

70:2 (“The Social Value of War”)

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Source for 70:2

- (1) William Graham **Sumner** and Albert Galloway **Keller**, *The Science of Society, Volume I* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1927)

Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and the UB writer pointedly differ from each other.
- (e) **Blue** indicates original (or “revealed”) information, or UB-specific terminology and concepts. (What to highlight in this regard is debatable; the highlights are tentative.)

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PAPER 70 — THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT

2. THE SOCIAL VALUE OF WAR

XIV: ANTAGONISMS (Sumner &
Keller 353)

§145. War as an Evolutionary Factor.
(Sumner & Keller 406)

70:2.1 In past ages a fierce war would institute social changes and facilitate the adoption of new ideas such as would not have occurred naturally in ten thousand years.

The terrible price paid for these certain war advantages was that

To start a war is like **throwing** society upon the mercies of some ruthless natural process concerning the nature of which men know very little.

society was temporarily **thrown** back into savagery;

It is a sort of **abdication of reason** (S&K 409).

civilized **reason had to abdicate.**

War is effective, but it is **costly**. It is sometimes, even yet, worth the cost, for its woes may be less than the miseries it eliminates. It is **strong medicine** (S&K 410).

War is **strong medicine**, very **costly** and most dangerous;

The trouble with war is that while it may **cure** the disease, it is likely to **kill** the patient (S&K 410).

while often **curative** of certain social disorders, it sometimes **kills** the patient, destroys the society.

§143. **The Services of War.** (Sumner & Keller 397)

Upon later stages of evolution the contributions of war, when attention is once called to them, are so manifest as to need but brief illustration. Over and over again men would have gone on putting up with inconvenience, incompleteness, and imperfection but for the fact that the **need of defense** forced them by a powerful motive toward **better adjustments** (S&K 399).

[contd] In history the **military** inventions have led the way and have been afterwards applied to industry (S&K 399).

§140*. **War-Usages.** (Sumner & Keller 374)

In particular, much stress was laid upon the **drill**; that it was partly pleasurable and, in some of its aspects, was like a **dance**, derogated in no manner from its efficacy (S&K 375).

§143. **The Services of War.** (Sumner & Keller 397)

There is no doubt that war **imposed discipline**

and **put a premium on fortitude**; the loss of power to fight goes, as in the case of the later Romans, with civic degeneration (S&K 400).

70:2.2 The constant **necessity for national defense** creates many **new and advanced social adjustments.**

Society, today, enjoys the benefit of a long list of useful innovations which were at first wholly **military**

and is even indebted to war for the **dance**, one of the early forms of which was

a military **drill.**

70:2.3 War has had a social value to past civilizations because it:

1. **Imposed discipline**, enforced co-operation.
2. **Put a premium on fortitude** and courage.

War sets in relief the national bonds of unity by reconciling lesser interests in the interest of the whole; as in Holland, so elsewhere, “discord was the greatest among us, as a rule, in times of truce or peace” (S&K 400).

War dissolved what primitive equality there was, and introduced social inequality, discipline, and organization (S&K 401).

§145. War as an Evolutionary Factor.
(Sumner & Keller 406)

Once war was practically the only expedient available in most cases; now it has become a last, repulsive recourse in case others fail. It is treading the road over which have passed cannibalism, human sacrifice, slavery, the mother-family, and many another less prominent expedient in living (S&K 410).

§143. The Services of War. (Sumner & Keller 397)

[W]ar, as a phase of contact with others, was at least more favorable to the development of culture than was utter isolation (S&K 401).

3. Fostered and solidified nationalism.

4. Destroyed weak and unfit peoples.

5. Dissolved the illusion of primitive equality and selectively stratified society.

70:2.4 War has had a certain evolutionary and selective value,

but like slavery,

it must sometime be abandoned as civilization slowly advances.

Olden wars promoted travel and cultural intercourse;

these ends are now better served by modern methods of transport and communication.

Olden wars strengthened nations, but modern struggles disrupt civilized culture.

Nor was savage warfare counter-selective as the modern type is said to be (S&K 398).

“A society needs to have a ferment in it; sometimes an enthusiastic delusion or an adventurous folly answers the purpose.” Eagerness to win has put spur to ingenuity and war’s necessity has been a prolific mother of invention (S&K 398-99).

