

**Study Guide for *Will War Ever End?*
A Soldier's Vision of Peace for the 21st Century
By Paul K. Chappell**

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Forward

“Paul K. Chappell has transformed my way of thinking about war and peace.”

- Lt. Col. Dave Grossman (ix)

Key Concepts

- Democracy
- Hope

Insights

- Democratically elected governments do not go to war against one another.
- Democracies are effectively “inoculated” against going to war with other democracies, and the goal of democracies is to foster other democracies; thus, “there is, in our time, cause to hope for an end to war.” (xi)
- Nations have chosen not to use firearms; they have made choices to ban guns and poison gas, and reduce nuclear weapons; thus, “we do have a choice about how we think about war, about killing, and about the value of human life in our society.” (xii)
- “There is, indeed, good cause to hope for an end to war. And I believe, with all my heart, that in this book Paul K. Chappell has made a major contribution toward that most worthy and noble endeavor.” (xii)

Reflection Questions

- Why do you think democracies are effectively inoculated against going to war with other democracies?
- What role do citizens have in what choices nations make with respect to war and peace?
- Are you hopeful about the possibilities end to war? If so, why? If not, why?

Ch. 1 A Manifesto for Waging Peace

“As fire does not extinguish fire, so evil cannot extinguish evil. Only goodness, ..., conquers evil. That this is so is in man’s spiritual world an immutable law comparable to the law of Galileo.” - Leo Tolstoy

“The Soldier above all other people prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” - General Douglas MacArthur

Key Concepts

- Violence
- Killing
- War
- Human Nature

Insights

- From an early age, Paul watched his father, a Korean and Vietnam war veteran, lose his grip on reality; Paul came to realize that war took his father from him.
- This insight and associated trauma led to a life-long obsession with war and suffering.
- An early dream that he had killed himself compelled Paul to explore the question, Will war ever end?
- Paul sought to answer the war question by first exploring some fundamental questions about our humanity:
 - Are human beings naturally violent?
 - Why does war seem like the norm and peace the anomaly?
 - Is war an inescapable part of human nature?
- Paul cites *On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society* by Dave Grossman, a lieutenant colonel in the army and former West Point psychology professor, to begin to address his questions. Grossman asserts:
 - Human beings have an innate resistance to killing other human beings;
 - A country is only capable of waging war if the enemy is dehumanized;
 - The most traumatic experiences in war occur when someone kills another human, not when one is in physical danger.
- Paul thus asserts that humans are not naturally violent; he also asks, “If human beings are naturally violent and warlike, why does war drive so many people like my father insane? The logical insinuation being that anything that would drive us insane must run counter to that which is inherent to our human nature.

Reflection Questions

- What do you think of Grossman’s assertions in response to Paul’s questions about war, violence, and human nature?
- What is the relationship between war and trauma?
- What dreams and questions do you have that invite insight and deep reflection, that can help us better understand ourselves and one another, and our propensity for war and peace?

Ch. 2 Every Army’s Greatest Problem

“By being loving, we are capable of being brave.” - Lao-tzu, sixth-century Chinese philosopher (9)

“I find it odd that people refer to compassion and love as naive moral ideals that make one weak, while the U.S. Army uses compassion and love to motivate its soldiers to cooperate and survive in the harshest circumstances.” (10)

Key Concepts

- Flight
- Fight
- Love
- Compassion
- Sacrifice

Insights

- The greatest problem for armies throughout history is to stop soldiers from running away.
- The most powerful motivator that convinces soldiers to stay and fight is love and compassion
- The U.S. Army uses compassion and love to motivate soldiers.
- Compassion, and willingness to sacrifice, not killing, is the most admired trait in soldiers.
- Thus, the capacity for compassion, not violence, is the defining characteristic of human nature.

Reflection Questions

- What does our culture and society tell us about love and compassion?
- What do you think about Paul’s insight that the U.S. Army uses compassion and love to motivate soldiers?
- Is Paul’s conclusion persuasive, that we are more prone to love and compassion than violence and killing?

Ch. 3 The Key to Human Survival

“How did human beings survive and prosper in the harsh conditions of Africa? We survived because of our large brains and our endless capacity to cooperate.” (13)

“Many people do not understand that cooperation is the key to our survival.” (14)

Key Concepts

- Cooperation
- Survival
- Instinct
- Self-Interest
- Community

Insights

- We have survived as a species due to our ability to cooperate.
- It is not true that the purpose of every organism is merely to survive.
- Gorillas will die to protect family members.
- This willingness to protect their family and community is instinctual.
- Species rely on communities for survival, thus, they risk their lives to protect their communities.

Reflection Questions

- What are the reasons people cooperate and protect one another?
- Do you agree that humanity’s desire to cooperate is instinctual? Is it more nature or nurture?
- How does the concept of self-interest coexist with, or complement, notions of community and cooperation?

Ch. 4 The Indestructible Bond

“Unconditional love is not a naive moral virtue but a critical survival instinct that makes cooperation possible.” (15)

Key Concepts

- Selfless service
- Self-sacrifice
- Bond
- Unconditional love
- Well-being

Insights

- Human beings have a bond powerful enough to hold a community together and encourage selfless service.
- If a soldier’s friend or loved one is in danger she/he will often risk her/his life to protect them.

- Paul's military experiences taught him the necessity of this unconditional bond of love, for survival.
- While deployed in Iraq, a bomb exploded. Over a dozen were hurt, but dozens more came to their rescue.
- The suffering of their comrades called them to action without hesitation.
- The instinct was to help and heal, like a parent would do if her/his child was suffering.
- Unconditional love builds and an indestructible bond that encourages us to care for others without concern for our own well-being.

Reflection Questions

- What is worth living for?
- What is worth dying for?
- Gandhi used the term *tepanya* to describe the notion of self-less sacrifice, the willingness to suffer, not for its own sake, but rather for the sake of a higher purpose. What do you think of this notion? How might it relate to your life? As an example, you might consider this notion in the context of the love of a parent for his or her child.

Ch. 5 Why Bears Roar

“If you saw an animal attacking your child, spouse, or close friend, you would not require any military training to rush to their aid..” (18)

Key Concepts

- Protection instinct
- Fight response versus frighten response
- Posturing

Insights

- Our natural human instinct is to protect our loved ones, as a parent would her/his child.
- The response that motivates us to protect is not a fight/violent response (that urges us to kill), but rather a “frighten response” (that urges us to chase away potential threats).
- This instinct to frighten away the enemy, found in all animals, including soldiers, is referred to as posturing, see *On Killing*, Dave Grossman.
- Posturing was demonstrated in the preference for gunpowder over a longbow during the Napoleonic Wars. At that time, the longbow much deadlier, however, the musket was still used, because the BANG! scared off the enemy.
- Similarly, if a bear is confronted by several wolves, scaring them away, roaring, is more effective than fighting.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss the distinction between the fight versus frighten instinct.
- Can you think of examples of posturing from your own experience?
- Gandhi used the term *tepanya* to describe the notion of self-less sacrifice, the willingness to suffer for the sake of a higher purpose. Can you think of examples from your own experience of self-less sacrifice, where you have put others first, or others have put you first, event to their own detriment?

Ch. 6 Not All Soldiers Are Human Beings

“...abundant evidence reveals that dogs, wolves, and primates exhibit selfless behavior that contributes to the well-being of others...” (23)

Key Concepts

- Posturing
- Sacrifice
- Unconditional love
- Universal love

Insights

- As a cobra spreads its hood to ward off a threat, soldiers also make themselves appear more dangerous to foes.
- Greeks understood that love encourages soldiers to protect their family and friends.
- Lao-tzu realized that being loving allows us to be brave.
- The Spartans at the Battle of Thermopylae were honored for courageously dying to protect their loved ones.
- Other mammals too are willing to protect and sacrifice for the members of their group, even if not related by blood.
- Army dog handlers view their dogs as soldiers capable of expressing unconditional love.
- Corp. Flannelly was saved by his dog Bruiser during Vietnam; Bruiser pulled Flannelly to safety amidst gunfire.
- Humans, who rely on cooperation more than other mammals to survive, have the capacity for universal love.
- This universal, unconditional love, gives us the power to end war.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss a time when you used posturing or witnessed it being used to ward off a threat.
- Discuss the relationship between sacrifice and unconditional love.
- Discuss Paul’s notion of universal love, human beings’ endless capacity for unconditional love.

- Paul mentions Jesus and Buddha, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., Albert Schweitzer, Henry David Thoreau, and Gandhi as examples of this love. Can you think of others, including “ordinary” persons, such as family or friends or mentors you have known who have approximated this universal love? How did they do so?

Ch. 7 Fury and Rage

“When we see our loved ones in danger and our unconditional love fuses with adrenaline, this leads to the behavior I call fury.” (27)

Key Concepts

- Fury
- Adrenaline
- Rage
- Racial superiority

Insights

- Fury is the fusion of unconditional love and adrenaline.
- Fury is a survival instinct that makes us natural protectors, not natural killers.
- Rage is when adrenaline fuses with hatred.
- Rage, unlike fury, does not seek to stop a fight, but rather to escalate violence.
- Racial superiority that dehumanizes the enemy leads to hatred, which can lead to rage.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss the distinction between fury and rage.
- Discuss Paul’s assertion that unconditional love is a defining part of human nature.
- Discuss Paul’s assertion that hatred, like an illness, occurs when we ignore our human nature.
- How can we confront racial superiority and discrimination without succumbing to hatred?

Ch. 8 The Burn of Hatred

“If human beings were naturally violent and destructive, hatred would not hurt every single time.” (30)

Key Concepts

- Hatred
- Pleasure
- Unconditional love

Insights

- Hatred hurts for the same reason putting your hand over a burning flame hurts, to serve as a warning to your body.

- Hatred also provides a warning that you are endangering your human family, upon which your survival depends.
- The pleasure of hatred is based on relative pleasure, which can make it seem appealing, e.g. to youths with no meaning or purpose, a message of hatred may sound appealing, more pleasurable than their despair.
- Unconditional love provides an internal source of happiness and encourages behavior that promotes survival.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss the relationship between hatred and pleasure.
- Discuss the notion of relative hatred. How can hatred seem appealing?
- How does Paul argue that hatred confirms that human beings are not naturally violent? Do you agree?

Ch. 9 Unconditional Love Is Stronger Than Hatred

“History teaches us that an abundance of hatred can drive a human being insane, while an abundance of unconditional love leads to a joyful life.” (34)

Key Concepts

- Hatred
- Unconditional love
- Compassion and cooperation
- Summary argument and concepts

Insights

- As with Hitler and Stalin, anyone filled with hatred is extremely dangerous to human survival.
- Those who internalize the ethic of universal love, such as Gandhi, King, and Schweitzer, promote human survival.
- Embracing the power of unconditional love gives us the strength to serve our community and overcome adversity.
- Einstein reminds us that humans owe their strength to the fact that they are social animals, that hatred endangers the survival of humanity, our survival relies on compassion and cooperation.
- At the end of the chapter, Paul reviews the facts that, from his perspective, prove that human beings are not naturally violent; war is not inevitable; and we all have the power to help end war and ensure humanity’s survival:
 - War drives people insane;
 - The greatest problem of every army is how to stop soldiers from running away;
 - Being loving allows us to be brave;
 - Cooperation is the key to our survival;

- Unconditional love builds an indestructible bond between people;
- We have a stronger instinct to posture than to kill;
- Fury motivates us to protect our loved ones;
- Hatred is always painful;
- Unconditional love is inherently joyful and stronger than hatred.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss the relationship between hatred and pleasure.
- Discuss the notion of relative hatred. How can hatred seem appealing?
- Do you agree with Paul’s evidence and argument that hatred helps confirm that humans are not naturally violent?

Ch. 10 The Survival of Humanity

“The question will war ever end? Can be reworded: will humanity survive or will we destroy ourselves?” (38)

Key Concepts

- Nuclear weapons
- Morality
- Survival

Insights

- Today we have enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world several times over.
- Because war is so devastating, it is no longer merely a moral issue, but an issue of humanity’s survival
- We have the capacity to create a world where countries no longer sanction war.
- We can learn from soldiers of peace who came before us how to fight together for our survival.

