

L V. SOME BOOKS IMPORTANT IN MY EDUCATION

Since I've averaged reading 2 books a month for the last 35+ years, the following selects only a few of those most important, & as long as I am able to read, I am likely to find others as important as some of those listed .

I should mention first the most important book I have ever read, and then go back to the college books that were most important in my intellectual development. In May 1997 I read Daniel Goleman's book EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE. He says it is more important than our IQ, our intelligence quotient, & explains why. But rather than developing an EQ, emotional quotient, he explains at length that people attain quite different amounts of emotional maturity in life, a & so many of us, even in important positions , do not handle as well as we should the various situations in which we find ourselves. I never read as important a book. The quality of our lives lies in our emotions. Uncontrolled emotions overpower reason and lead to all sorts of personal and social problems, sometimes violence. How much emotional intelligence is developed in childhood is very important. but Goleman shows that our emotional life, its modes of expression & our emotional maturity can be developed further all through life. There can be nothing more important in life than learning how to do this and keep increasing our emotional maturity.

Now to mention some books that meant a great deal to me in my college days. My introduction to what education should really mean came from a book by Everett Dean Martin (of a New York adult educational institution, The Cooper Union) with the title THE MEANING OF A LIBERAL EDUCATION. This book was one of the very first books that started my interest in the intellectual life. Doubtless the next was THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MIND by John Herman Randall Jr., Professor of philosophy at Columbia University. After reading it, I had hoped that intellectual history would become one of my fields of study and writing, but with so much time devoted to social science it was not to be. The book that was the most enjoyable one I read as an undergraduate was the AUTOBIOGRAPHY of Lincoln Steffens. He was an early muckraker, and his career was fascinating. One can even understand his enthusiasm for the Russian communist experiment in the early days before its real character became evident. My most valuable course during my first two years at at Penn State (before transferring to the University of Chicago to major in Sociology) was a large lecture course taught by Prof. Mason Long on the English Romantic and Victorian poets and essayists. How he kept a large class of Freshman men & women quiet while he read and talked about poems I can't imagine, but he did. I still have the textbook & occasionally reread some of its poems or others now that I know poetry can be meaningful. The book is ENGLISH MASTERPIECES by H.W. Harrington.

From here on I will list books by general fields, ignoring when I read

them. I start with novels, of which I read few. The first I remember vaguely is *The Magnificent Obsession* (I forget the author). Next a bunch of novels by James Branch Cabell. Then more serious novels including *THE GOOD EARTH* by Pearl Buck, *Bread and Wine & The Seed Below the Snow* by Italian Ignazio Silone, and *The Brothers Karamazov* by Tolstoi. When My wife took a course on Greek Drama, I read with her many famous ancient Greek dramas + G.L. Dickenson's *Greek View OF Life*. Otherwise the reading that was important in my education was more serious social science books, plus philosophy & religion. I will come to economics last with the most references.

In sociology I got an orientation through such books as *CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES* by Pitirim Sorokin and *SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION* by Mabel Elliott and Francis Merrill.

I got a radically new view of human personality from notes taken by students on the lectures of George Herbert Mead and published as *MIND, SELF AND SOCIETY*. Then I learned about the psychology of Abraham Maslow second hand before reading his *MOTIVATION AND HUMAN PERSONALITY*.

But a number of books educated me on how our ideas are of critical importance in what we do. I start with books by Harry A. Overstreet (some with wife Bonaro), *THE MATURE MIND*, *THE MIND ALIVE*, & *THE MIND GOES FORTH*. Barbara Ward's *FIVE IDEAS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD*, & then most important , Kenneth Boulding's *THE IMAGE*.

In Political Science my first education came from Charles E. Merriam's classic *POLITICAL POWER*, followed by *THE WEB OF GOVERNMENT* by R. .M. MacIver. The real political problem hit me with John B. Judis' challenging book *THE PARADOX OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: Elites, Special Interests, and the Betrayal of Public Trust*.

