Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace

A historical survey and critical re-evaluation by

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Pacifism, the just war, the crusade—these are the three attitudes toward war which have been espoused by the Christian church. In this discussion, Dr. Bainton traces the history of each attitude and evaluates its importance and effect. Beginning with the attitudes toward war and peace in antiquity and concluding with a look at present-day ideals, Dr. Bainton examines the stands taken through history by the prominent thinkers of the times, by Christian saints, popes, and ministers, by emperors and other officials, and by the writers of the Old and New Testaments. His purpose is to determine which of these attitudes is relevant to the atomic age—concerned with the question of conscience, its claims and its rights, and with the compatibility of military service and the Christian ethic.

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