

What is Peace Psychology: Some Western Roots in the 20th Century

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The Moral Equivalent of War (1906)*

... modern man inherits all the innate pugnacity and all the love of glory of his ancestors. Showing war's irrationality and horror is of no effect on him. The horrors make the fascination. War is the *strong* life; it is life *in extremis*; war taxes are the only ones men never hesitate to pay, as the budgets of all nations show us. [Military service is seen as] ... a meritorious characteristic, needed by "the service," and redeemed by that from the suspicion of inferiority. All the qualities of a man acquire dignity when he knows that the service of the collectivity that owns him needs him. If proud of the collectivity, his own pride rises in proportion. No collectivity is like an army for nourishing such pride

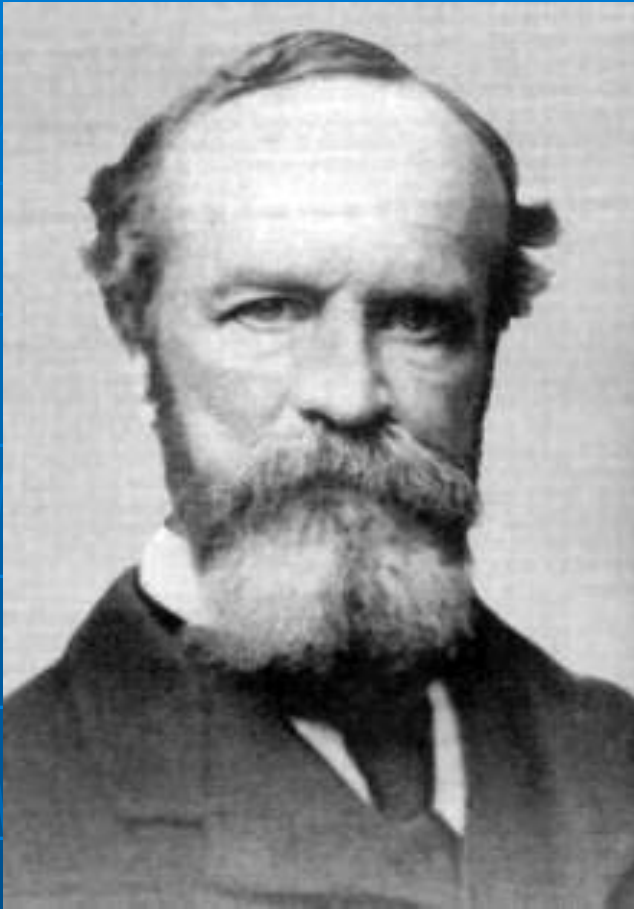
William James (1842-1910)

* For an elaboration of the peace psychology implications and personal context of James' address, see Deutsch (1995).



[War will never be replaced] ... So long as antimilitarists propose no substitute for war's disciplinary function, no *moral equivalent* of war ... [What is needed is] ... obligatory service to the state. We should be *owned*, as soldiers are by the army, and our pride would rise accordingly. We could be poor, then, without humiliation, as army officers now are. The only thing needed henceforward is to inflame the civic temper as history has inflamed the military temper.

James (1906)



William James

“Moral Equivalent of War”



Mental Testing of Army Recruits during W.W. I



I. PHYSICAL QUALITIES.

Physique, bearing, neatness,
voice, energy, endurance.

Consider how he impresses his
command in these respects.

Highest	15
High	12
Middle	9
Low	6
Lowest	3

II. INTELLIGENCE.

Accuracy, ease in learning;
ability to grasp quickly the point
of view of commanding officer,
to issue clear and intelligent
orders, to estimate a new
situation, and to arrive at a
sensible decision in a crisis.

Highest	15
High	12
Middle	9
Low	6
Lowest	3

III. LEADERSHIP.

Initiative, force, self reliance,
decisiveness, tact, ability to
inspire men and to command
their obedience, loyalty and co-
operation.

Highest	15
High	12
Middle	9
Low	6
Lowest	3

IV. PERSONAL QUALITIES.

Industry, dependability, loyalty;
readiness to shoulder responsi-
bility for his own acts; freedom
from conceit and selfishness;
readiness and ability to co-
operate.

Highest	15
High	12
Middle	9
Low	6
Lowest	3

**V. GENERAL VALUE TO THE
SERVICE.**

Professional knowledge, skill
and experience; success as
administrator and instructor;
ability to get results.

