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Planetary Perspectives for Teaching: A Bibliographic Essay

by Leonard S. Kenworthy

Have you ever had the feeling that you couldn't cope with all the news about the global community? Spewed out by the radio, television, magazines, and newspapers, it comes so fast and from so many places that people often feel overwhelmed. We all have such feelings, even the so-called experts.

There are several ways for teachers, librarians, and others to confront this situation. The first is to concentrate on one or more global themes, such as homes around the world, the schools on our planet, or world trade. A second way is to focus on a world problem, such as pollution, population, poverty, or prejudice. A third method is to specialize on a specific nation or cultural area. A fourth approach is to view the world as a whole, a community—to develop a global frame of reference or a planetary perspective.

This bibliographical essay takes the fourth approach, suggesting some of the books, pamphlets, and other materials which could help people gain a global perspective. The resources cited are largely introductory and popular or semi-popular rather than scholarly.

Some Background Materials

Two books top my list for teachers and other adults, as well as for students. One is Lester R. Brown's **World Without Borders** (Random House, 1972. 395 pp., \$8.95; and in paperback from Vintage Books, \$2.95). The other is Isaac Asimov's **Earth: Our Crowded Spaceship** (Hard cover, Dun-Donnelley Company, 1974, 160 pp., \$6.95; and in paperback from the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, \$2.50).

Both books are provocative, highly readable, and present a planetary perspective. Both should be on the shelves of every school library and classroom teacher in the United States, to be read, re-read, and pondered.

Lester Brown's **World Without Borders**, written for high school students and adults, is crammed with relevant, up-to-date information, presented in an easily digestible fashion. Its main theme is that a unified global society must be regarded as an "inevitable reality" rather than as fiction or an ideal.

Its five main divisions indicate its scope: "Inventory of Mankind's Problems," "Keys to Our Future," "Creating a Global Economy," "Creating a Global Infrastructure," and "Shaping the Future." One of the most knowledgeable writers on world affairs today, Brown is a skilled and provocative reporter.

The Asimov volume, shorter and written in a much simpler style, is intended for younger readers; but it is also a splendid introduction for older students, teachers, and other adults. Its short chapters focus on a single theme so that it can be consulted on various topics as well as read as an entire book. Among them are: "People," "Fire," "Agriculture," "Industry," "Energy," "Birth Rate," "Education," and "Changes." The book is illustrated with photos, charts, and maps.

A very different approach is contained in Preston E. James' **One World Perspective** (John Wiley and Sons, 1965, 167 pp., \$4.95). The eminent geographer comments briefly on what he considers the 11 cultural areas of the world, thus combining an anthropological and geographical approach. Although the date of publication is 1965, the book is still valuable for older high school students, college students, and teachers.

Because world struggles have shifted largely from an east-west to a north-south confrontation, Robert S. McNamara's **One Hundred Countries: Two Billion People: The Dimensions of Development** (Praeger, 1973, 140 pp., \$1.95) is especially timely. This volume by the president of the World Bank stresses the economic aspects of world community but is not limited to that topic, inasmuch as development covers such a vast field.

Three publications of the Foreign Policy Association are also recommended for a small library on the global community. The first is the annual paperback on **Great Issues—1976** (Allyn and Bacon, 1976, 96 pp., \$2.40). Among this year's topics are: "Arabs vs. Israelis," "Our Mediterranean Commitments," "Latin America and the U.S.," "Asia After the Vietnam War," and "The American Dream Among Nations." Special features of this pamphlet are the cartoons and maps, the brief annotated bibliographies on each subject, and the

"Opinion Ballots." It could well serve as either textbook or outside reading for high school classes in world problems.

Two Foreign Policy Headline Books with a global approach are Lincoln P. and Irirangi C. Bloomfield's **The U.S.: Interdependence and World Order** and Lester R. Brown's **The Interdependence of Nations** (Foreign Policy Association, 64 and 79 pp. respectively, \$1.40 each). In his pamphlet Lester Brown writes on economic, ecological, resource, technological, and social interdependence, with an introductory chapter on "Only One Earth" and a concluding chapter on "Toward a Global Community."

