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Browne On Black and White: Race Relations in International Affairs

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In a total explanation of their origin, the characteristics of tektites so carefully described, classified and catalogued, cannot be ignored.

The reviewer of a book is expected to use his prerogative of pointing out defects or even disagreeing with the argument of the text. There can be no disagreement with those who have desired to place together a set of valuable scientific and historical papers. Particularly in cases where the originals may be lost to various scholars or may not be readily available to them, the reproduction will facilitate and stimulate future studies. A number of minor mistakes, more attributable to the proof-reader than to the author, have been noted. Minor blemishes do not weight heavily against the merit of the work; they require the reader to go carefully and to correct the evident errors as he goes.

The following sentence (page 125, Part II) taken in conjunction with the legend on page 82, Part I and with material on page 136, Part II, is difficult to understand:

This is the apparent fact that the whole tektite deposit of eastern Manila and western Rizal lies in what is essentially a single straight strip running in a roughly SE-NW direction—or to be more specifically accurate, in an ENE and WSW direction.

It would seem that there has been a slip in the proof-reading of directions in this passage.

The Preface to the volume begins with the question: "What are Tektites?" At the end of Parts I and II Beyer has us looking forward especially to Part IV where further information about the origin of tektites can be expected. No doubt he will give an analysis and critique of the positions of various groups such as that of the chemist, Dr. H. C. Urey, or that of the space physicist, Dr. John A. O'Keefe, or that of the geologist, Dr. Virgil E. Barnes, or that of some other group. But of peculiar interest will be the interpretation given by Professor Beyer himself as being influenced most by Philippine tektite specimens. Thus with all this scholarly energy being applied to the tektite problem the dictum of seventy years ago as cited recently by Dr. George Baker may be disproved: "where they came from no one knows."

JAMES J. HENNESSEY

BROWNE ON BLACK AND WHITE

RACE RELATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. By Robert S. Browne. Washington, D.C.: Public Affairs Press, 1961. 62 pp.

Like other Public Affairs Press publications, this is not a book but a 62-page monograph or extended essay. The author is an Ameri-

can Negro with considerable foreign-travel experience—an experience apparently well used to gain a knowledge of the concerns and aspirations held by people of many races in a number of countries. The burden of his discussion is that racial antagonisms, particularly the accumulating reaction of colored peoples against the superior and privileged position of white peoples, constitutes the basic reality in present and future international affairs including the ideological conflict between the West and the Communist world. He sees world peace, and even human survival, as dependent upon achieving more harmonious relationships between the white and colored races, or, as the author states his purpose: “this paper proposes to formulate the case for racial amity on the most practical of grounds—the preservation of human society.”

The reader will find this work particularly useful on several counts. First is the author's forceful survey of the role which the social psychology of race relations and the colonial experience associated with it plays in the reality of international tensions. Secondly, it is useful to share the review of race in the international arena with a thoughtful analyst who himself has experienced the patterns of racial tension within the United States, and who, as a Negro, has been able to discuss the subject with non-white groups in Africa and Asia with a kind of empathy. Further, it is useful to note the action which the author believes should be taken by the United States and its citizens and leaders. Among other suggestions, he advocates that the U.S. assume a position of “neuteraciality”, or racelessness, a position from which the U.S. could be a leader in promoting the racial amity which the author feels is crucial.

Unfortunately, in the reviewer's opinion, some of the same features which make this work very good have also produced problems in analytical precision. For example, the essay enjoys the advantage that the author, by background, is able to perceive racial considerations in many international situations which are overlooked by many observers. But this asset gives rise to assigning an importance to racial considerations which might be out of true proportion in international affairs. This danger is the greater as the author too easily divides the world into the two poles of white and colored peoples, and identifies western civilization with the culture practiced by white people. This over-simplification appears to weaken his case.

In trying to make the world either white or colored, the author gets into difficulties separating ethnic difference from racial difference *per se*. Thus he sees Jews divided from Arabs as white divided from colored—a racial distinction not easily defended. He also assigns entire national groups to white or colored categories, by which process all Syria goes to the colored camp as does Egypt, Pakistan, and Morocco. He has perhaps too conveniently omitted all of Latin America

from more than passing mention, and does not try to include this area in his polarized analysis.

Further, in discussing international tensions between white and colored peoples, an importance is assigned to a feeling of common identity among all colored peoples which overlooks the actual strong antagonisms which exist within both white and colored national and ethnic groups. The relationships between Japan and some of her neighbors, the national feelings against the overseas Chinese, the bitter struggle between Indians and Pakistanis are cases in point. And the historic prejudices of Central Europe show that not all white prejudices and feelings of superiority are directed against colored peoples.

Still, the author has ably undertaken a serious discussion of a most serious and far-reaching subject. The reader will certainly profit by reading the entire essay, and adding the author's insight to one's judgment of international relations.

GLEN H. FISHER

KEEPING FREE IN PRISON

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES. By John W. Clifford, S.J.
New York: W. W. Norton, 1963. 239 pp.

This book could be entitled, "How to Block a Brainwash." Fortunately, there is little likelihood that Filipinos will be forced to undergo brainwashing of the Red Chinese variety in its most intense, prison form. Unfortunately, the danger does exist in Laos, north Vietnam, and elsewhere. For men at all liable to face the ordeal, this book should rate as *must* reading, so that they may learn what lies ahead of them and how to combat it. In this sense, the book is a sort of anti-missile missile; the far-sighted will appreciate its worth.

The author does well to point out that, despite its name, brainwashing consists not so much in draining *the mind* of its ideas and convictions in order to refill it with a new set. It is a rape of *the will*, by the deliberate inducing of a psychosis which leaves the volitional faculty utterly flaccid and servile. Time, environment, and techniques acquired from experimentation on millions of human guinea pigs are marshaled to heighten the debilitating emotions of guilt, despair, fear, loneliness and uncertainty. The prisoner loses his freedom, because his will itself is systematically rendered sick.

The book contains many paragraphs which a reflecting reader (or prospective lecturer) will want to underscore. He will say to himself: