**What is War?**

**1. War is Evil: it is the product of evil intention and action. War is an evil multiplier (even if necessary)…. The bombing of Pearl Harbor would lead to the dropping of the Atomic Bomb.**

**2. War can be cultural: Entire cultures have developed almost completely devoted to war. Spartans, Zulus under Shaka, Imperial Japan during WWII. Cossacks… war was a way of life. Samurai… war was a way of life.**

**3. War is “Politics by other means.” Quote from a Prussian (German) soldier/philosopher, Clausewitz, who wrote extensively on what war is and should be. War is an extension of state policy (intention) that it cannot do peacefully.**

**4. War is complicated and diverse… it can’t be described simply.**

**5. *The “potential” for violence is coded into our DNA… and always will be.***

**6. Almost universally male. With only a few historical exceptions, war is conducted by males.**

**7. War is a cultural expression: it is conducted differently by different cultures.**

**Causes of War**

**1. Resources: most wars are fought over access to resources: Food, land/territory, mineral wealth.**

**2. Loot: wealth stolen from others.**

**3. Ambition… war for the sake of personal achievement: Alexander the Great.**

**4. Cultural… war that is a product of cultural values and tradition. In these instances there are always limitations placed on warfare to keep casualties low. Aztecs are great examples of this… they ritualized warfare.**

**5. Fear of expected but unpredictable disaster: increases the level of social anxiety… war/militant behavior is a means to deal with collective anxiety (ironically)**