

## In Memoriam

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#### Quincy Wright

"An institution is the lengthened shadow of a man. . . ." These words of Ralph Waldo Emerson were recalled on August 31, 1970, at the 8th World Congress of Political Science at Munich. When the members of its plenary session rose to honor the first President and co-founder of the International Political Science Association, they knew that they were standing in the lengthened shadow of Quincy Wright.

And Quincy Wright was there to accept our homage—white-haired, pink-cheeked, in his eightieth year, and full of spirit and activity. He was utterly free from pose and pretense, pomp and cant. He spoke to the meeting, not about himself but about political science and about the job to be done, and he told us in effect to get on with it—to carry forward the many lines of work which we knew he had started.

For we knew then, and we know now, that we are standing in his shadow in more ways than one. Among his many contributions to political science, three stand out.

First and foremost, he was one of the leaders in directing serious intellectual attention to the scientific aspects of the study of politics, and thus to the emergence of a genuine Political Science in the United States. In the 1920's and

1930's, together with Charles Merriam and later Harold Lasswell, he was one of the leaders of the great Chicago School of political science, which has had such a profound influence not only on our profession and academic discipline but eventually on political thinking and even on the practice of government in the United States and other countries.

Quincy Wright knew the law but he sought to know the actual conditions and consequences of the laws with which he was dealing. In his work, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to realism and to the search for critical and verifiable knowledge. He was committed to critical reflection upon facts and patterns of relationships. He sought knowledge that would be shareable and measurable, open to all and testable by anyone who had learned the necessary skills.

This commitment made him a pioneer in the

systematic development of research methods in the study of international relations. His book on *The Study of International Relations* (1955) today is still the best and most comprehensive work in this field. A new edition of this important book, perhaps with some of the recent literature added to its bibliography, would be a real contribution to our intellectual and teaching resources.

Quincy Wright's second commitment was to the application of knowledge, and to the particular search for knowledge likely to be applicable to one of mankind's most pressing problems: the safeguarding of peace. This commitment led to his second and perhaps his greatest contribution. It made Quincy Wright, alongside with Lewis F. Richardson, one of the two principal founders of *peace research* as we now know it—the systematic search for the understanding of war and peace as social processes, with the analytic tools of social science, for the purpose of their eventual control and the permanent establishment of peace among states and nations.

It was a commitment of staggering boldness for a hard-headed New England Yankee to adopt, but New Englanders have not been noted for timidity; and Quincy Wright devoted to this commitment much of the work of a lifetime. In the 1920's and early 1930's, much of his interest centered on the League of Nations and on international law, and he was to return to a major concern with international law again in the later 1950's and early 1960's. But in the mid-1930's he turned his main attention to the study of war and of the causes and conditions giving rise to it. He was unwilling to leave wars to the historians, and to the politicians who resent what they call "second-guessing" and "iffy questions" when they are asked what else could have been done to avoid the catastrophic slaughter. Quincy Wright wanted to know whatever could be known about what caused wars, as a means to preventive or remedial action. His spirit was kin to that of the great medical scholars of the past who wrote over the doors to their dissection rooms "Here the dead teach the living." He, too, felt that we are morally obligated to try to learn from past wars and their victims.

His monumental work, *A Study of War*, was begun in the mid-1930's, and it first appeared in 1942, in the midst of a new war that had broken out during its writing. Like Hugo Grotius whose *On the Law of War and Peace* was published in 1625

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during the Thirty Years War, Quincy Wright had written a work that was to outlast in its significance the war that had clouded its first publication. A quarter century after its first appearance, *A Study of War* has become a classic. No one seriously interested in peace research can afford to ignore it. It is the most comprehensive and instructive book on its topic. The appendices to the full-length edition in themselves offer an education in the relevant social science of its period, and the list of research assistants now reads like a part of a *Who's Who* of leaders in American Political Science—a reminder of the fact that Quincy Wright cared about people as well as about research. When *A Study of War* was published again in 1965, with a thoughtful new chapter on international politics since 1942, its timeliness was undiminished, and it will remain so, I believe, for many years.

From the study of war, Quincy Wright turned his attention to the possible foundations of a world at peace. In 1948, he edited and partly wrote a volume, *The World Community*, based on a conference and lecture series which he had organized, and which brought together some of the best thought of these hopeful years. Here again, the book has remained to this day one of the best on its subject; here, too, Quincy Wright is continuing to teach us.

