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An End to Arms

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Walter Millis

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And then, and only then, will we be able to alter the collision course of nuclear holocaust which Cochran wrongly argues is now unalterable.

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Millis, Walter. *An End to Arms*. New York: Atheneum, 1965.
301 p.

This is both a powerful and unusual book. Its purpose is noble and its logic quite plausible; it is almost too good, and therein lies the rub. International politics, as described by the author, is a militarized system. Here he is seeking to modify this to a demilitarized system of international politics. He quickly, logically, and rightfully rejects the concepts of general and complete disarmament as a starting requisite. Rather, he determines that the powerful military forces themselves, by their own inutility in settling power conflicts, provide the rationale for a demilitarized system. Disarmament will be accepted as new ways and means of political action are implemented. Drawing heavily from the history of the past seven decades, Mr. Millis deduces a hypothesis which would indicate that the major powers of the world are working toward the use of other than war means to resolve and limit conflicts. He contends that the Clausewitzian dictum, "War is a continuation of policy by other means," should have its emphasis on "other" as opposed to "war" means. As evidence of this situation, the scenario of the nonviolent political conflicts in the Atlantic Alliance and among the Communist nation-states is offered. Having stated his hypothesis, the author, by his own explicit admission, indulges in "science-fiction." He describes in a most rapid and general manner the world of the 1980's. Great conclaves are deliberating about the affairs of the nations south of the equator; the establishment of a world consensus, in limited areas of interest, has been achieved because the alternative is mutual and mass destruction and the military machine is becoming irrelevant.

One cannot help but consider that even though the author's hypothesis is confirmed by the "scientific rules of evidence," there is really no "proof." The subject area is a behavioral science. It would seem that the entire metaphysical substance of man would have to change before the author's prophecy could

be accepted. But to be skeptical in this case, one would have also to be skeptical of skepticism.

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