

Guns, Murder, War, Destruction

A long time ago, Ramparts Magazine ran an article that said studies had shown guns available tended to stimulate people to use them. Guns stimulate use of guns.

Well, yeah. Recently, I tried to track back to that article on the internet. I didn't find the article, but that's what I got from it when I read it years ago, that the more guns you have, the more shooting you have.

Well yeah. I mean, what's it all about? Pull the trigger. See if it does what it's supposed to do.

If the big blam scares you, take a deep breath and try it again. And again. If you need to, start with a quieter, smaller caliber gun and work your way up.

Either way, You'll get used to the sound. Blam
BALAMNNNN. BOOM.

The smell? Same thing. You'll get used to it.

Humankind goes to war to settle every problem and every imagined problem that, according to leaders, keeps the world from functioning smoothly. Does it surprise anyone that individuals learn from nations about acceptable ways to settle differences and choose extreme violence (guns, death, killing, destruction) to attempt to solve problems, their own problems, social problems, problems between different groups of people?

Hey, that's what the big people do, so we should do it too, all us littler ones, who don't run the world directly, whole countries or states, that kind of stuff.

The world already smells like gunpowder and death. Anything we add to lingering smells is an insignificant part of what already is, innit?

Why is killing someone or someones murder if it happens outside of war, shocking to know about, punishable by imprisonment and death, but acceptable or heroic in war, rewardable by adoration, medaling, lifelong efforts to smooth the killer's path through life.

Many surviving warriors are confused about the meaning of existence. Their learning has become inconsistent. Do we progress by love or by hate? How do we know when to accept love and when to accept hate to steer the world forward, to get approval for our actions from the ones who run everything?

Are we humans social creatures, loving and helping each other, or are we creatures of hate? Do we kill and destroy

toward a future of fulfillment and beauty?

It's easy to become confused.

Existence became impossibly evil when we developed weapons that could destroy our home, this earth, all life and when we developed willingness to use those weapons.

Even in war, killing and destroying is not "natural," is not an intrinsic need in people educated into perspectives and habits of living that make social existence possible, even pleasant and desirable.

Second World War military trainers had to teach recruits to want to kill, to go into battle knowing they should kill. They should kill individuals, knowing they were killing, were trying to kill, real people, with faces, with kids and grandmothers, even to kill kids and grandmothers if ordered to do so by leaders.

Before training, recruits often fired at random, into air, not at people. Many warriors did not want to kill, would not kill. Recruits had to be taught war-fighting. They had to be taught to throw away everything they'd learned about morals, about the sacredness of life.

Recruits had to be taught to give first priority to killing, to destruction, destroy the enemy and the enemy's habitat, humans and everything above and everything below, birds in the air and tiny organisms in the soil, destroy even the life of the soil they ate from. In war, we kill even that which sustains us.

We teach from when our children are very small "Don't hurt anyone. Be Gentle. Kind. Soft. Love. Everyone."

Choose what to teach.

Teach cooperative. socially-oriented existence. Teach the sacredness of all life. Teach Love. Love.

Or Hate. Can anyone teach hate? Me-centered existence? To hell with everybody else, as long as I get what I need or want. Everyone is an object, to use, to be superior to.

In the beginning of their lives, we can't teach our children hate, fear, anger, destruction. Children have to get through their tenderest years before we can teach them how the modern world actually goes around.

Somewhere along the way, in this world of war, we have to develop these participant's (our children) awareness, these rapidly-growing citizens, of the world's awareness that there have to be willing trigger pullers among us, some of whom will survive warfare and will need to be integrated back into the culture. If they survive their initiation into the way the historically-developed, industrial, technologically-driven, contemporary human culture happens and, particularly, happens to them, we have to welcome our trigger-puller's sacrifices and

help them transition back to kindness, love and care in a culture that supports life.

Does it?

Does our human culture support life and love?

It will serve our needs best if we continue to let professionals teach our children to hate, kill, and destroy in war, like we do now. It's much more efficient to teach war-fighting that way, because those who teach war-fighting believe in it and know how to teach it. They've been at it a long time, and they usually know what works and what doesn't.

Having professionals in the military or in police forces do the teaching avoids some of the conflict that comes to young people when they realize their parents are part of the conspiracy that destroys truth, the earth, and all life on the earth.

Parents first establish their relationship to truth, when they teach their children the popular myth of Santa Claus, one example among many modern myths. Santa works with the contemporary, consuming culture to teach the values of the culture. Parents and teachers cooperate and teach the myth of Santa Claus, the myth of war to keep us safe, and other myths of the culture.

Myths support a destructive culture.

Parents who teach this kind of crafted myth also teach their children about respect for truth and love, and (by implication) the value of subterfuge in teaching values that, without fully disclosing the importance of believing in mythological values that guide a more and more mythological culture, guide our world culture.

Parents purvey a false and damaging view of reality and, thereby, coincidentally, remove some of their support for their own children that can be important to youth as they grow toward adulthood.

I mean, hey, I write poems about my daddy because he taught me love and Sacred respect or I write poems about my daddy because he taught me hate and deception.

We choose.

What I was talking about, the training of recruits in the second world war, I read about a long time ago. I remember the outlines of what I read but not where I read it. It made sense to me when I read it.

It still makes sense.

Teach those recruited to make war to kill and destroy, because their learning until they join military forces may support life and love.

It's easier to kill if you don't see faces, humanness, lives of those you are about to kill. The more we identify with others as

sharing our humanness, the harder it can become to kill them.

They train recruits in buddying, “If you can’t bring yourself to kill a person to save your own life, kill to protect your friend beside you, to protect the group of friends around you, to protect your entire social group, to protect your way of life, your way of living, your nation, to protect your culture, the future of your culture.”

We’ve come a long way in our war-fighting capabilities since World War II. We have weapons all over the earth that only evil personified could have developed, and we have people able and willing to operate those weapons.

Do we also advance significantly as a compassionate, loving species, admired and loved by all other species for our demonstrated ability to take care of each other, to take care of our planet that was given to us to share, to love, to live from?

Is it possible to train for war, killing, and destruction at the same time we train for love and teach about the sacredness of all life, the sacredness of all existence?

Are we making progress toward leaving a beautiful, sustaining, loving, peaceful earth to our heirs and the heirs of our heirs?