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978-0-521-68199-5 - An Introduction to Catholic Social Thought

Michael P. Hornsby-Smith

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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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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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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)
CBCWE	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

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GNI	Gross National Income
HDI	Human Development Index
HIPC	Heavily 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
OCIEP	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)

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

PAPAL ENCYCLICALS ETC

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

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