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Schneirla, T.C. Instinct and Aggression, Man and Aggression, M.F. Ashley Montagu (Ed.) Oxford University Press, New York, 1968. p.59

The concept of instinctual aggression is of course not new. That such an instinct was paramount in natural selection is an idea Lorenz shares with Herbert Spencer (first to speak of "survival of the fittest") who featured aggression instinct as a major factor in man's evolution, and with Freud.

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Mechanisms that inhibit fighting, Lorenz holds, are essential to survival in lower animals and man alike. Chief among these are ritualistic displays in which aggressors are warded off with little or no physical contact. In man, however, the inhibitory controls imposed on aggression both through natural selection and through cultural processes may fail in the split-second emergencies created by modern weaponry and related bellicose patterns. Man is "... the only being capable of dedicating himself to the highest moral and ethical values..." but "... whose animal properties bring with them the danger that he will kill his brother, convinced that he is doing so in the interests of these very same high values. Ecce homo!" Behold man! - that is, as Lorenz sees him.

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Schneirla, T.C. Instinct and Aggression, Man and Aggression, M.F. Ashley-Montagu (Ed.) Oxford University Press, New York, 1968, p.61.

A different picture of man, however, based on current scientific theory and methodology, is at odds with Lorenz's outdated negative view. Results of research on human group behavior emphasize man's great social potentials arising from his developmental plasticity and his versatility for constructive behavior. At the same time, evidence on the origins of asocial behavior suggests that hypotheses in which instinctual aggression is offered to explain the rise of wars are tangential and naive.



also applies animal - man,

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The question is not whether results from investigations of behavior in lower animals are applicable to man, but whether the application is as simple a matter as Lorenz's procedures imply. Responsible scientists must carry out their research on behavior within the broadest perspective and evaluate evidence in terms of the most valid theory possible. Evidence on individual differences, on the conditions of development, and on the state of the population must be featured, for these surely were all crucial in the natural selective background of every animal. The results of research must be presented in comprehensive reports open to searching analysis; not in descriptive, subjective terms as Lorenz does in this book.

also applies ag. tend. in man.

Schneirla, T.C. Instinct and Aggression. Man and Aggression, M.F. Ashley Montagu (Ed.) Oxford University Press, New York, 1968. p.64

It is as heavy a responsibility to inform mankind about aggressive tendencies assumed to be present on an inborn basis as about "original sin" - and this Lorenz admits in effect. A corollary risk is advising societies to base their programs of social training on attempts to inhibit hypothetical innate aggressions, instead of continuing positive measures for socially constructive behavior. Major aggressions of history, including Hitler's, may be explained superficially by the easy devices of instinct theory, or studied systematically with evidence known to historians and scientists.