Highest	40
High	32
Middle	24
Low	16
Lowest	8

International Relations (IR) Post WWI

- Discipline: Social Science
- Unit of Analysis: State & Interstate Relations
- Time Frame: 1648 to date
- Values: Epistemic and Neutral
- Goals: Descriptive & Explanatory
- Subject: Negative Peace

(Stephenson, 1989)

Recruiting for Military Service: Message Framing Matters!



Allport & Lepkin (1943)*

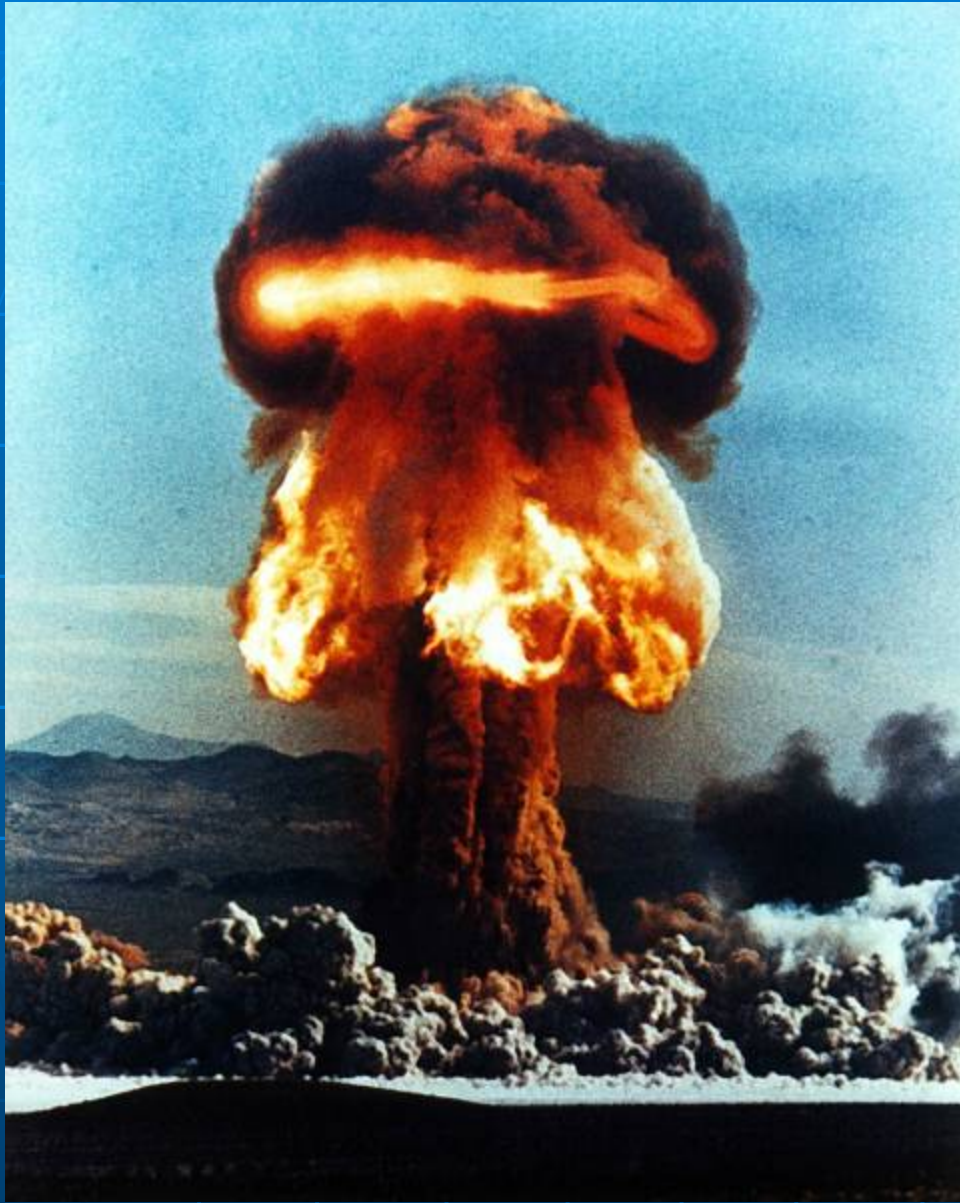
*For a review of social psychologists' Contributions to WWII, see Johnson & Nichols (1998).

Demoralizing the Enemy

(Morale Division, 1947)*



***For a review of social psychologists' contributions to WWII, see Johnson & Nichols (1998).**



"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."

- Einstein (1946)