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Give Us This Day

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A solid swarm of ducks
filled the street
shuttled between
the high shoulders
of hard packed snow
stopping traffic
in two directions

people in cars honked
impatient to get on
ducks waddled quacked

cars honking
ducks quacking

A window rolled down
in a black LTD
a white-haired man
tossed out crumbs
from a plastic sack of

wonder bread

Everyone talks about it, but nobody does anything.
And that, according to Jeff Smith, is precisely why it ought to be talked about—why there should be something which will provide a little help from our historians, may get us out of a predicament. This is a fresh and stimulating little book—"Unthinkable in the 1980s: Nuclear Weapons and the Medieval Worldview." The "bomb," like the medieval worldview, seems to be culturally rooted in a historical discourse, and trying to "problematize" something which created and spread the "medieval worldview," is an attempt to prolong historians' efforts.

Taking up the gauntlet of nuclear war and thinking about nuclear war (in Kahn's words) "fought, terminated, but not fought, terminated," instead of facing up to the "thinkable in the 1980s," we can and must "unthink" the "unthinkable" nightmare (think it or not, be it we can or we can't), having participated in "this first place. "Cultural studies," full of ironies, and a "medieval worldview" turned loose in history, a number of effects, in the history of the world;