

struggle between conventional forces with the stronger contestant the usual victor. Schell intimates that war no longer contains any notion of "stronger," since both sides can annihilate each other, and in fact, he maintains that even the word "war" is in effect obsolete.

Among the strongest points of the book are Schell's directly facing a threat that most people are reluctant to consider and his demonstration that although self-interest is beneficial to a certain extent, there is a point when self-interest becomes self-destruction. His theme—the difficulty of social adaptation to scientific development—is also important.

The weak features include his often wordy writing style, and his overwhelming emphasis on extinction. The argument which I found most difficult to accept was his proposed solution to the nuclear issue. He claims that the only way to solve the conflict is essentially to reinvent modern politics. This overlooks the fact that except in early revolutionary stages, politics results more from tradition than from contemporary attitudes.

The book, while not recommended for the classroom, could be a good reference for science and social studies teachers alike, because it presents basic emotional and philosophical attitudes toward nuclear weapons.

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THE GREEN PLANET: THE STORY OF THE PLANT LIFE ON EARTH

ed. by David M. Moore. 1982. Cambridge University Press (32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022). 288 p. \$27.50 hardback.

Several years ago, a Pennsylvania college offered the graduate biology course, "Plant Ecology and Physical Geography." *The Green Planet: The Story of the Plant Life on Earth* is an excellent textbook or reference book for such a college course. The publisher states:

Green Planet is an illustrated encyclopedia of plant ecology and geography. It demonstrates the diversity of the world's plant life, describes how it arose and has changed through geological time and considers the factors governing its occurrence and distribution today. . . . *Green Planet* describes the development of the disciplines of plant ecology and plant geography, reviews the historic and continuing dependence of Man on plants and assesses his im-

pact on the world of plants so essential to his survival.

Although the publisher indicates that this single volume encyclopedia is written for the general public, it is doubtful a layman would be able to grasp fully the wealth of technical and scientific information it presents. However, this book is so clearly illustrated with photographs and color diagrams that it becomes a valuable source for these reasons alone. The book's related topics are formed into seven chapters instead of the usual alphabetical format for an encyclopedia. Chapters one and two, and an appendix containing biographies of some of the major figures in the development of plant ecology and plant geography, present a complete historical record of botany. However, many scientific methods discussed here are too detailed for general reading and are more suited for technical research. Chapter three offers an excellent section on the geological record of plants, but its discussion and its subtopic, adaptation, could have been expanded. Chapters four through seven contain excellent articles on various environmental factors, vegetation zones, biomes, distribution patterns, and man's domestication of plants and his impact on vegetation types.

The book, in the editor's opinion, has an international flavor, with photographs taken in West Germany and Canada and art production done in Italy and England. The entire book was printed and bound in Japan. Fourteen of the 30 contributors were from England. Nine are from the University of Reading where David Moore chairs the Plant Sciences House Committee and is deputy director of the Plant Science Botanic Garden. To the reviewer, this choice of authors does not show a true international group as the editor indicates.

The book is printed on quality stock, making its photographs and diagrams very brilliant, its text easy to read, and its shelf-life long. This volume is highly recommended for senior high school and college reference, as well as professional use. However, a standard encyclopedia would still be more useful to the general public.

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MEGATRENDS; TEN NEW DIRECTIONS TRANSFORMING OUR LIVES

by John Naisbitt. 1982. Warner Books, Inc. (75 Rockefeller Plaza,

New York, NY 10019). 252 p. \$15.50 hardback.

The structure of society changes constantly with time. In some periods, the direction of reorganization becomes difficult to understand much less predict. We are in such a time of transition and uncertainty. Through detailed analysis of America today, John Naisbitt, an experienced social forecaster, speaker, and advisor, makes predictions for the future. He does so in a positive manner that dispels apprehensions and fears so often associated with change by clearly explaining the forces that are reshaping society.

"Trends, like horses, are easier to ride in the direction they are already going." This quotation captures the essence of the entire book. By understanding our societal shifts, we are better able to alter present lifestyles to accommodate the changes rather than resist the inevitable.

Chapter one begins with the major transformation occurring now in our society: the shift from an industrial economy to one based on information. There is no escaping the computer revolution. Directly following is the movement from forced technology to high tech/high touch. As increased amounts of technology become installed in society, human interaction will take on a new value and importance.

The next trend examined is the expansion of our economic horizons from a national to a world level. I found this chapter particularly enlightening. It stresses the fact that the U.S. has lost its industrial dominance to Japan. A helpful analogy puts this into perspective. Japan is number one, but that status is like a new world champion in a declining sport. In addition, the section welcomes the increased economic interdependence with other countries as a means for achieving peace. Any global problems are likely to be solved with reason instead of weapons.

The next area of focus is from a short term to a long term outlook. No longer will the future's health and prosperity be sacrificed in order to capitalize on present opportunities.

The ensuing four trends concern the movement toward individualism. Centralized structures are becoming decentralized. In politics we are moving from a representative democracy to a participatory democracy. The most powerful government bodies are now found at the state and local level. The decision making process involves