

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ROBERT C. NORTH

(1915 - 2002)

Emeritus Professor of Political Science Robert C. [Bob] North died July 15, 2002 at age 87. He is mourned by his colleagues in the Department and will be missed here and abroad by scholars studying international politics, conflict and cooperation.

Bob North received his B.A. in 1936 at Union College in language and literature. He taught at Milford Academy until he enlisted in the Army in 1942; over the course of his Army service he rose through the ranks, received a commission and completed his service as a captain. His wartime experiences, as an air-ground liaison officer in the Pacific theater and with Filipino guerrilla forces fighting the Japanese engendered a lifelong interest in international conflict.

World War II transformed Bob from a student of literature into a political scientist. After the war he came to Stanford for graduate work in International Relations. At the same time he joined the Hoover Institution as an Asian specialist. While at Hoover he completed an MA in international relations and, in 1957, his Ph.D. in political science. With the completion of his doctorate he joined the Political Science Department as an Associate Professor. He served in the Stanford department until his retirement in 1984.

In the 1950's Professor North began to raise questions about the then reigning assumption that the "natural state" of the international system was conflict between nations and that cooperation and alliances were only temporary arrangements lasting as long as they served the interests of the nations involved. In place of this assumption he proposed that conflict and cooperation were conditioned by the structure of the international system. As features of the international system, cooperation and conflict between nations could persist until the structure of the system changed.

His analytic approach emphasized that relations between nations could best be observed and understood when abstracted from the full rich historical context. This led him to pioneer in the application of quantitative methods to the study of cooperation and conflict between nations. His hypothesis that national leaders reveal their intentions in the language they choose to use in their diplomatic exchanges and messages to other national leaders led to the development of "content analysis" as a tool which would facilitate the application of social-psychological insights in the study of foreign policy decision making. Among the crises to which he applied his analytic techniques were the Bosnia and Balkan crises of 1907 and 1908, the European crisis that led to the outbreak of World War I, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He completed this line of research at the end of the 1960's; from this point he worked on the connections among perceptions, capabilities, and actions. In the 1970's and 1980's he made important contributions to three topic areas: (a) conflict analysis; (b) conceptualization of interconnections between natural and social systems; and (c) making the 'environment' an integral part of the study of international relations.

In the 1990's he began work on the so-called 'Fourth Image.' This refers to the global system as a whole, this work is important contribution in that it seeks to broaden the conventionally state-

centric view of international relations and develop methods for tracking the implications of this expansive viewpoint. His 1990 book *War, Peace, Survival* presents the argument for the Fourth Image.

His theoretical and empirical work led to ten books and a hundred plus articles. His contribution is nicely illustrated by his 1975 book *Nations in Conflict: Domestic Growth and International Violence*, by his 1990 book *War, Peace, Survival* and by his 1992 book *The Challenge of Japan before World War II*. Professor North was well regarded for his inter-disciplinary approach to international relations and to the blending of theoretical analytical, historical, empirical and quantitative modes of inquiry.

His four decades of quality scholarship were recognized, in 1993, by the American Political Science Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award, in 1998, by the Université de Genève, in Switzerland which awarded Professor North the Prix Mondial Nissim Habib for contributions to the study of international relations. In 1998 he received the International Studies Association's Distinguished Scholar Award.

Bob will be remembered by his colleagues as an outstanding departmental citizen, by Stanford undergraduates as an inspiring teacher, and by graduate students who took delight in his wit and the quality of his mind.

We propose this memorial resolution to the Stanford University Academic Senate and ask that upon passage it be transmitted to his wife, Dorothy, to his four children, eleven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. We share their loss.

Richard Brody