As for history, it seemed to me necessary to keep in mind both the broad sweep of human history, for which *A SHORT HISTORY OF THE WORLD* by J.M. Roberts served, and 20th century U.S. history, for which Thomas C. Reeve's *TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICA* served. These were supplemented by Robert Nisbet's *HISTORY OF THE IDEA OF PROGRESS*, and given the importance of the industrial revolution sparked by technological progress & accompanying social change, I read *TECHNICS AND CIVILIZATION* by Lewis Mumford and Karl Polanyi's book *THE GREAT TRANSFORMATIONS: the political and economic origins of our times*. The best analysis of history was Kenneth Boulding's small book *A PRIMER ON SOCIAL DYNAMICS: History As Dialectics & Development*. It shows that progress in history came not from violent conflicts which historians write most about, but from the non-violent integrative factors that unite people for progressive developments. Boulding's more complete analysis was in *ECODYNAMICS: A New Theory of Societal Evolution*.

In philosophy, Will Durant's books *THE STORY OF PHILOSOPHY*, & *THE MANSIONS OF PHILOSOPHY*, & Irwin Edman's reader *THE USES OF PHILOSOPHY*

were easy, but not Windelband's HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY. That did not include Eastern philosophies, so I read WORLD PHILOSOPHIES by David E. Cooper. But I was most influenced by Alfred North Whitehead's books MODES OF THOUGHT, ADVENTURES OF IDEAS, & SCIENCE AND THE MODERN WORLD.

Social philosophy interested me a great deal, but no single book stands out, even among Bertrand Russell's interesting works.

I have always read a lot of religious books. Perhaps I was first influenced by Harry Emerson Fosdick books; I remember ON BEING FIT TO LIVE WITH. I read skeptic Walter Lipmann's PREFACE TO MORALS. At the University of Chicago I audited a course on comparative religion taught by humanist A.E. Hayden, & took a course from Henry Nelson Wieman using his fine textbook AMERICAN PHILOSOPHIES OF RELIGION which I still have. I read all the books by Howard Thurman, famous black preacher, the best being JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED, and THE SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND. I have also profited by reading Abraham Joshua Heschel's MAN IS NOT ALONE, William Sloane Coffin's little book A PASSION FOR THE POSSIBLE: A Message to U.S. CHURCHES. Karen Armstrong's THE BATTLE FOR GOD: A History of Fundamentalism was vital, as was Michael Lerner's THE LEFT HAND OF GOD: Taking back our country from the religious right. I even read Armstrong's BUDDHA, an English translation of the Koran, and Philip Berman's THE JOURNEY HOME: What Near-Death Experiences and Mysticism Tell Us About the Gift of Life. My own liberal religious thinking was furthered by such books as Riane Eisler's THE CHALICE AND THE BLADE, Paula Frederickson's FROM JESUS TO CHRIST: The Origins of the New Testament Image of Jesus, & Howard Conn's A FAITH TO MATCH THE UNIVERSE. My religion was deepened by Huston Smith's book WHY RELIGION MATTERS: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief.

I had a strong interest in the relevance of religion to social problems. The best early book was Richard Henry Tawney's RELIGION AND THE RISE OF CAPITALISM. I bought & read the books commissioned by The Federal Council of Churches in the 1950s starting with GOALS OF ECONOMIC LIFE, edited by Dudley Ward. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops published their Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy: ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL which calls for a priority for the poor. I learned much, despite disagreeing with much, from all books on social policy by Reinhold Niebuhr during his life, starting with MORAL MAN AND IMMORAL SOCIETY & its chapters on proletarian & capitalist ideologies. Rabbi Michael Lerner's book THE POLITICS OF MEANING says that we can build a more compassionate world if we try. Then he wrote THE LEFT HAND OF GOD: Taking back our country from the religious right. Jim Wallis wrote THE POLITICS OF MEANING (& a later book) as a liberal evangelical Christian working with the poor. MORAL POLITICS by George Lakoff tries to get right & left to understand each other.

