



## **Chapter I – Charting a New Direction**

1. According to the author, what is the outdated view of human nature?
2. Does the author think humans are warlike by nature?
3. What famous philosophers and thinkers supported the “man the warrior” perspective?
4. Why did these thinkers have the view they did?
5. What studies led people to believe war is natural and biologically functional?
6. Why is information about warfare so pervasively biased?
7. Why was warfare practically non-existent through most of prehistory?
8. Did aggression exist in prehistory?

9. When the author suggests that humanity could abolish warfare, on what facts and evidence does he base this assertion?

**Vocabulary words and definitions:**

**Chapter 2 – Do Non-warring Societies Actually Exist?**

1. How do recent books portray human nature?

2. Do these authors acknowledge there are non-warring societies?

3. Why do so many scholars and scientists have a pessimistic view of human nature?

4. Why do so many scholars and members of the public think war is inevitable?

5. Describe the conclusions of Carol and Malcolm Embers study of warfare.

6. Why did they include feuding and revenge killings as “warfare” in their study?

7. What result does inclusion of feuding and revenge killing have in the overall conclusion of the study?

8. When you read that a given culture makes war every year, what mental image comes to your mind?

9. Even if war is defined as broadly as to include individual instances of blood revenge, murder and feuding, in what percent of societies is war absent or rare?

10. How does Keith Otterbein define feuding? How does he define warfare?

11. Of about 50 cultures Otterbein studied, how many and what percent never engaged in warfare?

12. What North American cultures lacked warfare before European contact according to Harold Driver’s conclusions?

13. In cross-cultural surveys of feuding, when the perpetrator and his relatives are targets of vengeance, what percent of societies considered feuding legitimate and what percent considered it illegitimate?

14. Why is defining war broadly, even including homicides as examples of warfare, misleading?

15. What is the definition of warfare?

16. Why is this definition so important?

17. What are the distinguishing features of this definition?

18. About how many of the earth's societies lack warfare, that is with members fleeing aggression rather than fighting back.

19. Name 3 religiously pacifist societies which exist as enclaves within larger societies.

20. Name some nations in today's world which haven't engaged in warfare in a long

time.

21. What step toward peace was taken by Costa Rica after World War II?

22. Why do many people believe war is inevitable?

23. Do you think war is inevitable?

24. Why is the belief that war is inevitable false?

**Vocabulary words with definitions:**

1. ubiquitous

2. subconscious

### **Chapter 3 – Overlooked and Underappreciated – The Human Potential for Peace**

1. What effect does violence-saturated TV programming have?
2. What forms of violence could be seen in Waorani of Ecuador and the Zapotec of Mexico?
3. In what ways do humans interact nonviolently everyday?
4. What are the author's definitions of conflict, aggression, and violence?
5. How do the Siriono of Bolivia handle disputes?
6. Do the Siriono engage in war?
7. What is the traditional Siriono strategy for dealing with aggressive people?

8. How do the Paliyan of India handle conflict?

9. Describe what kinds of disrespect were shown in Paliyan society?

10. How do Paliyan view murder, feuds, and war?

11. How do Paliyan respond to threats of violence?

**Vocabulary Words with Definitions:**

## **Chapter 4 – Killer Apes, Cannibals, and Coprolites: Projecting Mayhem into the Past**

1. What lesson does the story about Koch and Virchow reveal?
2. Why weren't scholars, including Raymond Dart, able to be objective about interpreting the Taung skull and other Australopithecine fossils?
3. Why did the opening scenes of Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey portray an ape with a weapon?
4. What different interpretations did C.K. Brain put forward?
5. What cultural biases did Dart have?
6. Was Dart willing to admit C.K. Brain's interpretation was sounder than his own?
7. Why did archeologists re-interpret who the "dancers" (danzantes) of the Zapotec civilization were?
8. Why were Homo Erectus remains in China misinterpreted?

9. How was the male skull of a Neanderthal, discovered south of Rome in Monte Circeo, misinterpreted?

10. Of what scholarly benefit is the study of coprolites?

11. What evidence does Marilyn Roper present which contradicts the ancient story of the destruction of Jericho?

12. What is Ofer Bar Josef's explanation for the walls of Jericho?

13. Why is the simple explanation often not the accurate one in archeological studies?

**Vocabulary Words and Definitions:**

## **Chapter 5 – The Earliest Evidence of War**

1. What assumptions about human males did renowned anthropologists Wrangham and Peterson make?
2. Is there evidence of peaceful societies in history or around the globe today?
3. Where was the first war possibly fought 12-14,000 years ago?
4. Is the evidence of warfare in Nubia definitive?
5. What did Keith Otterbein say were the flaws in Lawrence Keeley's research?
6. What did Raymond Kelly say about Keeley's interpretation of mass burials?
7. The author concludes there's no hard evidence of warfare before what date?
8. Is there evidence of warfare among simple, nomadic hunter/gatherer groups?
9. Is there evidence of warfare among complex, settled hunter/gatherer groups?
10. What caused the sudden warfare seen around 1250 AD in Anasazi culture?

