EDITORIAL FOREWORD

This volume inaugurates a Special Series in the Philosophy of Peace. The volume brings together a set of papers that examine peace and militarism in regional conflicts. A number of the authors, writing after Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf, address either the confrontation with Iraq or broader Middle Eastern issues. The volume's title, *From the Eye of the Storm*, recalls the well-publicized Desert Storm; at the same time, the title connotes a reflective calm capable of interpreting the actions swirling around in what has been called a warist or militarist culture.

Most of this volume's contributors are members of Concerned Philosophers for Peace (CPP), which was founded in 1981. CPP's original purpose was to encourage philosophers to lend their voices and special talents to concerns being raised nationally about the superpower nuclear arms race. In the subsequent years, we have urged each other to teach courses on war and peace, to share syllabi and resources, to analyze critical terms, to utilize ethical, social-political, and human nature theories, to write papers, and to help educate ourselves and others on the worldwide dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction. Today, CPP members number over 500 in the United States and Canada.

The *Concerned Philosophers for Peace Newsletter* has been published since our inception, and CPP meets annually for an extended weekend conference. Contributors to CPP's first conference in 1987 stressed the ethical and political orientations of the United States and the Soviet Union, various implications of possessing and using nuclear weapons, and peacemaking proposals for the Reagan-Gorbachev years. Several members had been to the Soviet Union and could articulate the strengths and weaknesses on both sides of the nuclear debate.

The dramatic changes that took place in Eastern Europe and the now former Soviet Union beginning with the collapse of the Berlin Wall caught us unprepared. Some members found whole manuscripts upon which they had been working outmoded by the unfolding events. That would have been a small price to pay had nations begun to live in peace with their neighbors. But recent conflicts have shown that while the world may have given up its superpower clashes, nations have not surrendered their implements of war. The world, more secure than in the past, is still insecure.
Philosophers concerned about issues of war and peace have been reworking their conceptions and extending their analyses to wars that involve sophisticated conventional weapons. Such weapons are no less deadly for those killed, no less destructive of the environment, and no less depleting of the world's natural resources. Nuclear arsenals, as well as chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, are still produced and deployed, although the major powers have signed a global chemical weapons treaty which soon will go into effect. Peacemaking issues have broadened from halting a nuclear holocaust to stopping warfighting as a means of settling international disputes. There is also the need to explore the causes of war and to address the institutionalized violence in societies that spills over into the overt violence of wars.

Philosophy of Peace as a Special Series explores socio-political and ethical perspectives, such as just war doctrine, realism, consequentialism, Marxism, pacifism, and the ethics of care. It addresses conventional warfare, the problems of nuclear proliferation, and the continued reliance on nuclear deterrence in the post-cold war world. The series also examines covert and overt violence as found in sexism, racism, and classism. The editors welcome manuscripts probing positive and negative aspects of peacemaking, and ones studying how to understand or reduce the apparently intractable problems of violence ranging from domestic violence to international war.

*From the Eye of the Storm* is timely as the first volume in this new series and will make a valuable addition to the Value Inquiry Book Series, which was begun under the executive editorship of Robert Ginsberg and published by Rodopi. We thank all the editors associated with this volume for their support in its publication.

Joseph C. Kunkel
Executive Secretary, 1989–1995,
Concerned Philosophers for Peace
Editor, Philosophy of Peace