

# The Struggle Against the Bomb. One World or None: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement Through 1953, vol. 1

vol. 1

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Author: Peter Brock  
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## Main content

Article Preview :

This study originated in the author's concern, first aroused over three decades ago during his college years, as to the consequences of the atomic arms race for the fate of mankind. Among his previous works in the area of peace history is a valuable monograph on the American peace movement from the 1930s to the 1980s (*Rebels against War: The American Peace Movement, 1933-1983*, 1984). The present book, however, is much wider in scope, since Wittner's goal is now, in a series of volumes, to give a concise account of the development of the world nuclear disarmament movement--from the launching by the United States of the first atomic bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II to the present--and, in addition, to investigate the reasons why this movement, in its various phases, proved unsuccessful in freeing the world from the danger of nuclear annihilation. Some readers, he notes, may think it "an odd time to examine the struggle against the Bomb". Yet, as he points out correctly such a study is not of purely historical interest but retains its contemporary relevance. For, "although the nuclear menace has been contained in important ways, it remains alive and well". The question still faces humanity: one world or none?

Because of the leading role played by the United States in world politics after 1945, the activities of the American antinuclear movement and the nuclear policies of successive U.S. administrations figure prominently in the story unfolded by Wittner. But he has endeavored also to provide adequate coverage of the nuclear disarmament movements emerging in other parts of the world. He admits indeed that this proved a more difficult task for "one person, with limited language skills and little funding," than he had first envisaged. His narrative shows that he has been successful nevertheless in overcoming at least the major obstacles to producing a global history of the movement against nuclear weapons as far as 1953, at which date the present volume ends. His twenty-five page bibliography, as well as the endnotes, are witness to the breadth of his reading in the secondary literature as well as to his extensive use of manuscript sources drawn from archives located in seven countries (but most intensively in the United States).

The book opens with an introductory section that goes back to 1903, when British chemist Frederick Soddy had envisaged the possibility of inventing "inconceivably . . . powerful" explosives as a result of harnessing for destructive purposes the energy created by radioactivity. Further warnings followed from other distinguished scientists. But it was not until the United States entered the war against the Axis Powers in 1941 that a race began to produce the atomic bomb. Those scientists who agreed to work on the project sometimes did so with an uneasy conscience; there were still others who, foreseeing even more clearly the dire consequences likely to result in the long term from such research, refused to have anything at all to do with it....

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Confronting the Bomb tells the dramatic, inspiring story of how citizen activism helped curb the nuclear arms race and prevent nuclear war. This abbreviated version of Lawrence Wittner's award-winning trilogy, *The Struggle Against the Bomb*, shows how a worldwide, grassroots campaign- the largest social movement of modern times- challenged the nuclear priorities of the great powers and, ultimately, thwarted their nuclear ambitions. Based on massive research in the files of peace and disarmament organizations and in formerly top secret government records, extensive interviews with antinucle The Struggle Against the Bomb: One World or None - A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement Through 1953 v. 1 (Stanford Nuclear Age Series) Paperback – 1 Mar 1995. by Lawrence S. Wittner (Author). Drawing upon previously classified materials, it shows that protest against the Bomb helped to stigmatize it, thus making it increasingly difficult for national leaders to promote or sanction nuclear war. Two additional volumes, also available from Stanford University Press, will bring the story up to the present. *Toward Nuclear Abolition: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement, 1971-Present* (Stanford Nuclear Age Series). Lawrence S. Wittner. Paperback. \$38.00. *Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster*. Adam Higginbotham. 4.8 out of 5 stars 3,126. #1 Best Seller in Nuclear Engineering. Paperback. \$12.79. "A perceptive account of the effort to control nuclear weapons in the years following World War II. It is the first of three volumes in an ambitious work that tells the story of the struggle to contain the atom more fully than ever before....The best description that exists of efforts to promote disarmament around the globe."—The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. "Wittner's work demonstrates truly prodigious research. *The Struggle Against the Bomb: One World or None* by Lawrence S. Wittner; 1 edition; First published in 1995. Are you sure you want to remove **The Struggle Against the Bomb: One World or None** from your list? There's no description for this book yet. Can you add one? 1 edition First published in 1995. *The Struggle Against the Bomb: One World or None: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement Through 1953* (Stanford Nuclear Age Series). January 1995, Stanford University Press. Paperback in English - New Ed edition. Within the world federalist movement, too, the hydrogen bomb generated strong apprehensions. Meeting in September 1954, the World Association of Parliamentarians for world Government, with representatives from twenty-one countries, warned that "rival nations are now engaged in the most dangerous arms race of all time. A war fought with nuclear weapons would annihilate whole countries, and indeed threaten the existence of human life." That same month, leaders from these and other peace groups attended a meeting of the loosely knit International Liaison Committee of Organizations fo