



Peace and War : Cross-cultural Perspectives

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Is war necessary? In *Peace and War* prominent anthropologists and other social scientists explore the cultural and social factors leading to war. They analyze the covert causes of war from a cross-cultural perspective: ideologies that dispose people to war underlying patterns of social relationships that help institutionalize war and the cultural systems of military establishments. Overt causes of war-environmental factors like the control of scarce resources, advantageous territories, and technologies, or promoting the well-fare of people like oneself-are also considered. The authors examine anthropologists role in policy formation-how their theories on the nature of culture and society help those who deal with global problems on a day-to-day basis. They argue that both covert and overt mechanisms are pushing the world closer to a devastating war and offer strategies to weaken the effects of these mechanisms. This anthropological and historical analysis of the causes of war is a valuable resource for those studying war and those trying to understand the place of social science in framing pacific options.

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