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The view that aggressiveness is not only an instinct in man but that it is a good one because it makes the world go round has been put forth in popular writings that have acquired a huge following.

On this issue, the most outspoken member of the meeting was Dr. Robert A. Hinde, director of animal behavior study at the University of Cambridge, England. He attacked the notion that aggressive behavior is 'valuable' for the survival of man as a species.

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Chimpanzees are masters of the art of brinkmanship, seldom going to the point of actual physical violence. Even when they do, said Dr. van Lawick-Goodall, they don't seem to come out with more than a few scratches or some lost handfuls of hair. Immediately after a clash that may see two animals rolling furiously down a slope, the antagonists are at peace. The victim can extend its hand, the aggressor will pat its head, and then they start to groom each other.

Dr. van Lawick-Goodall said that she had never seen chimpanzees fight to the death. Nor had she ever observed these lower animals forming groups to make war on each other.

The world that she observes is so civilized that its ruler rose to the top without even laying a hand on his subjects. She has watched the career of this

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leader, Mike, since 1964 when he was somewhat of a chump as a chimp, the butt of attacks by nearly all the other adult males. Then he picked up an empty paraffin can and began to drag it around. Soon he was rolling three cans through the area at full speed, making more noise than an express train, sending every other chimpanzee scurrying in frightful flight to the treetops. Mike has been the champ chimp ever since.

Aggressiveness appears in chimpanzees first of all if they are attacked. They rarely fight over food and then only if a much-liked item is in short supply. Frustration is another cause and it leads to redirected aggression: a young animal will attack an animal lower down on the dominance scale if it has been attacked by a higher-ranking member of the group. A male will attack a female in oestrus if she does not respond to his courtship.

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Another parallel with human behaviour might be drawn from the way chimpanzees acted when the experimenters were feeding them. Under natural conditions, they will take fruit from a tree quietly, the higher-ranking animals leaving enough for the others. Then bananas were introduced into this Eden. They were kept in locked boxes; the animals knew that they could not get them all at once. So at feeding time, the chimpanzees would fight.

A dominant animal might corner the market with fifty bananas in his arms and with no intention of letting anyone else get as much as a peel. Some of the wily youngsters found the screws that opened the locked boxes. They would sit blithely covering them with their feet until the adults were away, then they got into the banana business themselves. After a year of these

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handouts, the practice was stopped because it led to too much aggression.

One would expect scientists to have a great many reservations about applying lessons learnt from watching chimpanzees to the behavior of human beings. Surprisingly, they did not. Dr. Washburn stated flatly that man and the chimpanzee are closer biochemically than the dog and the fox or the cat and the lion. From this standpoint, the gorilla and the chimp are as different as man and the chimp.

He cited research in Japan and the United States which shows that, for example, in the sequence of amino acids in hemoglobin, there are 52 differences between man and the horse, two between the chimp and the gorilla - and none between man and the chimpanzee.

Dr. Washburn predicted that within the next five years, science will have produced a "biochemical clock" to date the separation of the major groups of primates (among them monkeys, apes and humans) with an

x accuracy of about 1 million years.

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Dr. Ropartz also remarked that mice become more violent when they live in a state of either extreme isolation or overpopulation. Similar behaviour has been found in monkeys reared in isolation or plunged into crowded zoos. Confined to cages, the animals lower on the social scale are always in contact with their dominators. They constantly eye each other, creating a vicious circular interaction of threats generating aggression that generates more threats. Gang wars have been known to occur in zoos among animals that display no such tendencies in the wild.



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In its latest form, the "stimoceiver" has been hooked up to a computer to monitor the behaviour of a colony of chimpanzees on an artificial island at Holloman, New Mexico, in the western United States. Their spontaneous activities send signals that are analyzed and recognized by the computer. In the event of a special form of behaviour - aggression, for instance - the computer triggers stimulation to a different part of the brain to eliminate such behaviour. "In this way the brain learns to modify its own activity," Dr. Delgado explained.

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A timid monkey had been placed in the same cage with a dominant animal equipped with a stimoceiver. In the cage, too, was a lever that sent a signal into the boss's brain, changing him from a lion to a lamb. The timid soul soon learned how to work the lever and the results were startling. One slide showed the "top dog" (that is, the top monkey) making the "under-dog" miserable, the next showed the boss cowering after the magic button had been pressed.

