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. HORNBY-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.

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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

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