My interest in ethics was tied to philosophy, religion and economics.

Excellent small books are William Frankena's ETHICS & Joel Fineberg's SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY. Thomas Donaldson's CORPORATIONS AND MORALITY helped. Also very good are WELFARE, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM by Scott Gordon, and SIX THEORIES OF JUSTICE by Karen Lebacqz. Very high on my list are books by Amitai Etzioni: A RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY, & THE MORAL DIMENSION: Toward A New Economics, & THE NEW GOLDEN RULE: Community and Morality in a Democratic Society. The emphasis is on communitarianism instead of raw individualism, both descriptively & normatively. Greed isn't seen as a virtue.

Now I will list economics books & their importance in my education. Of course I read the standard works required of economics majors & PhDs. The most readable book for non-economists was Robert Heilbroner's WORLDLY PHILOSOPHERS, a history of early economics. Non-economists would enjoy also his THE QUEST FOR WEALTH. The broadest & most fertile mind in my day was Kenneth Boulding, only some of whose fine books I cite here. In his book ECONOMICS AS A SCIENCE he views it much more broadly than others do.

I learned the most economics from lectures by Frank H. Knight at the University of Chicago, some of which got into his books, INTELLIGENCE AND DEMOCRATIC ACTION, FREEDOM AND REFORM, & THE ETHICS OF COMPETITION. SMALL A IS BEAUTIFUL: Economics As If People Mattered, by E.F. Schumacher has a subtitle that indicates how I think economics should be taught. It is also found in an old book by John Hobson: WORK AND LIFE.

The most enjoyable reading in economics, sometimes even witty, comes from the pen of John K. Galbraith. THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY made him famous; its thesis is that we satisfy our private wants and starve our public needs, & we do it much too well. All of his books are worth reading, though no economist is always right.

The major revolution in economics in my day was called THE KEYNESIAN REVOLUTION, the title of a book by Lawrence Klein which interpreted the poorly written and poorly understood book that caused the revolution, THE GENERAL THEORY OF EMPLOYMENT, INTEREST AND MONEY by John Maynard Keynes. Another interpretation of the work was by Alvin Hansen, formerly a University of Minnesota economist who had gone to the Harvard economics department by the time I was at Harvard. His book was called A GUIDE TO KEYNES. The revolution created a new branch of economics: macroeconomics, which dealt with dealt primarily with the determinants of the level of unemployment. Though Keynes did not grapple adequately with determinants of the amount of real investment (or financial investment) no one has yet done the former well. And now the profession has rejected Keynes and assumed in its models what they call market clearing, which in effect assumes away unemployment and is thus of no real relevance to modern economies. Some economists have become critical of the discipline for this & other reasons, see

Thomas Balogh's THE IRRELEVANCE OF CONVENTIONAL ECONOMICS. Herbert Simon's REASON IN HUMAN AFFAIRS helps correct the discipline's naive view of human rationality.

Students still choose courses on comparative economic systems even though the communist system has broken down and been replaced by different kinds of market dominated economies. The question is how communism was supposed to work, how it did work for a while, what can be said about different socialisms & different capitalisms. For that I use a textbook by J. Barkley Rosser Jr. & Marina V. Rosser COMPARATIVE ECONOMICS IN A TRANSFORMING WORLD ECONOMY. THE FUTURE OF SOCIALISM by C.A. R. Crossland corrects many American misconceptions about socialism, despite its early date), & FEASIBLE SOCIALISM by Alec Nove also corrects misconceptions.