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Dr. Delgado is convinced that the brain learns aggressiveness. "Is there a killing instinct in man? No, man is totally shaped by culture. The difference between man and the animals is that his brain is so immature at birth that, in the absence of sensory input, his mind cannot work. His genes are only modulators, the brain's source of information is cultura, not genetic."



Here it might be appropriate to mention a theory referred to at the meeting by Dr. Lionel Tiger. He is convinced that "corporate aggressiveness" such as war is a male function. Discounting tales of the Amazons, Dr. Tiger said he has been unable to find a well-documented case of a culture where women were the warriors or the hunters of large animals. War is for men only, it's not a universally human activity. As for female aggressiveness, he maintained that it is not "corporate."

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As a school of violence, it can be very effective. Surveys in the United States of programmes offered by the three major networks have shown, Dr. Hamburg said, that a murder occurs once an hour on the screen, and once every half an hour during peak viewing-time, the early evening hours. Every eight minutes, there is a violent incident to be watched. To make matters worse, Dr. Hamburg went on, this violence is "sanitized". There is no blood, there is no unpleasantness. It is shown as a neat way to solve problems.

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Some work has already been done to try to determine if big cities really make humans behave inhumanly. Dr. Philip Zimbardo, a Stanford University researcher, bought two cars. He left each out in the street for nearly three days with its hood open and its licence plates removed, one in front of Stanford at Palo Alto, California, and the other next to New York University in lower Manhattan.

At Palo Alto, a town of about 50,000, nothing happened to the car. When a rainstorm broke, some kind passersby pushed it under cover. In New York, Dr. Zimbardo's watchers found, the car was in the street no more than seven minutes before it was damaged. By the end of the experiment, it was nothing but a stripped and battered hulk. Most of the damage had been done in daylight and by well-dressed members



of the white middle class.

The explanation can be found in the anonymity of the big city. The New Yorkers who damaged the car felt that they did not know the owner and that they would never see any of the other passers-by again.

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But different skills are needed to make decisions during a crisis. Experiments show that the level of these skills drops in such a situation. Under stress, subjects tend to see situations as black and white, never distinguishing greys. They display "deterioration of verbal performance, increased rate of error, diminished tolerance for ambiguity, loss of abstract ability and disorientation of visual-motor coordination." As Dr. Holsti read this list, some of his listeners wondered whether people in such a condition should be allowed to drive a car, let alone steer a ship of state.

The worst stress of all is time. The statesman is under pressure to be the first to mobilize, or not to be beaten to the draw when the other fellow

has a nuclear missile in his holster. It makes no difference whether the danger is real or not. "If he believes that something is true, then this is more important than if it is true."



In times of crisis, statesmen tend to filter out information that does not agree with their own opinions, to consult only a limited number of advisers, or none at all. Going back to World War I, Dr. Holsti remarked that the Kaiser wanted to believe that Britain would stay out. In the margin of a report from his ambassador to London warning him not to count on British neutrality, he wrote: "This old fool's information should not be believed." He thought much more of the ambassador to Russia who was telling him what he wanted to hear: the Czar would never go to war over Serbia.

Dr. Holsti then moved to the eve of the Second World War. Robert Vansittart, British Permanent Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs, kept insisting that the Soviet Army was not weaker than the

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Polish Army and that Hitler was not likely to be satisfied by a piece of Czechoslovakia. Convinced that no one was reading his memos, he purposely mixed their page order - and received them back still in the same order, initialled as having been read.

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A time scale for the changes in brain structure that Dr. Bigelow cited was supplied once more by Dr. Washburn. He pointed out that early man's brain capacity remained unchanged for two or three million years. During this period, there was not much evolution, either, in the stone tools that he produced. "Then, 700,000 years ago, a very different kind of tool appeared. Any fool can make the early tools but experiments have shown that graduate students cannot succeed in reproducing the later ones even after ten weeks of laboratory work. Man's brain had become twice as large. He had a new order of skills, he knew fire, he was hunting large animals. There was one species of man in the Old World from China to England.

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"It would seem that, 40,000 years ago, the whole game changed again. We see different tools and it is at this time that the roots of our present-day languages may have appeared. If you put Java man into our school system, he would not get anywhere, but late Neanderthal man would go right through college."

