

Introduction

Jessie Wallace Hughan's *"Pacifism and Invasion,"* certainly a classic of pacifist literature, may be thought, forty years later, to belong to a simpler and more innocent age. It was written at a time when the full extents of Hitler's and Stalin's crimes were not known, a time before the United Nations had been created and then proved ineffectual, and, most important, a time before the atom bomb. Nations, it seemed then, were still ultimately arraigned against nations, wars might still be lost or won and invasion still seemed the ultimate threat, not mutual annihilation.

In the face of these vast changes (which make us wonder what similar vast changes lie ahead in the next forty years) it is easy to overlook the importance of this essay. This lies in the fact that in the midst of the most destructive war in human history (a war whose first installment had taken place twenty years before and whose third installment may still take place) Hughan had the temerity to think the unthinkable. Not the unthinkable of total nuclear war but the alternative "unthinkable" of voluntarily chosen unilateral disarmament. When the world now all but completely accepts the rule of force between nations and when even the possibility of any kind of disarmament eludes us like a chimera, such a proposal may seem to most the height of folly.

We feel that we have learned a lesson in "realism" taught us by the Hitlers and Stalins of this world. But this so-called realism is as one-sided and unrealistic in its way as Hughan's "idealism" may seem in another way. Nations have gone so far in distrusting one another that we may not be
