
Essays by Muste Published

Editor's note: "Selected Essays" by A.J. Muste, published in March by Bobbs-Merrill, was recently reviewed in the New York Times Book Review by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, professor emeritus at Union Theological Seminary, and by Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra in Hope College's Alumni Magazine. Excerpts from both reviews are given below to highlight two quotes from Rev. Muste's "Essays." Also included are excerpts from "A Tribute to A.J. Muste" which appeared in Saturday Review on April 8. It was written by Nat Hentoff who also edited the "Essays." Mr. Hentoff was Muste's constant companion for several years prior to the latter's death in February.

"We cannot have peace if we are concerned only with peace. War is not an accident. It is the logical outcome of a certain way of life. If we want to attack war, we have to attack that way of life."—A.J. Muste

"HOWEVER MUSTE got that way, his social analysis is simply

motivated. For one thing he sees everything in terms of what it does to people. But also, he is perceptive in his understanding of the dynamics of society, and sees that these are tainted with forever powerful impulses to power and oppression. So his is the hard search for an alternative that will not be so tainted."—Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra.

"There was no one else so open and expert in keeping open bridges of communication, in encouraging and advising on all manner of ideas and projects. There was no one else who, on the one hand, was so incisively analytical about what he used to term 'the objective situation,' and yet on the other hand so resiliently committed to possibility."—Nat Hentoff.

"Muste was interested in redressing all balances of justice, of championing the interests of workers against employers, of Negroes against the white majority, of India against the British Empire."—Reinhold Niebuhr.

"THE ONLY TRUE God is not the God of impersonal historical or economic forces which 'automatically' . . . redeem society The true God is the God of love who can and does redeem men. This God is revealed in Jesus Christ. The true church is the 'ecclesia' of those redeemed by infinite love. It must seek to redeem the world and must assert that it is the channel of the grace of God without which there is no salvation, and that to it are entrusted 'the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.' But it can rightfully do this only in the degree that it exercises no violence except that of a love which will not be gainsaid and which is ever ready to die for sinners, and it is itself a true community of love."—A.J. Muste.

"Perhaps an estimate of rigorous, if inconsistent, idealists is beyond the capacity of mere academic critics, who are obsessed with logical consistency, but who also never dared an interview with Ho Chi Minh."—Reinhold Niebuhr.

"A.J. CHANGED the very nature of pacifism in the United States, and he involved many, like myself, who are not absolute pacifists and who have no God. . . . I remember the amusement so often in his eyes. Living it so fully, he enjoyed life enormously. He was so utterly free a man. And that perhaps is why many young people continued to listen to him in these years of the widening generational chasm. He was so utterly free a man. He showed them it was possible to remain free, to remain real."—Nat Hentoff.

"He spoke and thought and acted out of the deepest and most spontaneous commitments of his own life. These are hardly the commitments of his social and religious traditions. But church bells which, for most of that tradition, could ring as authentically for war as for peace, have a way of being simplified for Muste into being nothing more than the messengers of peace."—Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra.