Science and scholarship, as Quincy Wright knew, are more than rows of books. First and foremost, they consist in the sustained intellectual activity of men and women, and in the activity of organizations which foster their cooperation. More than many other scholars of his great productivity, Quincy Wright devoted time and care to the human organizations in his fields of interest, and he gave freely to them of his leadership. As President of the American Association of University Professors (1944-48), the American Political Science Association (1949-50), the International Political Science Association (1950-53), and the American Society for International Law (1955-57), he did more for the organizations and concerns of his colleagues than any other scholar of his generation. At the Eighth World Congress of Political Science and in our profession in the United States we could apply to Quincy Wright the words written in St. Paul's Cathedral on the tomb of its designer, Sir Christopher Wren, *Si requiris monumentum, circumspice*—"If you seek a monument, just look around."

His profound scholarly contributions did not keep

Quincy Wright out of the great political struggles of his time. He was an internationalist. In the 1920's and early 1930's, he was an advocate of international organization. In the 1930's, he took upon himself his share in the struggle against Fascism, in the effort to aid the victims of Nazism and Fascism, and in the great mobilization of American opinion that in the end helped to decide the outcome of World War II.

He stood for what he believed to be true and right, even if it led him to oppose the ruling opinion of the day and the policy of the government of his country. In the 1950's, he was an opponent of what then was called McCarthyism—the government-aided persecution of men and women for their opinions on mere suspicion, and the then rampant political technique of intimidation, repression and the big lie in the name of Anti-Communism—and in the mid-1960's he was among the opponents of the escalating war in Vietnam. Here was a distinguished government consultant who had not been corrupted by his official contacts.

Quincy Wright gave his life for peace, for six long decades. He gave it in his studies, in organizing and leading research teams, in advising government, in the public arena, and in long hours of hard work and lonely thought. He never stopped. Retirement from Chicago only sent him to carry on his work at new places, at New Delhi and Ankara ab, at Makerere University in Uganda and at Cornell, and most of all at the University of Virginia.

In pioneering in peace research, in advancing knowledge about war and peace, in moving academic opinion and public opinion toward peace, Quincy Wright by 1970 had done more than any other living scholar to advance the cause of peace. Scholars from many countries nominated him for the Nobel Prize for Peace, in the hope that the Norwegian Parliament might see fit, for the first time in the history of the Prize, to bestow it on a scholar in political science.

On October 17 the question became moot, when Quincy Wright died peacefully after a brief illness.

Now death has stopped him. It has stopped the great and lively mind that still so recently had produced significant contributions in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* and in the Publications of the University of Denver. We have lost a great man, a good man, and the best kind of American

there was. His mind lives on, in his work, his students, and his students' students. The great task he set himself—to help to understand war and to abolish it—is still before us. Our hearts go out to those whose love sustained him for so long—Louise Wright, his wife, Rosalind Wright Harris, his daughter, and Christopher Wright, his son. But Quincy Wright's memory and voice remain in our thoughts and in our hearts, telling us to get on with the task he has left us.

Karl Deutsch  
Harvard University

### **Vernon J. Puryear**

Vernon J. Puryear, professor emeritus of political science at the University of California, Davis, died in Norman, Oklahoma, after a brief illness, on November 10, 1970. At the time of his death he was serving as Visiting Professor of History at the University of Oklahoma.

Professor Puryear was born in Sulphur Springs, Oklahoma, in 1901. He received his A.B. degree from Baylor University, an M.A. from the University of Missouri, and the Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. His initial academic appointment was at Albany College in Oregon. Later he taught at Humboldt State College. In 1937 Professor Puryear was appointed to the faculty of the University of California, Davis, and from that date until 1952, except for the war years when he taught on the Berkeley campus, Professor Puryear was chairman of the Department of History and Political Science on the Davis campus. As the senior social scientist at Davis, he played an important role in planning the creation of a College of Letters and Science, which came to fruition in 1951.

Beginning in 1952 Professor Puryear taught courses in political science and, for many years, he had sole responsibility for offerings in the fields of international relations and comparative government. His teaching will be remembered by many and perhaps especially by students aspiring to careers in the Foreign Service. An inter-departmental major in international relations was the work of Professor Puryear, and the program was elected by many students, some of whom embarked upon successful careers in government service and teaching.

Professor Puryear's publications, in addition to articles and reviews, include four important books on the diplomacy of major European powers in the Near East. His book, *England, Russia, and the Straits Question, 1844-1856*, was awarded the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize of the American Historical Association in 1931. All of his major scholarly works were widely reviewed and were characterized by probing analyses of neglected archival records.

Clyde E. Jacobs  
University of California, Davis