

CONCLUSION

To recapitulate the main arguments of this chapter: Conflict between individuals and groups in the sense of competitive struggle and even physical violence is probably built into the human species. But war, organized armed struggle, is not natural behavior, but learned behavior – learned in a range of institutions from the training camp to the staff college, and also indirectly in our schools and colleges. Nearly every armed conflict can be prevented, especially the smaller ones now taking place.

The world already has the resources and the knowledge to do this. What has been missing is the application of these resources in a systematic, sustained way. This can be promoted through the activities of a worldwide coalition of civil society organizations and governments. Once the program is applied, it can make small wars far less frequent and it can contribute significantly to heading off wars among the major powers.

This global project, or something analogous to it, must be implemented during this century. The sooner we begin the better.

¹ Details of the Global Action to Prevent War program are at www.globalactionpw.org

² Financing of the police and peacekeeping forces might at the outset have to be by voluntary contributions from UN member states, raised in the form of an international surcharge on air tickets, sea freight or international transactions, a surcharge organized in a way that cannot be blocked by the opposition of a few states.

³ Details of this approach can be found in Harold Feiveson, editor, *The Nuclear Turning Point* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1999), especially chapter 10.