

File 16-c

John Henry F. C. Wallace.

Psychological Preparation for War. **K28**

Natural History, Dec. 1967. pp. 50-54

Relaxed state vs. state of mobilization.

- 52 "But a lack of fear, suspicion & hatred of the 'enemy' traditionally believed to be prerequisites for war, that are often invoked (by the releasing) signals? It is my contention that fear from being necessary, these attributes are almost irrelevant to war except as nationalistic rationalizations. Human beings generally reserve their settled fears, suspicious and hatreds for those those closest to them: their neighbors, and colleagues. Today's enemy in war is yesterday's stranger and tomorrow's ally. "The psychological target of lethal weapons in war is an abstraction rather than a person."
- 52 "Thus, being removed from hate, war is also relatively free of guilt." "But your feelings [of hate] are not a reliable indicator of efficiency in combat, it is an ability to maintain cognitive orientation as a commitment to task-completion in noisy, fatiguing and dangerous surroundings may be much more important than a high level of primitive urges to fight-or-flight."
- 52 "War is an extremely impersonal business conducted by persons whose private motives - apart from the motive of efficient participation in the state of mobilization - are highly diversified."

Wallace,

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53. "... unanticipated - and most of all unanticipated -
occurs as a perversion of administrative process rather
than as a result of popular folly." "... it could appear
that the administrative structure of any society ... is extraordi-
narily vulnerable to perversion in regard to war decisions."
/ But, great differences - f. c. can be hyperbolic
leaders & certain congress. attitudes etc.

54. Summary: "The main process of preparing a people for war
is simply training them to participate obediently in mobilization
in concerted action in emergencies. (mobilization - instead of democratic
consensual decision making - hierarchical, authoritarian
proc.) War does not require training a people to be an
actual enemy. Since training for these decision making
is unavoidable [?!], as the ~~intentional~~ elimination of group
hostility will be irrelevant then the problem of assuring
peace must be approached by the invention of political and
administrative safeguards that guarantee that alternative
processes of conflict resolution are not interrupted by war-g-
mistake."