AN INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

Michael Hornsby-Smith offers an overview of Catholic social thought focusing particularly on recent decades. While drawing on official teaching such as papal encyclicals and the pastoral letters of bishops’ conferences, he takes seriously the need for dialogue with secular thought. The book is organized in four stages. Part I outlines the variety of domestic and international injustices and seeks to offer a social analysis of the causes of these injustices. Part II offers a theological reflection on the characteristics of the kingdom of God which Christians are urged to seek. Part III reviews Catholic social thought in six main areas: human rights, the family and bioethical issues, economic life, social exclusion, authentic development and war and peace. Part IV completes the cycle with a consideration of appropriate social action responses to the injustices which the author has identified and analyzed.

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MICHAEL P. HORNSBY-SMITH
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I am aware that in attempting to cover such a wide range of issues I will inevitably have failed to take on board the latest evidence and thinking in the large number of disciplines relevant for this study. For this reason I view this book as a first attempt to address what I feel sure is an intimate connection between domestic and international issues of injustice. Hopefully it offers an approach which can be corrected, improved and built on by others more qualified than I am. Those errors which remain are entirely my own responsibility.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude permissions to quote widely from official papal and episcopal sources in Catholic Social Thought: The Documentary Heritage edited by David J. O’Brien and Thomas A. Shannon and published by Orbis in 1992.

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copyright administered by Continuum. Scriptural quotations have generally been taken from *The New Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyright 1985 by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House Inc. and used by permission of the publishers. While I have attempted to use gender-inclusive language, there is an inherent sexism in the English language versions of all official Catholic documents. On the whole, but with apologies, I have left quoted texts in their official form.

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To Lennie
With all my love
and to our four grandchildren,
Luke, Benedict, Katie and Douglas,
in the hope that one day they will take up the challenge
to struggle for justice and peace,
here on earth as in heaven.
Abbreviations and acronyms

AI
Amnesty International

AIDS
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ARVs
Antiretrovirals

ASI
AntiSlavery International

CAAT
Campaign Against the Arms Trade

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

CAP
Church Action on Poverty

CAP
Common Agricultural Policy

CASC
Catholic Agency for Social Concern (now merged into Caritas-Social Action)

CBCEW
Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales

CBI
Confederation of British Industry

CDF
(Sacred) Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

CEDAW
(UN) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

CERD
(UN) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

CFC
Chlorofluorocarbon

COMECE
Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Communities

CPAG
Child Poverty Action Group

CRC
(UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSO
Civil Society Organisation

DESO
Defence Export Services Organization

ECPAT
End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking

ECRI
European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance

EU
European Union

FCCC
Framework Convention on Climate Change

GATT
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GDP
Gross Domestic Product
### List of abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross National Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDI</td>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIPC</td>
<td>Heavily Indebted Poor Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IANSA</td>
<td>International Action Network on Small Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBRD</td>
<td>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDA</td>
<td>International Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>IIED</td>
<td>International Institute on Environment and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>JPIC</td>
<td>Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAW</td>
<td>Movement for the Abolition of War</td>
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<tr>
<td>MNC</td>
<td>Multinational Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHS</td>
<td>National Health Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>NJPN</td>
<td>National Justice and Peace Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCIPE</td>
<td>Catholic European Study and Information Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Old Testament</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLC</td>
<td>Public Limited Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>Purchasing Power Parity</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCM</td>
<td>Student Christian Movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMO</td>
<td>Social Movement Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>SVP</td>
<td>St Vincent de Paul Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS</td>
<td>Those on the Margins of Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNC</td>
<td>Transnational Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIPS</td>
<td>Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (Agreement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCTAD</td>
<td>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission (or Commissioner) for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN(O)</td>
<td>United Nations (Organization)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>United Nations Relief and Works Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>US(A)</td>
<td>United States (of America)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of abbreviations and acronyms

USCCB  US Catholic Conference of Bishops
WB     World Bank
WCC    World Council of Churches
WDM    World Development Movement
WEF    World Economic Forum
WIPO   World Intellectual Property Organization
WSF    World Social Forum
WTO    World Trade Organization
YCW    Young Christian Workers

VATICAN COUNCIL DOCUMENTS ETC

AA     Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity)
DH     Dignitatis Humanae (Declaration on Religious Freedom)
GS     Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the
       Modern World)
CCC    Catechism of the Catholic Church

PAPAL ENCYCLICALS ETC

Indicated by the initials of their Roman titles, e.g.

RN     Rerum Novarum (Leo XIII, 1891)
PIT    Pacem in Terris (John XXIII, 1963)
OA     Octogesima Adveniens (Paul VI, 1971)
LE     Laborem Exercens (John Paul II, 1981)
SRS    Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (John Paul II, 1987)
CA     Centesimus Annus (John Paul II, 1991)
VS     Veritatis Splendor (John Paul II, 1993)