11. According to the author, what brought about warfare in the Oaxaca Valley around 2,800-2,450 BP.

12. Are people's beliefs about warfare in keeping with the evidence? If not, why not?

**Vocabulary Words and definitions:**

**Chapter 6 – War and Social Organization: From Nomadic Bands to Modern States**

1. Was Quincy Wright's analysis of 590 societies, called the Study of War (1942), accurate?

2. What 4 types of human social organization can be seen?

3. What difference does social organization make in people's lives?

4. Why was war hardly ever undertaken by simple, nomadic hunter/gatherer bands and often engaged in by complex, settled hunter/gatherer groups?

Vocabulary Words and Definitions:

### **Chapter 7: Seeking Justice: The Quest for Fairness**

1. Is conflict inevitable?

2. Is violence inevitable?

3. List unilateral and bilateral approaches to conflict resolution.

4. List and explain various third party approaches to conflict resolution.

5. How are conflicts handled in bands and tribes?

6. How is adjudication handled in social organizations with hierarchies such as chiefdoms and states?

7. What happens when people take justice in their own hands?

8. In what social groups is self-redress most common?

9. In what social groups is justice handled by the society rather than by the family or the individual?

10. In what social groups are feuds most common (retaliation for a wrong done)?

11. What has happened when scholars overlooked social organization as an element in fighting, conflict, management, and justice seeking?

12. In nomadic hunter/gatherer bands, what social elements are prevalent?

13. In tribal society what social elements are present?

14. In chiefdoms and states, what social elements are present?

15. What global institutions exist to adjudicate international disputes, ethnic cleansing, and genocide?

**Vocabulary Words and definitions:**

**Chapter 8 – Man the Warrior: Fact or Fantasy?**

1. The author provides descriptions of two different hunter/gatherer conflicts, Alacaluf and Tiwi. What point is he trying to convey about the language used in these descriptions?