Reflection Questions

- What do you think about Paul’s assertion that war is not merely a moral issue but also a question of survival?
- Reflect on Paul’s assertion in light of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s words at Riverside Church in 1967: “We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent coannihilation?”
- What will it take to choose coexistence and survival over war? What will it take to create the world of which Dr. King spoke, and Paul speaks, where countries no longer sanction war?

Ch. 11 Soldiers of Peace

“At West Point, I was taught that military might has severe limitations.” (39-40)
Socrates said, “I am not an Athenian or Greek, but a citizen of the world.” (51)

Key Concepts

- Terrorism
- Soldiers of peace
- Socrates
- Love of country, patriotism
- Veterans
- Gandhi
- Survival
- Waging peace

Insights

- West Point taught Paul that:
 - the military has severe limitations;
 - armies are built to conquer and destroy, not build nations;
 - a war on terrorism can never be won with an army alone.
- Terrorism is a tactic, and idea, and no amount of military might can destroy an idea.
- Terrorism arises from despair, feeds on fear, and lacks unconditional love for human life.
- Terrorism threatens not only our country but the survival of humanity.
- The first soldier of peace was Socrates, who abandoned his spear and armed himself with the power of words, ideas - when soldiers of peace love their country, they gain strength to serve their community.
- Love of country can be compared to loving a child - if we love we try to correct, do our best to improve it.
- Socrates shaped the course of history not with bloody revolution but by striving for peaceful revolution.
- Socrates’ legacy is found in the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, inspiring Gandhi and King, and others.
- World War I veterans, many starving, homeless, and in poverty due to the Great Depression, were promised just compensation for wages lost fighting overseas - they protested and marched and lobbied as soldiers of peace.
- When the compensation legislation didn’t pass, vets protesting sang America the Beautiful, staying nonviolent.
- Congress later passed the Bonus Bill, then the GI Bill for WW II vets, to help with college, home loans, and jobs.
- Gandhi was also a soldier of peace and a brilliant strategist, using the weapons of love and understanding.

- Our planet needs soldiers of peace who understand the truth of our brotherhood, our interconnectedness.
- The fate of humanity and survival do not depend on our ability to wage war, but on our willingness to wage peace.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss Paul’s definition of terrorism. How can we most effectively confront terrorism today?
- What can we learn from Socrates, WWI and WWII veterans, and Gandhi?
- What does it mean to wage peace?
- How are each of us invited to be soldiers of peace?

Ch. 12 Waging Peace

“Peace is not merely the distant goal we seek, but... a means by which we arrive at that goal.” - Martin Luther King, Jr. (52)

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead (57)

Key Concepts

- Violence
- Thomas Clarkson’s antislavery movement in Europe
- Waging peace
- Unconditional love and cooperation
- Gandhi’s army of peace

Insights

- Violence tears down and destroys, while peaceful means build up, create, and nurture freedom, justice, and peace
- Thomas Clarkson’s 1785 essay about the lawfulness of enslaving the unconsenting helped spark the antislavery movement in Europe.
- Waging peace means we take creative, nonviolent action, as far as we are able, to create a peaceful world.
- When just a few join together to wage peace, large scale transformative change can take place.
- Gandhi’s small, 66 person army of peace, from his perspective, could defeat injustice.

Reflection Questions

- What do you think of Thomas Clarkson’s story? Discuss how an essay can change a people’s perspective.
- What do you think about Margaret Mead’s insight? Discuss how small groups have changed the world.

- Fellowship of Reconciliation leader A.J. Muste said, “there is no way to peace, peace is the way.” How does this thought connect to Paul’s notion of waging peace?

Ch. 13 The First Step On The Road To Peace

“War will only end if we end it.” (59)

Key Concepts

- Human nature

Insights

- Ending war requires we understand our human nature, and know that it is not inherently violent.
- Paul’s military experience taught him that not only can war end via peaceful means, but also war must end if humanity is to survive in the 21st century and beyond.
- War is not inevitable, but neither is peace.
- Understanding that we are not inherently violent is a first step in realizing our shared hope for a peaceful world.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss the role of nature versus nurture in waging peace.
- Does our human nature alone mean we will eliminate war? If not, what else is necessary?

