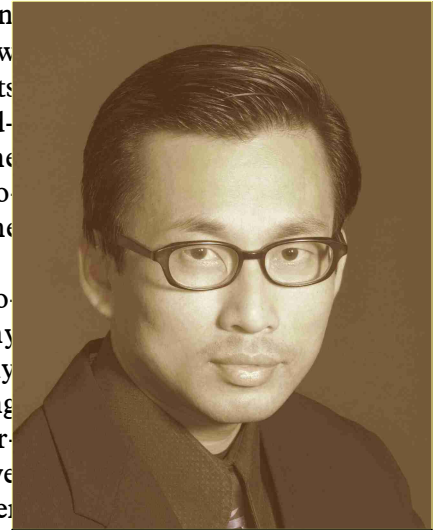


CONSCIENCE OF WAR—The conscience of a nation is not based on what is right or what is wrong but on what each nation and its selected few choose to define as right or wrong. Morality is defined by a nation and its selected few as what is good and what is bad. Each nation and each individual has a moral conscience, but no two nations or two individuals have the same conscience. A society may value a nation with a conscience, but no society values the same conscience. Conscience is a concept defined by the triviality of a shifting stage of being.

A conscientious nation defines its own moral rules. Therefore, morality is only a seed of thought relative to each nation's state of mind in any given period of time. What is deemed morally wrong today may be morally right tomorrow. What is morally right to one nation may be morally wrong to another. Thus, society as a whole is in a continual delusional state. Perhaps we are delusional not because we cannot think straight but because we like to fool ourselves by playing God. We prayed in the name of The Father and yet we kill and justify our killing. We watch other people kill and we either cheer them on or declare them murderers. We send men to fight and fill their minds with glorious tales of war. We call these men soldiers. We teach them to hold guns and call them patriots. We give them medals when they kill, and we honor them with more medals when they are wounded. This is what all nations do. This is what men do. Why? Why do we do what we do? Who teaches us to kill or to engage in the art of war? Who came up with the idea of war? Was it man or was it God? It certainly was not Sun Tzu or Carl von Clausewitz. They were mere observers or active participants. Who provided us with the idea that killing to bring glory is right and execution in the name of justice is wrong? Who teaches the lion to bite? No one. We do what we do because every concept related to war is deeply etched into the core of our genes. These maverick war genes are a well-kept secret. When the right moment comes, these genes flurry and show their face like they did on the wings of the butterflies during the industrial revolution. When the coercive force of nature arrives, these genes will follow.

We go to war not because we want to but because it is what we do best. We are half animal and half god covered in clothes, and we are bound by a moral conscience that we conjured up to follow our path. We cannot and will never escape war. We can only slow it down. The world has been plagued by war for as long as man has walked the face of the planet. Like a murder of crows that streak the sky in the heat of day, we are driven by our instinct to survive. But we are worse than crows. They are born with the gene to kill. And so are we. But crows kill to survive and we kill in the name of glory and to conquer. When our pride is threatened our claws come out. When our hunger emerges, we move to strike. Since the dawn of time, when man first looked at his own hands, he knew what those hands were made for. "These fingers, these nails, and these palms," man said, "are meant for something." Therefore, man reached down and picked up a club. "This club will help me fight," he said. "This club will help me survive." Thus, man justified the act of war. War, it appears, has no conscience and no moral value. War knows only death. Since war has no moral conscience, then man's conscience is only an idea. That idea is relevant to the will to survive, to dominate, and to delude ourselves for as long as we live and for as long as man continues to leave his footprints on this earth.



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