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Leo Szilard ADVERTISEMENT

In 1939 Dr. Leo Szilard played a key role among those who opened the Pandora's Box from which emerged the nuclear weapons that have created the present "peace of mutual terror." But in these past two decades he dedicated his great heart and brilliant mind to the task of closing that box, of seeing to it that no human community ever again suffers the fate that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. His great contribution to posterity is not only the legacy of scientific discoveries he leaves behind, but the example he personally set of the responsible scientist deeply concerned that the fruits of research be used to benefit, not harm, humanity.

His genius transcended any one field and was as apparent in his political ingenuity and his fiction as in his physics, but beyond his purely intellectual gifts was his compassion for all mankind and his courage, which enabled him to continue his crusade for peace even while he struggled against cancer. The United States that gave him refuge received more than full measure of gratitude and service from him.