

Scholastic Opinions

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Instead of uninformatively dismissing our involvement in Vietnam as simply an intrinsically evil or ghastly action on the part of the administration, I think it would clearly be more fruitful if we consider, precisely, the reason we are behaving in such a manner and then allow ourselves to discover a humane and rational remedy.

War, any war, involves little more than a physically manifested kind of fallacious logic, a fallacy commonly known as "ad baculum," that is, that "might makes right." If one people or nation cannot come to a concrescent notion with another people or nation about the way men should conduct their lives, then the resulting action, if those opposing notions are held very dearly and vehemently, is war.

But what is, in essence, the stimulus of such action? The key word is notion or idea. It is obvious that the present war, (or for that matter, many previous wars) is being waged to keep strong and pure a notion or idea which the aggressor (in the present instance, we, the U.S.A.) holds in the esteem of sacredness and will not, at the cost of thousands upon thousands of its citizens, relinquish or attempt to compromise by modification. Buy why? Is it not true that ideas or notions are abstractions and that in numerous instances in the past such ideas have found completely in error or at least in need of augmentation or reformulation.

Hitler, proceeding on the idea propounded by Nietzsche, that is, of a slave and master morality and of the idea of the survival of the fittest, abstracted from evolutionary theory, slaughtered six million lamb-like Jews; he saw himself as doing his state and world a great service. His insane scheme was an idea.

But then why do we too insist upon slaughtering men, women and children by the thousands at the request of some unscrup-

ulous man and committee of men in power simply because they and we have a notion that some poisonous and noxious force is just short of engulfing the entire planet and choking off all heretofore known free Society.

We are killing and letting ourselves be killed for an abstraction, a notion, an idea, a particular perspective that we hold so tenaciously that we stupidly and unwittingly put to death anyone who may appear to change it.