

Introductory Lecture

We will be asking:

1) Are Humans intrinsically warlike?

Some say war is hard-wired into human nature (**Chagnon**)

Others (**Mead**) say it's a cultural institution, not a biological instinct

There are societies that have no word for war (like Fore), but are being wiped out

Also, questions as to whether we idealize “primitive” societies

2) Why do People Fight?

We'll encounter various theories (sociobiological, “realist”, feminist, Marxist)

What do you have to do to people to make them kill others, even their neighbors?

Is it easy or hard?

3) What are the different experiences of war?

“Primitive” war, medieval war, World War I, contemporary civil war in Africa all quite different

How is war experienced differently by civilians and military personnel?

Strategists and soldiers?

Is there joy in war? Or is it just hell?

4) How do people reconcile after war?

Important in current era of civil wars

Rwanda, Kosovo & Bosnia, N. Ireland, E. Timor

How do you live side by side with those who killed your relatives?

Are some cultures better at reconciliation after war than others?

Do Truth and reconciliation commissions help?

How is this question connected to question of whether civil war caused by ancient hatreds (Robert **Kaplan**) or elite manipulation from above (Philip **Gourevitch**)?

5) What's special about war in our time?

How has the end of the cold war affected the nature of war?

Do we live in an era of a “clash of Civilizations?” (**Samuel Huntington**).

Has the danger of nuclear war increased or decreased since the end of the cold war?

How have electronic media changed war?

Vietnam = first TV war

Kosovo = first internet war

Are new technologies eroding or deepening civilian/combatant divide?

Could we convert the U.S. economy, or is the military-industrial complex too powerful?