
Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xi
INTRODUCTION: THE SUPERMAN SYNDROME	1
Why Fiction?	3
Why Science Fiction?	7
The Plan of the Book	10
Chronology: The Atomic Bomb	14
PART I: THE WAY TO HIROSHIMA	17
1. INTERNATIONAL WATERS: BEFORE WORLD WAR I	19
The "Lone Inventor"	19
Wars to End War	22
Creating Scenarios	31

Fictional Tactics	33
Further Assumptions	41
2. "I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE": BEFORE WORLD WAR II	43
A New Genre	45
Atoms for Fun and Profit	48
Saving the World	51
Losing the Race	53
Research Gone Wrong	56
Repel the Invaders	60
Return to the Wilderness	61
Fictional Tactics	65
Assumptions	68
3. DARK WORDS OF WARNING	75
Awful Warnings	77
Return to the Wilderness II	82
Down with the Tyrants	85
Fictional Tactics	88
Assumptions	90
4. SCIENCE AND SCIENCE FICTION	95
Images of the Scientist	96
Scientists and Science Fiction	100
The Social Institution of Science	102
Lived Assumptions	109
5. A SCIENCE FICTION WORLD	113
The Bomb and the Boom	115
Guilt and Glory	117
Reactions	127
Assumptions	129
PART II: CIRCLING GROUND ZERO	135
6. THE NATURE OF "HUMAN NATURE"	137
Models of Human Nature	139
The Problem of Control	147
The Problem of War	158
The Problem of Language	161
7. THE HERO AND SOCIETY: STURGEON VERSUS HEINLEIN	171
The Protagonist	172

The Society	174
Before the Bomb	176
The Bomb and After	180
The Contrasting Vision	194
Summary	200
Stories by Robert A. Heinlein	204
Stories by Theodore Sturgeon	204
8. HUMANS AND HISTORY	213
War Prevented	215
War Presented	218
The Postwar Community	222
Cycles of History	230
Circling Ground Zero	231
PART III: LEAVING GROUND ZERO	235
9. NEW ASSUMPTIONS	237
BIBLIOGRAPHY	243
INDEX	267