Since about 1980, U.S. economic policy, under business pressure, & seemingly with much support from the economics profession, has been dominated by what is termed by its critics "market fundamentalism". The idea is that markets will work best if business is unregulated so it can do whatever it pleases to maximize profits. Before 1980 I had learned that control was needed by reading noted economist J.M. Clark's SOCIAL CONTROL OF BUSINESS. Before Enron & WorldCom disasters, I had read AMERICA: WHAT WENT WRONG? by Philadelphia Bulletin reporters Donald Barlett & James Steele. They showed huge sums made by merger promoters who left the merged firms badly off. Market fundamentalism has prevented any major reforms. The most noted book supporting freedom for business to do whatever it wants to do was Milton Friedman's CAPITALISM & FREEDOM. No book in my possession has as many underlined passages with my criticisms in the margin. But Friedman's teaching created many disciples. George Soros, who made billions by international financial speculation, in his book THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM, contends that market fundamentalism is as great a menace to a democratic "open society" as was Fascism or Communism.

Poverty in this country and excessive inequality are addressed in numerous books including the one that woke up Kennedy: THE OTHER AMERICA by Michael Harrington. More recently, read Jonathan Kozol's SAVAGE INEQUALITIES about public schools, WITHIN OUR REACH: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE by Lizbeth and Daniel Schorr, and IT TAKES A NATION by Rebecca Blank. Also see Julius Wilson's THE TRULY DISADVANTAGED.

To consider what labor's role should be, read JOB POWER by David Jenkins, or WORK IN AMERICA edited by James O'Toole. These earlier books need updating, but there is none yet, & these tell how it should be.

Even when everything is working well economically for any country,

economic insecurity is a fact of life for every individual. To see the error in the opponents of government social security measures, read AMERICA'S HIDDEN SUCCESS, 2nd ed. by John Schwarz. Robert Kuttner further deals with the issue raised in a book whose title THE ECONOMIC ILLUSION shows it to be an illusion that economic efficiency & protecting economic security conflict.

3/4 of the world population lives in less developed countries (LDCs) where most people are either just very poor or so poor that they are slowly dying from undernourishment or malnutrition if not from preventable diseases. Barbara Ward was the most outspoken about this in her life, & wrote good little books on the subject. Economic development courses try to examine the problem of LDCs becoming more developed so their people escape the poverty trap in which they are caught. There is an abundant literature on the problems. See especially Gunnar Myrdal's CHALLENGE OF WORLD POVERTY, Amartya Sen's DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM, & Jeffrey Sach's THE END OF POVERTY.

It has become clear that no economy in the world is on a sustainable basis. This limited globe cannot long sustain a population of over 6 billion people at more developed countries standards of living, but maintaining big MDC-LDC gaps is indefensible. Global warming will intensify the problem. All this was recognized early by some people, including Barbara Ward. See her books on SPACESHIP EARTH, ONLY ONE EARTH, and THE HOME OF MAN. The Club of Rome led by Aurelio Peccei shocked people when they published the MIT study THE LIMITS TO GROWTH in 1962. Its shortcomings did not change the problem. Peccei continued to warn us in THE HUMAN QUALITY & in ONE HUNDRED PAGES FOR THE FUTURE. In 1987 The World Commission on Environment & Development published OUR COMMON FUTURE. It is important that we see it as our common future, whatever we do. After the 1992 RIO conference on the environment, James MacNeill published BEYOND INTERDEPENDENCE: THE MESHING OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY AND THE EARTH'S ECOLOGY. Most valuable work now comes from THE WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE & the EARTH POLICY INSTITUTE & its leader Lester Brown, one of whose many books is BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY. The best economic study of how cultural progress could continue if growth stopped, as it eventually must, is Herman Daly's, THE STEADY STATE ECONOMY: THE ECONOMICS OF BIOPHYSICAL EQUILIBRIUM AND MORAL GROWTH. This may require some moral growth if humans are to adapt well. The book giving hope that we are making progress in learning to make our economy live with the environment & our life-support system (if we also control population) is NATURAL CAPITALISM by Amory & Hunter Lovins and Tom Hawken. They show that we have yet to make use of some existent technologies that pay business to be more environmentally responsible.