Ch. 14 Toward A New Enlightenment

“If certain basic facts about war are not understood, we cannot fully understand what makes peace so practical, possible, and necessary. (61)

Key Concepts

- Self-fulfilling prophecy
- Hope
- Seeing differently

Insights

- To find a vaccine for polio, we must begin by studying, understanding the disease; the same applies to ending war.
- To end war, we must move beyond naive notions of peace, toward understanding the underlying causes of war.
- Proving humans are not naturally violent is an important first step in the right direction toward ending war.
- If people believe humans are naturally violent, then war will be viewed as inevitable, a self-fulfilling prophecy.

- We have shown that hatred and violence are not natural parts of our humanity, but occur when something has gone terribly wrong; this insight enables us to work toward preventing the causes of conflict and violence.
- Look at slavery for example, for centuries people believed it was in the nature of some races to live as slaves; in our fuller understanding of the true nature of humans, slavery eventually was abolished in America.
- The process of enlightenment and understanding that led to the abolition of slavery traces back to the Declaration of Independence, which sowed seeds of human rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Many believe the myth that humans are violent just as they believed the myth that it was in the nature of some races to live as slaves. In the future, Paul hopes saying humans are naturally violent will sound just as absurd.

Reflection Questions

- How can we together work to move beyond naive notions of peace? What practical steps can we take?
- Discuss Paul’s historical understanding of the Declaration of Independence and related hope for our future.
- Dr. King believed that the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice. How does this relate to Paul’s discussion of self-fulfilling prophecy, enlightenment, and hope for humanity?
- How can we work to heal the causes of violence and conflict?

Ch. 15 The Next Step

“The abolition of state-sanctioned slavery... became widespread, ..., because new ideas changed how people thought and perceived their humanity.” (66)

Key Concepts

- Hope
- New Enlightenment

Insights

- Form small groups to talk about the nature of war and possibility of peace, and share hopeful ideas with all.
- Discussing these ideas can help bring humanity toward a new vision of peace.
- The fact that slavery has been greatly reduced and deemed illegal shows tremendous progress.
- The information revolution can have as big an impact on humanity as the agricultural and industrial revolutions
- Globally, people are hungry for a global peace movement that will end war once and for all.
- Sharing and discussing these ideas can help bring humanity to a new vision of peace, a new enlightenment.

Reflection Questions

- Discuss topics that would be most compelling for small groups to discuss and share to help end war.
- What ideas can have the greatest transformative impact on humanity and help us move beyond war?
- How can technology be best utilized to help bring humanity to a new vision of peace?

Ch. 16 War Veterans Speak

Paul shares insightful quotes on war and peace from the following war veterans:

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower: Veteran of WWII
- George Orwell: Veteran of the Spanish Civil War
- General Omar Bradley: Veteran of WWII
- Major General Smedley Butler: Veteran of the Boxer Rebellion, WWI, and other conflicts
- Leo Tolstoy: Veteran of the Crimean War
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery: Veteran of World War II (killed in action)
- Mahatma Gandhi: Veteran of the Boer and Zulu Wars

Additional Resources

A Force More Powerful, www.aforcemorepowerful.org

American Friends Service Committee, www.afsc.org

Center for Teaching Peace, Colman McCarthy; Washington, DC (see www.peaceed.org)

Christian Peacemaker Teams, P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60608, 312-432-1213, cpt@igc.org

Circle of Insight, www.circleofinsight.org

Fellowship of Reconciliation, New York, www.forusa.org

Institute for Economics and Peace, www.economicsandpeace.org

International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, <http://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/>

The M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, www.gandhiinstitute.org; see also

<http://www.mkgandhi.org/> The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, www.thekingcenter.org

The Nonviolent Peaceforce, www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, www.wagingpeace.org

Pace e Bene, www.paceebene.org/pace

Paul K Chappell, Peaceful Revolution, www.paulkchappell.com

Peace Talks Radio, www.goodradioshows.org/

The Peace People (Mairead Maguire), www.peacepeople.com

Vision of Humanity, www.visionofhumanity.org

Voices for Creative Nonviolence, www.vcnv.org

Waging Nonviolence, www.wagingnonviolence.org

War Resisters League, New York, NY, 212-228-0450, www.warresisters.org