THE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF WAR AND PEACE

I. ANALYZING THE CAUSES OF WAR
   KURT LEWIN'S FORMULA \( B = f(P, E) \)

II. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

A. INSTIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

   OPPRESSION, INJUSTICE, &
   OTHER GRIEVANCES
   THREAT (e.g., effects of 9/11/01 threat on Cal Poly students)

B. SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON DECISION MAKERS

   NORMS & POLITICAL INFLUENCES

   GROUPTHINK- pressures for conformity and consensus cause poor decision making

   GROUPTHINK EXAMPLE:
   CIA conclusions about WMD in Iraq

C. SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON CITIZENS

   OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY
   CONFORMITY TO SOCIAL NORMS
   GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA
III. PERSON FACTORS

A. GENETIC PREDISPOSITIONS – Is war inevitable?

DISPOSITIONS FOR FIGHTING AND COOPERATING

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN COOPERATION AND COMPETITION

B. EMOTIONS & MOTIVES

FEAR & INSECURITY

ANGER & REVENGE

PRIDE & HUMILATION

POWER (to control people and resources)

COMPETITION (winning, not losing)

C. ATTITUDES & ATTRIBUTIONS

FUNDAMENTAL ATTRIBUTION ERROR

ETHNOCENTRISM, DIABOLICAL ENEMY IMAGE, DEHUMANIZATION
IDEOLOGY - Hard vs. Soft Power (Militaristic vs. Cooperative)

JUSTIFICATION & ENTRAPMENT

Actions > Justification > Perseverance & Escalation

D. DOES PEACEFULNESS GENERALIZE?

INTERPERSONAL <-> GLOBAL ATTITUDES

INNER PEACE <-> INTERPERSONAL

INNER PEACE <-> GLOBAL ATTITUDES

E. CHARACTERISTICS OF PEACEFUL PEOPLE
   (i.e., high on interpersonal peacefulness and low on militaristic attitude):

   Universal Values (equality, justice, beauty)
   Empathic Concern
   Perspective Taking
   See Other People as Similar to Self
   Humanitarian Goals
   Experience More Peaceful Feelings
   Low Valuing of Power and Dominance
   Reject Revenge Norms
   Less Closed-Minded
   Unwilling to Impose Values on Others
IV. ALTERNATIVES TO WAR AND VIOLENCE

A. CONTAINMENT AND DETERRENCE

B. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

C. POSITIVE INCENTIVES

D. NEGOTIATION

E. THIRD PARTY INVOLVEMENT

V. AWARENESS OF ALTERNATIVES REDUCES SUPPORT FOR WAR (EXCEPT FOR HIGHLY MILITARISTIC PEOPLE)

[lecture by Linden Nelson, October 2008]