

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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**UNESCO and the search for peace** — *The UNESCO Courier, Paris, August/September 1967.*

Unesco has actively promoted international understanding through education.

It has organized international seminars to study the most effective methods of developing such education in schools; it has been concerned with the production of specially designed teaching materials and aids; and it has collaborated with governments and professional associations for the improvement of school textbooks from the point of view of international understanding.

Among other examples are the recent experimental project for the international exchange of geography textbooks for revision and comment by experts, and a similar project for history textbooks now being planned. In addition experts are made available to governments (on request) and to Unesco-aided teacher training institutions.

A notable instance of direct action by Unesco for the improvement of curricula and methods in this field of education is the programme known as the Associated Schools Project, which has now been in operation for more than ten years.

It consists of a network of co-ordinated pilot projects in schools in different countries (about 400 primary and secondary schools and teacher-training institutions in 50 countries).

Its purpose is to test ideas on education for international understanding under differing circumstances and to exert a direct influence on education generally by developing knowledge of world affairs, of international co-operation in problems of world significance, of other cultures and ways of life, and of the principles of human rights.

The project has influenced educational practice outside its own area of application and has demonstrated that teaching for international understanding need not add to the load of school programmes but in fact may enrich the content and increase the impact of ordinary curricula.

It has contributed to the development of methods and research and techniques of evaluation for such teaching and, by arousing the interest of educational authorities in the problem, has paved the way for broad national programmes in this field.

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