A Few Specialized Publications

In addition to the overviews of the international community today, any library should have a few more specialized books. A volume which should shatter the complacency of any reader is Robert L. Heilbroner's **An Inquiry Into the Human Prospects** (Norton, 1974, 150 pp., \$5.95). In it this famous economist examines the "civilizational malaise" of our time and emerges with the view that "the long-term solution requires nothing less than the gradual abandonment of the lethal techniques, the uncongenial lifeways, and the dangerous mentality of industrial civilization itself."

Another provocative book is Lester R. Brown's **In the Human Interest: A Strategy to Stabilize World Population** (Norton, 1974, 189 pp., \$6.95). The main thrust of this volume is that "We seek national solutions to national problems when the only feasible solutions are international and in some cases global." As usual Brown uses an interdisciplinary approach in his diagnosis of the population problem.

Two highly controversial volumes produced by The Club of Rome's Project on the Predicament of Mankind are **The Limits to Growth** (Universe Books, 2nd Edition, 1975, 207 pp., \$7.50; or paperback, New American Library, 1972, \$1.75) and **Mankind at the Turning Point** (Dutton, 1974, 210 pp., hard cover, \$12.95; and paperback, \$4.95). These two reports are based on computer projections into the future on population, agricultural production, natural resources, industrial production, and pollution. And the forecast is grim.

Among the assumptions stated in the second report are that:

1. the current crises are not temporary;
2. the solutions can be developed only in a global context;
3. such solutions cannot be achieved through traditional approaches in economics;
4. it is possible to resolve these crises through co-operation rather than confrontations.

The report calls for the development of a world consciousness by every person on our planet, an attitude

toward nature based on harmony rather than conquest, and a sense of identification with future generations.

If only one volume could be on your library shelves to deal with the political aspects of the global community, my choice would be **World Tensions: Conflict and Accommodation**, by Elton Atwater, Kent Forster, and Jan S. Prynola (Prentice-Hall, 1972, 396 pp., \$5.95 in paperback). One of the special features of that volume is the presentation of many points of view on a continuum.

Materials for Teachers

In the last few years several educational organizations have issued yearbooks, special issues of their journals, and other pertinent materials on global education. A few of these have been selected for inclusion here. Inquiries should be made about other resources which they have but which are not listed in this article.

The Association for Childhood Education International (3615 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016) recently highlighted intercultural and international education for a period of three years in their Neighbors Unlimited Project. To foster that project, they produced several publications which are of special interest to elementary school teachers and librarians: **Learning to Live As Neighbors** (96 pp. \$2.75); **Suggestions for Implementing Project Neighbors Unlimited** (8 pp., 50 cents); **Children and International Education** (75 cents); and **Meet Some of Your Four Billion Neighbors at a Film Festival** (16 pp., 50 cents).

Another group which has been concerned about developing a planetary perspective in teachers is the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Suite 1100, 1701 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006). In 1973 that organization devoted its yearbook to **Education for Peace: Focus on Mankind** (237 pp., \$7.50). It also published several documents from the World Conference on Education held at Asilomar, California in 1970; two of those still in print are Joan E. Moyer's **Bases for World Understanding and Cooperation: Suggestions for Teaching the Young Child** (27 pp., \$1.00) and Leonard Kenworthy's **The International Dimension of Education** (120 pp., \$2.25) which is concerned with curriculum proposals from the kindergarten level through colleges.

At the present time the Center for War/Peace Studies (218 East 17th, New York City 10003) has the most comprehensive collection of teaching materials with a planetary perspective of any organization in the United States. Their publications include Robert F. Hanvey's **An Attainable Global Perspective** (1975, 28 pp., \$1.00), a highly honed statement of the philosophical bases for teaching about the world as a system. The Center also published **Intercom**, a magazine which highlights a different topic four times a year; among its many issues

are **Teaching Toward Global Perspectives, Using the Concept Interdependence to Teach About the Environment and Urbanization**, and **Teaching About Global Issues Through Simulation**. Each title is \$1.50. Teachers and librarians would do well to ask for a complete listing.