It will require further changes in our economies, but they have continued to change ever since the industrial revolution. In THE FOLKLORE OF

CAPITALISM, Thurman Arnold tells, among other things, of the damage done when the Supreme Court decided that corporations were legal persons with the rights of natural persons, rather than treating them as social inventions with responsibilities to the state that created them. THE 20th CENTURY CAPITALIST REVOLUTION, and POWER WITHOUT PROPERTY by Adolph A. Berle show how corporation control changed. Both the U.S. economy and its ideology changed from 1900 to 1950 as told very interestingly in THE BIG CHANGE by Frederick Lewis Allen. In POLITICS AND MARKETS Charles Lindblom discusses democratic egalitarianism and capitalist inegalitarianism. Jan Pen writes well on CONFLICT AND HARMONY IN MODERN SOCIETY. Robert Kuttner writes on the virtues and limits of markets, which is the subtitle of his book EVERYTHING FOR SALE.

Corporations size, role & behavior have alarmed many people. See Charles Derber's CORPORATION NATION: How Corporations Are Taking Over Our Lives and What We Can Do About It. William Greider, in WHO WILL TELL THE PEOPLE: The Betrayal of American Democracy, says that corporation power is the betrayer. Si Kahn & Elizabeth Minnich elaborate in THE FOX IN THE HENHOUSE: How Privatization Threatens Democracy. Lee Drutman & Charlie Cray's THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS: Controlling Corporations and Restoring Democracy is the Report of the Citizen Works Corporate Reform Commission.

Business, governments & many economists now promote globalization as good for all. Many doubt it. See Charles Derber's WHEN CORPORATIONS RULE THE WORLD 2nd ed., businessman Lew Dobbs EXPORTING AMERICA, John Perkins' CONFESSIONS OF AN ECONOMIC HIT MAN, & Richard Falk's PREDATORY GLOBALIZATION. Economist Paul Streeten's GLOBALIZATION: Threat or Opportunity? weighs pros & cons. A good technical analysis of the damage done by our government's Washington Consensus which applies a straitjacket to all troubled economies is Joseph Stiglitz' book GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS. According to Thomas Friedman's books, globalization is inevitable. Not so according to ALTERNATIVES TO ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION, 2nd ed. edited by John Cavanagh & Jerry Mander, which is A Report of the International Forum on Globalization. I have written essays on the subject of globalization explaining the bases for my views--click on G on this website.

Joel Bakan's book THE CORPORATION: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power contends that corporations now are largely free to pursue profit & power without regard to the harmful effects on anyone. Joel Makower in BEYOND THE BOTTOM LINE: Putting Social responsibility to Work for Your Business and the World shows that some firms make good profit that way, and a minority do try to be ethical. The Caux Principles is their guide. But after publishing the magazine Business Ethics for many years, Minneapolis Marjorie

Kelly decided the problem was more serious & wrote in a book likely to become a classic: *THE DIVINE RIGHT OF CAPITAL: Dethroning the Corporate Aristocracy*. The economics profession has given almost no attention to the very important concept that corporations have obligations to all their “stakeholders” & not merely to their stockholders, many of whom hold stock to speculate on its future price, while employees, customers, suppliers, entire communities & the environment have vital interests in their corporations. They need to be the main legal beneficiaries of corporations, and that should alter drastically the misbehavior of corporations to which the two preceding paragraphs alluded. That is what Kelly calls for.

What grew on me starting before college was that we need to do what we can to build a better world. Before I could read, my Mother taught me that I don't want to suffer so I should not inflict it on anyone. That simple logic led me later to be concerned about war, its prevention, and favoring non-violence.

