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Company: "Germany in Autumn" (1978) and "The Candidate" (1980). The first two were up-to-date portraits of West Germany and its political climate, whereas "War and Peace" is the case of a chronicle-film losing its raison d'être due to a shift in government midway through the project.

"War and Peace," as the title indicates, has to do with the Peace Movement. Back on Oct. 10, 1981, there was an enormous crowd gathering in Bonn for a peace march, the message being aimed then at Helmut Schmidt's Social Democrat Party and the government's stand on the NATO agreements. A few months later, the Schmidt government fell from power (due to the swing in the coalition government by the partner Free Democrat Party). This brought about a rise to power of Helmut Kohl and the Christian Democrat Union/Christian Socialist Union parties, again in coalition with the Free Democrats. In addition, a new election has been set for March 6, just five days after the close of the Berlin fest and only one week after the nation-wide release of "War and Peace." This means that the directors would logically have to decide on whether to support the policy of the Social Democrats or condemn it, at least insofar as the Armament Issue is concerned.

The outcome is that "War and Peace" doesn't have a clear point-of-view at all. The first half of the film drifts in the general direction of the Peace Movement, with refined ironical statements by Kluge on the threatening situation of two super-powers stationing nuclear warheads smack on the West German border to the Socialist Bloc countries within target range of the Soviet Union. The filmmakers as a whole also deploy the ideology of a nuclear war in today's age of the super-kill. Then, shifting gears, the film has a whack at Chancellor Helmut Kohl, offering a parody of the political figure at home and abroad — particularly at the White House with President Reagan.

As for the Heinrich Boell episodes — titled "Space Talk," "Atom Bunker," and "Kill Your Sister" — these are definitely in the vein of the Peace Movement and threat of nuclear war, but they are embarrassingly staged and acted against cheap sets, and thereby lost their effectiveness. Previously announced tracts on former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in talks with East Germany's Erich Honnecker have also been dropped.

In short, the film has been too long in coming. Indeed, the German tv-reportage on the American bishops and church leaders in Europe could be seen on the same evening as the film's preem — with the result that the religious spokesmen are stronger voices than those of the filmmakers on the question of

"War and Peace" today. One has the feeling that Kluge & Co. wanted very much to turn their cameras on Bonn entirely. Even the comment on the Summit Conference in France — comprised mostly of protocol jokes (helicopter landings, a canceled boat-trip, Reagan's face when Francois Mitterand unexpectedly condemned Israeli aggression in Lebanon) — is without sting and only amusing as a witty afterthought.

Lastly, the film is dull in far too many episodes. The juxtaposition and editing of key scenes and episodes are without logic, or the rationale is known only to the filmmakers with little chance of the audience unraveling the clues and metaphors. —Holl

Krieg Und Frieden

(War and Peace)

(W. GERMAN-COLOR-DOCU)

Berlin, March 1.

A coproduction of Pro-ject Filmproduktion im Filmverlag der Autoren, Blokop-Film, and Kairos-Film, Munich; world rights, Filmverlag der Autoren, Munich. A documentary and fiction film by Heinrich Boell, Volker Schloendorff, Alexander Kluge, Stefan Aust, and Axel Engstfeld (fiction sequences scripted by Boell). Camera (color), (for Kluge), Werner Luerling, Thomas Mauch, (for Schloendorff), Franz Rath, Igor Luther, (for Aust), Franz Rath, (for Engstfeld), Bernd Mosblech; editing, Beate Matka-Jellinghaus, Carola Mai, Dagmar Hirtz, Barbara von Weitershausen; production managers, Gerd von Halem (Blokop-Film) and Daniel Zuta (Kairos-Film). Reviewed at Berlin Film Fest (out-of-competition), Feb. 19, '83. Running time: 120 MINS.

With Juergen Prochnow, Guenter Kaufmann, Manfred Zapatka, Karl-Heinz Merz, Heinz Bennent, Edgar Selge, Angela Winkler, Michael Gahr, Hans-Michael Rehberg, Dieter Traier.

The omnibus film, "War and Peace," directed by Alexander Kluge, Volker Schloendorff, and Stefan Aust, with an extra episode directed by Axel Engstfeld and three fiction segments scripted by Heinrich Boell, follows in line with earlier German history lessons made by Kluge, Schloendorff &