In recent years the Foreign Policy Association (345 East 46th, New York City 10017) has drastically curtailed its school program. But before that action was taken, it produced five small books for teachers which are outstanding in the field of international education. They are David C. King's **International Education for Spaceship Earth** (1971, 184 pp., \$2.50); William Nesbitt's **Interpreting the Newspaper in the Classroom: Foreign News and World Views** (1970, 128 pp., \$2.50); Nesbitt's **Teaching About War and War Prevention** (1971, 166 pp., \$2.50); his **Simulation Games for the Social Studies Classroom** (1971, 144 pp., \$2.50); and Stanley Seaberg's **Teaching the Comparative Approach to American Studies** (1971, 144 pp., \$2.50).

A relatively new organization is the Mid-America Program for Global Perspective in Education (513 North Park Avenue, Bloomington, Ind. 47401), headed by James Becker. Among its extremely helpful publications are David Victor and Richard Kraft's **Global Perspectives Handbook** (\$1.00) Fred Risinger and David Victor's **Global Powderkeg** (\$2.00), a simulation unit on the Middle East in 1975, and Patricia Basa and Tony Codianni's bibliography, entitled **Global Perspectives** (\$1.00). Some of their materials may be obtained merely for mailing costs.

One of the most comprehensive and yet succinct statements of the goals of global education is contained in the pamphlet **Education for a Global Society**, written by James Becker and sold by the Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation (Eighth and Union, Box 789, Bloomington, Ind. 47401) for 50 cents.

The School Program of the Institute for World Order, formerly the World Law Fund, (1140 Avenue of the Americas, New York City 10036) is another active organization in the field of world studies, headed by Betty Reardon. It publishes a service bulletin for teachers, called **Ways and Means**, which costs \$2.00 for a lifetime. In addition, it is publishing a series of attractive and useful publications for students on world problems. Titles to date include **The Cold War and Beyond; Peacekeeping; The Struggle for Human Rights: A Question of Values; and War Criminals, War Victims: Andersonville, Nuremberg, Hiroshima, My Lai**. Each is available from Random House for \$1.32 per copy.

Learning Resources in International Studies is a new, cooperative program sponsored by the International Studies Association, Syracuse University, the New York State Education Department, and the Council for Inter-

cultural Studies and Programs. Its many materials, focusing primarily on the college level, are sold by the Foreign Area Materials Center, Suite 1026, 60 East 42nd Street, New York City 10017.

One of their most valuable documents for teachers is Ward Morehouse's comprehensive and perceptive booklet, **A New Civic Literacy: American Education and Global Interdependence** (1976, 30 pp., \$1.00). The topics with which this center deals are indicated by three titles: **The City in India** (1973, \$1.00), **Foreign-Policy Decision-Making** (\$1.50), and **Introduction to the Global Society: Interdisciplinary Perspectives** (1974, 47 pp., \$2.00).

The National Council for the Social Studies (1515 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22209) has long been active in promoting the international dimension of education. Three of its outstanding publications in that field are its 38th yearbook on **International Dimensions in the Social Studies** (1968, 343 pp., cloth \$5.50, and paperback \$4.50), edited by James M. Becker and Howard D. Mehlinger; **International Learning and International Education in a Global Age** (1975, 104 pp., \$5.50) and **Teaching Youth About Conflict and War** (1973, 100 pp., \$3.00).

In recent months the U.S. Committee for UNICEF (331 East 38th, New York City 10016) has begun to issue some outstanding materials through the efforts of its educational secretary, Donald Morris. They are especially welcome since materials on the international dimension of education in elementary schools are comparatively scarce. In addition to Asimov's **Earth: Our Crowded Spaceship** already mentioned, the U.S. Committee has issued two kits for teachers which are extremely valuable: **Teaching About Interdependence in a Peaceful World** and **Teaching About Hunger**. Each is \$1.50.

Magazines

Two magazines are worthy of special mention in developing a planetary perspective. One is **Atlas World Press Review** (230 Park Avenue, New York City 10017). In each issue it reprints articles from newspapers and magazines in many parts of the world; subscriptions are \$14 per year. The other is **The Unesco Courier**, available through Unipub (Box 433, Murray Hill Station, New York City 10016) at \$9 per year.

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