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Containment and Change

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Carl Oglesby

Richard Shaull

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This book is well written, easy to read, and is recommended as worthwhile background material for anyone with a particular interest in African affairs.

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Oglesby, Carl and Shaul, Richard.
Containment and Change. New York: Macmillan, 1967. 248 p.

The book comprises two essays discussing revolution in today's world as viewed by authors who were not known to each other before February 1966. One (Oglesby) had previously been involved in the American domestic movement toward a more just society; the other (Shaul) spent many years in Latin America in close association with Catholic and Protestant student movements. These backgrounds provide a clue to the theme and setting of the essays.

Of the two, Oglesby's "Vietnamese Crucible" is the more radical. The basic premise is a quest for social change through disassociation with total world involvement and through a defeated and outmoded containment. Consider the following events as espoused by Oglesby: In World War II the United States forced Stalin into an accommodation with Hitler; she failed to provide a quick second front in France and thereby caused mass suffering in Russia and justified Stalin's postwar foreign policy in Europe; Washington obstructed Russia's economic rehabilitation by denying her the richest parts of Europe as reparations; Stalin was not a revolutionary but a nationalist, and because of Americans' shabby treatment, he was forced to create a system of buffer satellite states as a sentinel against a resurgent Germany. Consider further a lengthy argument which purports to show that the widening economic gap between the "haves" and "have nots" is prin-

cipally caused, not by communism, but by American corporations, collectively characterized as the "United Fruit Company"; and that this is at the core of third world revolutions; further, that the solution to these ills will be found in states not hampered by private investment, nor harassed nor manipulated by corporate interests of outside states. Big business is made the culprit, and a variety of examples ultimately focusing on Vietnam are used to prove the case against an economic imperialism.

The essay by Shaul entitled "Revolution: Heritage and Contemporary Option" is much the milder in tone and outlook. He places change in historical perspective by relating and identifying with "messianism," and defining the role that Judeo-Christian example has played in our Western self-understanding. He sets forth a blueprint for revolution, preferably without violence, which espouses its causes in a series of coordinated dissents by small, radical groups (the political equivalent of guerrilla warfare) in order to achieve a humanistic world of social equality for all mankind.

There is a need to know what apostles of dissent today are thinking and advocating. This book's redeeming virtue is that it partially serves that purpose.

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Palit, D. K. *War in the Deterrent Age*. London: Macdonald, 1966. 244 p.

Military strategy and policymaking have undergone such fundamental changes in concept during the past 20 years that it requires conscious and determined study to keep pace with the sophisticated arguments and theories of nuclear dialectics. Unless this effort is made, not only by professionals but also by thinking people everywhere, obsolete notions based on traditional