



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

Hawks and Doves

True Americanism: Green Berets and War Resisters: A Study of Commitment by David Mark Mantell

Review by: Richard J. Margolis

Change, Vol. 6, No. 10 (Winter, 1974/1975), p. 62

Published by: [Taylor & Francis, Ltd.](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40176660>

Accessed: 30/10/2012 15:26

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Taylor & Francis, Ltd. is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Change*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

complaints. And when it turns out that someone is lying—that in a way they both have been lying—the walls come crashing noisily down. The situation is worsened by Brian's amazing ineptitude at applied domestic diplomacy and Erica's discovery that she can intervene in his affairs even though she has thrown him out of the house.

Its predictability is the novel's major weakness. From the premise of Brian Tate's infidelity everything else proceeds by common logic. Nothing very surprising happens to these basically decent and intelligent people, although Brian and Erica are characters drawn to perfection and Ms. Lurie has an unerring eye for the dirty-laundry aspects of marital breakup. And what does happen is often very funny.

A second weakness is her tendency at times to adopt the tone of a sociological treatise (title: *Campus Life in America in the Late 1960s*). Many wars rage at Corinth, in addition to the war between men and women: wars between parent and child, teacher and student, the Ivory Tower and the alley. The cast gets involved in Women's Lib, Eastern philosophy, and antiwar protest. Ms. Lurie's descriptions of the agonies of failure struck me as terribly accurate; I would have preferred more stirring around in that agony, but then tragedy would have threatened to poke its nose into the affairs of ordinary mortals.

The novel is not truly comic and consequently not bound to produce firm resolutions, or dissolutions. True to its subjects, it ends with their establishing a delicate balance, maybe a lasting one, maybe not. Ms. Lurie seems to be saying that clear victories are impossible to come by these days. A truce is the best we can hope for.

—Ken Krabbenhoft

KEN KRABbenhOFT is a free-lance writer based in New York.

Hawks and Doves

True Americanism: Green Berets and War Resisters—a Study of Commitment by David Mark Mantell. New York: Teachers College Press, 285 pages, \$10 (hardcover), \$5.95 (paperback).

We learn from David Mantell's well-conceived study that upbringing makes

patriots of us all, but in disparate styles. Some of us become flag wavers, others flag burners. To oversimplify in a way that Mantell is careful not to do, authoritarian parents produce gung-ho Green Berets while permissive parents produce gung-ho war resisters.

Here, then, we have two groups serving as antipodal metaphors for the disastrous sixties—the elite Special Forces invented by the Kennedy administration as an answer to small explosions in faraway jungles, and the tough young pacifists inadvertently unleashed a few years later by Lyndon Johnson. Through questionnaires and interviews Mantell probes the origins and attitudes of members from both groups, seeking the key to their behavior “in nonpolitical events...which occurred early in their lives....”

He is not disappointed. During childhood many of the Green Berets “had specific military training in their homes in the form of drills, marching, saluting, and room inspections.” The child was father to the man—“not cared for but supervised, not comforted in difficult moments but expected to be strong.... This pattern of child rearing insists that...childhood should end quickly.”

The war resisters, meanwhile, were growing up in gentler circumstances. Mantell notes the absence of puritanical attitudes among the war resisters' mothers: “They did not place taboos on sexuality, smoking, and drinking....” Moreover, most of the war resisters' fathers “used praise, reasoning, and reward as their major disciplinary measures”—in striking contrast to the Green Beret fathers, who spared neither the rod nor the fist.

There were other differences: war resisters' families tended to be better educated and more interested in political issues; to have more friends and to join more organizations; to be more “open” about their opinions and feelings. The Green Beret families, one gathers, had few connections with the community-at-large, and perhaps just as few with their own emotions. In the soldiers' memories, the parents were nearly always sullen and taciturn. The feeling these parents could most easily express was that of irritation.

Finally, from high school athletics to the Special Forces, Green Berets were continually involved in teams, while war resisters usually preferred to go it alone. Mantell points to the Green

Berets' “belief that they cannot succeed as individuals.” One suspects that the resisters harbor precisely opposite misgivings. In any case, “The resisters never seemed ready to sacrifice their private values for group membership.”

The resisters thus emerge as old-fashioned humanists; they identify with Buber and Thoreau while the Green Berets identify with John Wayne, Ché Guevara, and Rommel—violence vs. pacifism, military discipline vs. civil disobedience. Note that for the Green Berets the politics of a hero—the moral content of his actions—is irrelevant. What counts is style.

All of this is useful to our understanding of the dangers of totalitarianism in a mass culture. It helps to be reminded that the family—and not the schools or the media—remains the crucial institution in our society, the most powerful and also the most clandestine. What's good for the family is good for America. Mantell observes that “people like the Green Berets may be necessary...if the United States is to survive as a world power.” But he urges us to “nurture such men” as the war resisters, whom we will need “for the United States to survive as an idea....”

—Richard J. Margolis

RICHARD J. MARGOLIS is book reviews editor of *Change*.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act of August 12, 1970: Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code)

- Date of Filing: September 27, 1974.
- Title of Publication: *Change Magazine*.
- Frequency of Issue: Ten times a year.
- Location of Known Office of Publication: NBW Tower, New Rochelle, New York 10801.
- Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher: NBW Tower, New Rochelle, New York 10801.
- Names and Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Publisher—George W. Bonham, NBW Tower, New Rochelle, New York 10801. Editor—George W. Bonham, NBW Tower, New Rochelle, New York 10801. Managing Editor—Margaret Lefkowitz, NBW Tower, New Rochelle, New York 10801.
- Owner: Educational Change, Inc., NBW Tower, New Rochelle, New York 10801. (A nonprofit corporation registered under the incorporation laws of the State of Ohio.)
- Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and other security Holders Owning or Holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages and other Securities: None.
- The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months. Its purpose is to stimulate constructive reform in higher education.
- Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 months	Actual Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed (Net Press Run)	31,203	31,880
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	1,605	1,650
2. Mail Subscriptions	22,922	25,381
C. Total Paid Circulation	24,527	27,231
D. Free Distribution by Mail, carrier or other means		
1. Samples, complimentary, and other free copies	1,500	1,346
2. Copies distributed to news agents, but not sold	425	350
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)	26,202	28,927
F. Office Use, Left-Over, Unaccounted, Spoiled after Printing	5,001	2,953
G. Total (Sum of E & F—should equal net press run shown in A)	31,203	31,880

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
George W. Bonham, Publisher.