, as recorded in *Sailors and Scholars*, founded the Naval War College on the idea that it would be "a place of original research on all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war." *A Strategy for Peace* contributes to Luce's purpose by providing a blueprint for the study of war prevention.

Dr. Bok's major premise is that Clausewitz' position on the impossibility of "absolute war" is now irrelevant with the advent of nuclear weapons. While readers may or may not agree with the points she makes, most will enjoy the thoroughness and clarity with which she makes them.

Strategic study needs to shift its perspective from war *per se* to the threat of war according to Bok. The threat now is caused by excessive partisanship and irrational distrust.

Two questions arise with respect to the legacy of Clausewitz. "Would his realism, in our present crisis, require a strategy better suited to avoiding, rather than conducting war? And would it not then call for rethinking his claim that morality

has little to do with the aims and means of strategy?"

The author states the central aim for a new strategy for peace must be to map the complex, dynamic relationship between different forms of trust and distrust and recognize the pathological degrees of each, so as to break out of the spiral of aggression—actual or threatened. Professor Bok concludes her premise with the position that it is now time for war-thought and peace-thought to dovetail in a new endeavor. she writes, "The language of morality and that of strategy are both indispensable in the face of the present crisis."

The core of the book, adumbrates a strategy for peace based on Immanuel Kant's essay, "Perpetual Peace." Bok points out that to be effective a strategy for peace must: be capable of the widest possible application, be shared by religious and secular traditions, and set forth a minimal moral framework of constraints that pertain both to public and private life.

The limited moral constraints are applied to violence, deceit, and betrayal, which parallel Kant's three, positive moral principles of nonviolence, veracity, and fidelity. Bok adds to these the category of excessive secrecy, echoing themes she covers in *Secrets: On the Ethics of Concealment and Revelation*. Her antidote to excessive secrecy is publicity.

Does *A Strategy for Peace* present a utopian dream? No. The author took the wind out of my prejudicial sails with her balanced, well-reasoned,

and practical approach. Chapter 5 contains objections to the strategy of peace, acknowledges the danger of fanatical moralizers to the extent of saying that in some circumstances moral discourse is out of place. However, she maintains that "moral constraints are now indispensable in international relations."

This is a refreshing work in its simplicity and profundity. The clear thought makes the reading a pleasure. The footnotes will serve as a useful bibliography to someone interested in further study. *A Strategy for Peace* deserves to be read widely, at least by those charged by law with fighting to keep it. While there is no shortage of studies on war and statesmanship, little solid scholarship comes out on the prevention of war. Sissela Bok makes a unique contribution in this regard. Would it be inappropriate to consider her with others in regard to Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called sons of God."

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Previdi, Robert. *Civilian Control versus Military Rule*. New York: Hippocrene Press, 1988. 188pp. \$14.95

Robert Previdi is a vice president and director of marketing communications at Citicorp, has been a New York state candidate for Congress, and has written extensively on the