

WW WAR --

Definition: war = a conflict among political groups involving hostilities of considerable duration and magnitude...

some theorists add: the hostilities must pertain to situations in which the combatants are sufficient equal in power to render the outcome uncertain for a time...

x types of war: limited and absolute
absolute -- where the objective is the extermination or unconditional surrender of the enemy.

; limited -- fought to gain reparation for a particular injury...or to acquire a particular territory...or advantage...or to gain recognition for a particular claim...

other designations: "international" -- when between states in the same community of nations
"imperial" -- when between states in different communities...or in very different civilizations....
"civil" -- when between the government and an insurgent group or rebel group in the same state

a phenomenology of war: these components would need to be included:

intentional violence
combat

military strategy...like a game...
procedures....

alliances: intergroup relations...allies...friendship
strained relations...breach of relations, and the like

progress ... or human evolution: hint: war = the chief means by which alignments between states and countries are defined...

United States of America came into being through a war....

the relation of war to social progress....

war, related to the advance of civilization....

wars happen because states want to continue to exist....

BUT NOW WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE CAUSES OF WAR:

DEAN RUSK's comment

people tend to fight....

don't get along....

sometimes become belligerent...

hostilities break out....

wars related to ~~as~~ desire for land...territory....

~~xxxx~~ most wars are fought over territory....

states compete for land...territory...power, prestige...

war also serves ideology: viewpoints....

religious wars of the 17th century....

war becomes part of someone's "grand design"

(like Hitler's....)

war, in this context: "an act of violence intended to
compel our opponent to fulfil our will."

war = serves purposes of domination, so that "we" can
can live the way we want to live...

HENCE, IT IS EASY TO DEVELOP THE THEORY THAT WARS ARE
CLOSELY TIED TO NATIONALISM...OR THAT NATIONALISM
IS A CAUSEX OF WAR....

wars result from allegiance of men to nations....

and from the intimate connection between the
nation and the state....

motive: national self-determination....

VIETNAM WAR:

motive for our involvement...

to contain Communist aggression....

drew the line....south Vietnam was

holding out against aggression from
the North....

China behind that...

then, Russia supported Ho Chi Minh...

to hold out against the Chinese...

At any rate...a foreign ideology...

worried about this....it shouldn't be allowed to
continue on unchecked...

GOING A LITTLE DEEPER —

Henry Kissinger's insights:

- (1) p. 55 -- "youth coming to terms with its finiteness."
-- America goes through a period of self-doubt and self-hatred.....
- (2) unsettling period .. why? because turmoil came at the end of a period of great accomplishment....

CONCLUSION: Vietnam not cause of our difficulties...
but a symptom...

A Sub-theme: Americans believed arrogantly that our security was tied to the superiority of our beliefs... instead of to the weight of our power or the fortunate accidents of history and geography.....

another theme: "U.S. considered the warfare in Indochina the manifestation of a coordinated global Communist strategy..."

WAR BECOMES NIGHTMARE (p. 64-65) Why?

flip-flop: formerly, it was thought that Cold War was created by Soviet aggression... now, a vocal minority insisted it was American bellicosity, American militarism, and American economic imperialism

p. 66. The most ominous change...

Other related events:

- (1) The invasion of Cambodia...April 1970 --
aroused strong protest, particularly on university
and college campuses...
Student demonstrations at Kent State University
in Ohio (MAY 4) lead to a confrontation with troops
of the Ohio National Guard...
who fired on the students, without orders.
killing four and wounding several others...

Many universities were closed for the remainder
of the 1969-70 academic year...

- (2) Lieut. William L. Calley, Jr. --
March 29, 1971, a U.S. Army court-martial jury found
Lieut. Calley guilty of murdering unarmed
South Vietnamese civilians at My Lai...
(incident took place in March 1968).

Military court sentenced Lt. Calley to life-imprisonment
furor resulted...
President Nixon ordered Calley released from jail...
though restricted to his quarters...-

- (3) Nixon mending ~~relationships~~ bridges internationally --

visited Peking, Peoples Republic of China, in 1972...
had discussions with Chou En-lai and Mao Tse-tung...
lessened tensions between U.S. and China...

visited ~~Moscow~~ Moscow in 1972 --
signed several accords with Russians,
including agreement limiting the production of strategic
armaments...

Leonid Brezhnev visited U.S. in June 1973...

GOING A LITTLE DEEPER: two stories coming together.....

Henry Kissinger, WHITE HOUSE YEARS --

read pp. 55-56 ... the sixties marked the end of our
innocence...

in Vietnam --

Ho Chi Minh --

French had occupied Vietnam...

Ho Chi Minh proclaimed independence on
September 2, 1945...

using the words of Thomas Jefferson, "WE HOLD
THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE
CREATED EQUAL."

That same day -- U.S. warplanes flew over the
city....

a Vietnamese band played "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"
Vietnamese leaders spoke warmly of Vietnam's
"particularly intimate relations with the
United States"