

PART ONE: THE CASE FOR A UNIFIED AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

- (i) **There have been 175 wars since the end of World War II, with 45 million killed.** Over six million people have died in war since the end of the cold war, when things should have changed for the better. These were mainly women and children, because the trend has been to more and more civilian deaths. This river of human blood is still flowing today, with personal tragedies that last a lifetime, and with the painstaking work of generations of human hands and minds reduced to useless rubble in moments.
- (ii) **War -- organized armed violence -- is learned behavior** not, as is often argued, a built-in defect of the human species. Humans do disagree, compete, and from time to time even use physical violence against each other. War however is learned from instructors, on the training ground, in the guerrilla camp, and in the staff college, and backed by social values that justify many forms of war. We know now from the war crimes trials that even the genocidal Rwanda massacres were carefully prepared and rehearsed in advance, preceded by months of organization, assassination of political leaders, and deliberate hate propaganda. There was nothing spontaneous about them. The way to change learned behavior is to unlearn it – that means to change the learning environment and also to make it more difficult through improved prevention and disarmament for hatred, greed, and desire for power to lead to war.
- (iii) **The international community, jolted by the impact of the world wars and of the threatened destruction of all-out nuclear war, now looks on war as something that should if possible be prevented or stopped by joint action of governments.** This approach is strongly backed on moral grounds by major religious traditions.
- (iv) **There has however been no common overall approach to recent conflicts from the international community.** Where there has finally been outside intervention, it has been belated. Each crisis has received serious attention only after largescale killing and economic destruction has taken place, and has been broadly reported by the media, even though earlier phases, as in Kosovo, have been widely observed by governments and NGO's. Many cases have received little or no outside help. **This whole process is like fighting individual forest fires without study of how fires start, how fires burn, and of what is the best way to prevent and to rapidly extinguish them.**
- (v) **War as such is considered too big a problem to tackle directly.** It is not being approached as a single phenomenon whose distinguishing characteristic is organized armed violence to secure the submission of the opponent. Instead, it is approached as a collection of social problems with individual potential solutions.