The notion of building a better world is broached in books like *HABITS OF THE HEART*, & *THE GOOD SOCIETY* by the group of sociologists led by Robert Bellah. See also *HUMAN BETTERMENT* by Kenneth Boulding, *TOWARD SOCIAL HOPE* by Theodore Caplow and *INSIGHT AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT* by James Rule. *MOST OF ALL THEY TAUGHT ME HAPPINESS* by Robert Muller amazes me. Here is a guy who spent most of his life in the UN and remains full of hope for the improvement of world order. Rene Dubos makes us think about doing better in *BEAST OR ANGEL: CHOICES THAT MAKE US HUMAN*.

Now war. The first book I read that showed how the UN could be strengthened to give it power to prevent any nation from being attacked militarily by another nation was *WORLD PEACE THROUGH WORLD LAW* by Grenville Clark and Lewis B. Sohn, published after World War II. In 1964 the McCloy-Zorin proposals, if they had been acted on, would have ended the cold war. (A copy of these might be obtained from www.globalsolutions.org). The cold war could have led to an irretrievable disaster in a hot war, but Mikhail Gorbachev ended it because he understood the international situation better than his predecessors, witness his book *PERESTROIKA: New Thinking for Our Country and the World*, 2nd ed. Obviously he did not expect his internal efforts would end the USSR. Ronald Glossop wrote *WORLD FEDERATION* in 1993. The World Federalist Movement promotes a democratic world government. The United World Federalists in the U.S. recently changed its name to Citizens for Global Solutions to include other than war as world problems that need to be dealt with on a global scale. There are still enough atomic bombs to destroy humanity, as Jonathan Schell makes clear in his books. A broader approach is taken by Gerald and Patricia Mische in *TOWARD A HUMAN WORLD ORDER*, and a narrower one is Stanley Hoffman's *DUTIES BEYOND BORDERS*. Andrew Bard Schmoekler, the very widely read son of a former colleague, in *THE PARABLE*

OF THE TRIBES, thinks he has explained the rise of power-seeking and war, & then tries to find the solution in OUT OF WEAKNESS : HEALING THE WOUNDS THAT DRIVE US TO WAR. I have read many books on other types of violence, so select one almost at random, VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY by Molly Levin. Jonathan Schell's 2003 book THE UNCONQUERABLE WORLD shows that violence leaves many problems that always have to be dealt with non-violently. Roger Fisher's books are relevant: GETTING TOGETHER and GETTING TO YES : NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT WITHOUT GIVING IN.

My interest in non-violence is seen in a Quaker pamphlet, The American Friends Service Committee pamphlet SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER, Duane Cady's book FROM WARISM TO PACIFISM, & PEACE IS THE WAY: Writings on Nonviolence from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Walter Wink ed. See also John Swomley's writings including LIBERATION ETHICS that argue strongly for non-violent ways to handle all sorts of problems. We owe it to Swomley, working for a coalition led by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, that we avoided military conscription in the U.S. As a non-Quaker, I find The Friends Committee on National Legislation supporting almost everything I want to support. Its role in Washington is described by a man I admired, E. Raymond Wilson, in his book UPHILL FOR PEACE. It is updated by WITNESS IN WASHINGTON by Tom Mullen and others.

What sort of future will the human race have? We escaped George Orwell's 1984 & no one wants Aldous Huxley's BRAVE NEW WORLD. Deborah Tannen tells us that we need to conduct our social life better in her book THE ARGUMENT CULTURE. Kenneth Boulding's THE MEANING OF THE 20th CENTURY says it all depends upon whether we handle well problems that arose in the 20th century especially war, population & environmental protection. Robert Wright's NONZERO: The Logic of Human Destiny says that evolution shows a steady progression biologically & now socially toward more interdependence & cooperation. The most pessimistic view is found in Robert Heilbroner's AN INQUIRY INTO THE HUMAN PROSPECT (updated for the 1980s). The finest call for optimism I found in Norman Cousins' HUMAN OPTIONS: An Autobiographical Notebook. Clearly Paul Krugman calls for reversing THE GREAT UNRAVELING taking place in the U.S. in the first decade of the 21st century. I see humanity having wonderful potentials if we fully awaken to them and act accordingly.