

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

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DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT
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Richard J. Bishirjian
P.O. Box 852. Great Falls, Virginia 22066

April 10, 1995

Dear Dick,

I read the Introduction you sent me with growing astonishment that I was being introduced to one of the most remarkable books of this end of a century. The remarkable factor is what you briefly describe in the third paragraph of your letter. This "shift" has resulted - so I guess at this time - in a work on contemporary history that is unique, and uniquely fascinating, in that events we all know are put in a framework of political philosophy. The result is a work on American history that can claim to be a work on human history. That work, again, is of double interest because the author of the book was also an active participant in the dynamic of the events.

I must confess that I am ignorant of most of the works on present history which you mention. All the same, my impression that your book is unique in a number of ways, is one that would not be affected by my having read most of these other works. The uniqueness, in spite of my term, is not quantitative, a result of comparison. It stems from quality rather than comparison.

I also like the last paragraph of your letter. The caution which it evokes is manifest even in the Introduction. You are unwilling to let personal pride reduce the greatness and significance of contemporary history.

Congratulations, Dick. Or rather, I should say, "Thank you, Dick," being aware that I am thus speaking for my entire generation.

Yours, faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerhart Niemeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Gerhart Niemeyer