Book Reviews

Ada Aharoni and Vijay Kumar Roy, eds. *Anti-Terror and Peace: IFLAC Anthology*. Amazon Kindle Edition, 2016. Pp. 253. Price: US$ 4.99. ASIN: B01GK74UKC. Web.

Reviewed by
Pejman Masrouri*

Bringing together voices from around the globe, Ada Aharoni and Vijay Kumar Roy's newest publication, *Anti-Terror and Peace: IFLAC Anthology* is a crucial and timely contribution in today's troubled times.

Contributors hail from twenty-three different countries and offer a rich composite of multicultural experiences with one goal in mind – to eradicate violence and terrorism and replace it with hope and peace. A variety of expression is shared, including thoughtful and well-researched articles, art, poetry, short stories, and essays. I feel that each piece has been carefully chosen to stimulate interest, thought, discussion, and, most importantly, action.

As contributor Njero Kathangu Mtumishi, of Kenya, points out, "The war on terrorism can only succeed where justice is looked at from a human angle and not just in legal exchange." He eloquently summarizes that "Carrying arms disables the tongue." Fellow contributor, Free Pen, of France, shares a similar message, in that, "The war on terrorism solely by planes from the sky, is shortsighted, because it attacks the effect rather than the cause." He is right, because the terrorist ideology consists of words, and thus only words can bring out its elimination.

The battle against terrorism requires voices of peace and reconciliation but also deep thinkers and leaders, all of which we find in this innovative and excellent book. Lidia Chiarelli, of Italy, poetically communicates this in her included poem, "Paths to Peace" which end with this hopeful message, speaking about writers and poets of peace who condemn terrorism, she writes:

> they will be
> a new song
> in the deep blue sky
> that will not switch off
> in the dark of the night

Overall, this anthology serves to challenge leaders, thinkers, writers and media around the world, to show that the pen is mightier than the sword which is the logo of IFLAC.

* *An Iranian-American scholar of International Relations at Michigan State University, Pejman Masrouri lives at 209 Ivy Glen Drive, Milford, Michigan, 48380, USA. Email: masrour1@msu.edu*

As contributor Muthoni Likimani from Kenya puts it, "My pen my bullet." Raising our collective voices in whatever means possible is key to achieving peace in our lifetime.

Ada Aharoni, who is Founder and World President of IFLAC: The International Forum for the Literature and Culture of Peace, states in her contributed interview with Patrick Sammut of Malta, that she would like to see "more poets become 'conscious caretakers' of our beautiful world." She also mentions the importance of leaders, thinkers, and media to condemn world terror. In her own contribution to the anthology, she goes further, espousing the concept of not only diplomatic efforts to overcome terrorism but even of "Diplomatic Poetry," which is meant to bring warring sides together and pave the way to peaceful reconciliation and a world beyond terror, war and violence.

❑❑❑

* *Link: https://www.amazon.com/ANTI-TERROR-PEACE-IFLAC-ANTHOLOGY-ebook/dp/B01GK74UKC*