2. What kind of people typically wrote these descriptions of hunter/gatherer life?

3. According to the author, what's wrong with the language used?

4. What is wrong with the way anthropologists and non-anthropologists have described conflicts in band societies?

5. What effect do misleading and exaggerated descriptions of savages have?

6. How did the author's professor, Elman Service, describe hunter/gatherer bands?

7. According to Service, what was the nature of disputes in hunter/gatherer bands?

8. What is the significance of realizing that hunter/gatherer disputes are personal?

9. How can wrong assumptions about hunter/gatherer life distort explanations of biological evolution?

10. What are the 2 main kinds of assumptions people make?

11. What assumptions about pre-historic groups did Richard Alexander make?

12. What assumptions and conclusions did Paul Shaw and Yuwa Wong make about human nature?

13. What assumptions and conclusions did biologist Bobbi Low make?

14. What assumptions have Richard Wrangham and Dale Peterson made?

15. What assumptions did Michael Ghigheri make and what conclusions did he come to?

16. What assumptions led to the “man the warrior” model?

17. How does the author view the assumptions surrounding the “man the warrior” model?

18. Where do insights about behavior and society in the evolutionary past come from?

19. How does archeology contribute to knowledge about the evolutionary past?

20. How does primate analogy contribute to knowledge about the human past?

21. How do insights from hunter/gatherer life contribute to knowledge about the human past?

22. Why does the author feel the best source for insights about ancient societies is the nomadic hunter/gatherer band?

**Vocabulary words and definitions:**

**Chapter 9 – Insights from the Outback: Geneva Conventions in the Australian Bush**

1. What lifestyle did Australian Aborigines share?

2. Where did the laws of Australian Aborigines come from?

3. What can be learned from Australian Aborigines about warfare and conflict resolution?

4. What forms of warfare were absent among the Aborigines of Australia?

5. What forms of conflict do the aborigines have?

6. How did scholar W. Lloyd Warner distort the truth about Murngin conflict?

7. What type of killing was most common among Murngin?

8. What was one of W. Lloyd Warner's types of "warfare" called makarata?

9. What is the gaingar?

10. How is the gaingar different from warfare?

11. Why is the conflict at the waterhole – or “war of conquest” - unlikely to have occurred in the Walbiri band?

12. What did Gerald Wheeler conclude about Aboriginal society in Australia?

13. What did Elman Service conclude?

14. What is the overall conclusion on Australian Aborigine society regarding conflict?

15. List and explain the chief methods of conflict resolution among the Aborigines of Australia?

16. What aspects of life made warfare unlikely, if not impossible, in Aborigine life?

**Vocabulary Words and definitions**

## **Chapter 10 – Void if Detached.....from Reality**

1. Why did archeologists first think Aboriginal rock art depicted warfare?
2. What do scholars now think the rock art depicted?
3. Why do cultural outsiders sometimes misinterpret prehistoric art?
4. What did Napoleon Chagnon report about Yanomamo men who had killed?
5. What did Steven Pinker conclude about Chagnon's theory?
6. How does the author refute Chagnon's claim?

7. Why did Chagnon's study receive so much attention in the first place?

8. What is the evidence that warfare or the psychological mechanisms for warfare are driven by natural selection which favored these traits?

9. What error have writers who propose war is an adaptation for natural selection made?

**Vocabulary Words and definitions:**

## **Chapter 11 – Returning to the Evidence – Life in the Band**

1. What did Jesuit missionary Paul Le Jeune say about Montagnair social relations and leadership?
2. What did Le Jeune say about Montagnais women?
3. Why did LeJeune urge Montagnais men to constrain the women?
4. For the Naskapi and many other hunter/gatherer bands, what is the appropriate punishment for murder?
5. Who typically carries out the death sentence in the case of murder?
6. In bands, why is it up to individuals to decide how to handle conflict?

7. Why did most hunter/gatherers encourage generosity and cooperation and discourage anger?

8. How did Montagnais-Naskapi handle serious transgressions?

9. How did Montagnais-Naskapi bands interact with each other?

10. What happened when Iroquois approached from the south, and what caused this intrusion in the first place?

11. What was the main cause of conflict and homicide among the Netsilik of the Central Canadian Arctic?

12. Does the Netsilik language contain a word for war?

13. How did Netsilik handle interpersonal conflict?

14. What are the main quarrels among the Ju'hoansi?
  
15. Why was there no war among the Ju'hoansi?
  
16. Is fighting over a woman a personal or group matter?
  
17. What types of killings can be seen among the Ju'hoansi?
  
18. As a general rule, what types of values do nomadic hunters/gatherers promote?
  
19. How do Ju'hoansi resolve conflicts?
  
20. List 4 lessons from studying 3 peaceful band societies.

Chapter 12 – OMIT

Chapter 13 - OMIT

### **Chapter 14 – Setting the Record Straight**

1. Why does the “man the warrior” model ring true to so many people?
2. What facts presented by experts on hunter/gatherers contradict this model?
3. What academic disciplines tend to have scholars who agree with the “man the warrior” model?
4. What are the facts about intergroup relations among nomadic bands?
5. What are the flaws in Carol Ember’s and Joshua Goldstein’s study?

6. What were the simple, nomadic hunter/gatherer societies like?

## **Chapter 15 – A Macroscopic Anthropological View**

1. What is a macroscopic anthropological view?

2. Why do individuals accept the belief system of their culture without much questioning?

3. How do American beliefs hinder the abolition of war?

4. Of what value is a macroscopic worldview?

5. With a macroscopic worldview, what can we say about human beings?

6. With a macroscopic view what can we assume about humanity's ability to resolve conflict nonviolently?

7. Why does our culture give us assumptions which effect our interpretations of the world?

8. What specific American assumptions are inaccurate?

9. What scholars made wrong assumptions without enough facts and evidence?

10. Why did the author want to open up assumptions on war, peace, and human nature to more careful scrutiny?

11. What does William Ury say about the major obstacle to peace?

12. Why do data and evidence suggest we have a strong capacity for getting along peacefully?

## **Chapter 16 – Enhancing Peace**

1. Why does the author feel war is obsolete and that we can abolish it?

2. What problems does war cause?

3. With what security measures would war be replaced?

4. How would enhancement of crosscutting ties encourage peace?

5. How would recognition of interdependence encourage peace?

6. How would cooperation encourage peace?

7. How can values, attitudes and beliefs foster warfare?

8. How can values, attitudes and beliefs foster peace?

9. How can international governance encourage peace?

10. List strategies for conflict management which would facilitate peace.

11. Why does the author think goals, dreams and ideals are important for peace?

12. Rather than identify with the tribe or the nation, what community did Darwin think we should identify with?

13. What examples did the author give to show that social change is possible?

14. Does the author think we can abolish war in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

15. What are the sources of the author's optimism about abolishing war?