The relentless ferocity of the Old Testament warriors or their god should not color ideas of all savage warfare (S&K 397).

Ancient warfare resulted in the decimation of inferior peoples;

the net result of modern conflict is the selective destruction of the best human stocks.

Early wars promoted organization and efficiency, but these have now become the aims of modern industry.

During past ages war was a social ferment which pushed civilization forward;

this result is now better attained by ambition and invention.

Ancient warfare supported the concept of

a God of battles,

but modern man has been told that God is love.

War has served many valuable purposes in the past, it has been an indispensable scaffolding in the building of civilization, but it is rapidly becoming culturally bankrupt—incapable of producing dividends of social gain in any way commensurate with the terrible losses attendant upon its invocation.

§145. War as an Evolutionary Factor.
(Sumner & Keller 406)

Once blood-letting was a sort of cure-all in medicine, as it was for society's ills.... Blood-letting of both kinds had its merits in its day and was regarded with general favor. Now public opinion is against it (S&K 413).

§144. Militarism and Industrialism.
(Sumner & Keller 402)

The antagonisms between herding and tillage, and between war and trade, are prototypes of those existing between militarism and industrialism (S&K 402).

[Industrialism's] vices are

materialism,

worship of wealth,

70:2.5 At one time physicians believed in bloodletting as a cure for many diseases,

but they have since discovered better remedies for most of these disorders.

And so must the international blood-letting of war certainly give place to the discovery of better methods for curing the ills of nations.

70:2.6 The nations of Urantia have already entered upon the gigantic struggle between nationalistic militarism and industrialism,

and in many ways this conflict is analogous to

the agelong struggle between the herder-hunter and the farmer.

But if industrialism is to triumph over militarism, it must avoid the dangers which beset it.

The perils of budding industry on Urantia are:

70:2.7 1. The strong drift toward materialism, spiritual blindness.

70:2.8 2. The worship of wealth-power, value distortion.

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luxury,

70:2.9 3. The vices of luxury, cultural immaturity.

70:2.10 4. The increasing dangers of indolence, service insensitivity.

softness, and pusillanimity (S&K 405).

70:2.11 5. The growth of undesirable racial softness, biologic deterioration.

70:2.12 6. The threat of standardized industrial slavery, personality stagnation.

Industrialism can assert that “it is labor that ennobles” (S&K 405).

Labor is ennobling but drudgery is benumbing.

I: STARTING-POINTS (Sumner & Keller 3)

§11. The Socializing Forces. (Sumner & Keller 21)

70:2.13 Militarism is autocratic and cruel—savage.

War may unite the aggressors or the assaulted; it makes the body of victors coherent; but it disintegrates the vanquished (S&K 22-23).

It promotes social organization among the conquerors but disintegrates the vanquished.

Industrialism is more civilized and should be so carried on as to promote initiative and to encourage individualism. Society should in every way possible foster originality.

XIV: ANTAGONISMS (Sumner & Keller 353)

§143. The Services of War. (Sumner & Keller 397)

This is no panegyric of war; it is a recognition of the demonstrable services of a rough and crude instrumentality (S&K 401).

70:2.14 Do not make the mistake of glorifying war;

The services of armed conflict have been stated first; they long assured it survival-value; having them in mind, one can the more intelligently estimate the qualities which the substitutes for war must have shown, and must continue to show, in order to replace it to a considerable and increasing degree (S&K 402).

[Where no one submits to anyone else in time of peace, war brings about, at least temporarily, a social gradation (S&K 401).]

rather discern what it has done for society so that you may the more accurately

visualize what its substitutes must provide in order to continue the advancement of civilization.

And if such adequate substitutes are not provided, then you may be sure that war will long continue.

70:2.15 Man will never accept peace as a normal mode of living until he has been thoroughly and repeatedly convinced that peace is best for his material welfare, and until society has wisely provided peaceful substitutes for the gratification of that inherent tendency periodically to let loose a collective drive designed to liberate those ever-accumulating emotions and energies belonging to the self-preservation reactions of the human species.

70:2.16 But even in passing, war should be honored as the school of experience which compelled a race of arrogant individualists to submit themselves to highly concentrated authority—a chief executive.

Old-fashioned war did select the innately great men for leadership, but modern war no longer does this. To discover leaders society must now turn to the conquests of peace: industry, science, and social achievement.