

Review of: "Active Peacebuilding as a Challenging Task of the Catholic Social Ethics"

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This article is striving for a laudable goal: articulation of the importance of positive peace as a counterbalance to the just war tradition and the more common focus on peace as negative peace. It would be a great help to have this vision more clearly articulated in the essay's opening. There is not a clear thesis statement provided and it makes it difficult to follow the rest of the essay's flow.

In addition, given what I take the main idea to be—the importance of positive peace and peacebuilding—the allotment of space in the essay seems misguided. The majority of the essay focuses on the history of the just war tradition. This is not the goal the author wants to accomplish, and it is well-trod territory. A briefer summary of this material with a much greater expansion on active peacebuilding and positive peace would be beneficial. Additionally, it would be appropriate to include scholarship on the concept of *jus post bellum* to complement the focus on historical ideas about *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*, as that is a concept that has developed largely out of a concern for making positive peace have a greater place in just war thinking.

Regarding expanding on positive peace and contemporary understandings of just war theory, the author needs a much-updated bibliography. The citations are quite dated, and the section on "Trends in Treating the Concept of Active Peacebuilding Over the Last Decades" does not go beyond the 1990s with the material being cited. And conceptually it does not do so outside of a brief reference at the very end to COVID-19. There has been a lot of much more recent scholarship on this issue that needs to be engaged in order to make this essay relevant. For example, see: Mark J. Allman, *Who Would Jesus Kill?*; Tobias Winright and Laurie Johnston (eds.), *Can War Be Just in the 21st Century?*; Marie Dennis (ed.), *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence*; Anna Floerke Scheid, "Christian Peace Ethics: Trends in the International (Anglophone) Debate," *Jahrbuch für Christliche Sozialwissenschaften*; or Lisa Sowle Cahill, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Pacifism, Just War, and Peacebuilding*.

I would also suggest a thorough proofread for improved clarity. For instance, just after n.7, there is a use of the word "paternity" that I believe is meant to be "fraternity." Obviously, that is a very significant difference in meaning.