

This work deals with the influence of pope John XXIII. on the thinking of the Catholic Church in the 20th century and with the situation in the world during cold war. It focuses on the main topic of this pope, which is peace. Peace is seen from some different points of view. One of them is the effort to ward off a war threat, which is a topic John XXIII. mentions especially in his encyclic *Pacem in terris*. The other points of view are factors which can influence peace. These are social justice and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, which are other important themes of John XXIII. The work tries to point out that these new popes thoughts influenced, thanks to the Second Vatican Council, the whole Catholic Church and thus contributed to peace and social justice in the world.