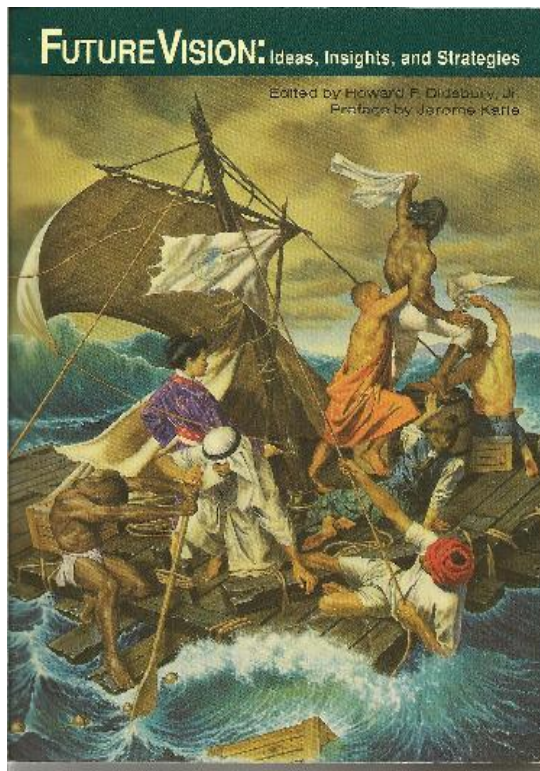


**The Future of War**  
**by Gary S. Schofield**  
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The late afternoon sun raked across the boyish Macedonian face as his keen eyes searched the mile and a half line of elite Persian cavalry for breaks in formation.

He struck an intense figure of a young man, 22 years old. Two great white plumes billowed from each side of his gleaming lion's head helmet. He wore the magnificent amour he had taken from Athena's temple at Illium and his shield was emblazoned as gloriously as Achilles'.

He was "Alexander the Invincible". On his right flank he had drawn up his extraordinary heavy cavalry, the *hetairoi*, the Companion Cavalry. In the center the tips of 12,000 18 foot pikes known as *sarrissas* bristled towards the enemy across the river. The heavy Thessalian Cavalry, in a diamond formation, with elite troops at each corner waited at the left wing.

"It would be wisest," said Parmenion respectfully, "to camp for the night on the riverbank. To fail with the first attack would be dangerous for the battle in hand and harmful for the outcome of the whole campaign."

Parmenion was advising a dawn assault before the Persians had formed up in battle line rather than crossing the deep river and scaling the muddy steep banks to clash headlong into the formed enemy.

20,000 Persian Cavalry above the bank behind the river Granicus screened a further 20,000 heavily armed and well trained Greek mercenaries.

Alexander looked back at his general Parmenion. The man was about the same age as his dead father Philip II. If the art of war were brush strokes on a canvas Alexander's colors were bold and vivid, Parmenion's gray and cold.

"I would be ashamed," retorted Alexander "if after crossing the Hellespont with ease, the petty stream of the Granicus could deter me from crossing here and now!"

So, the man who would one day be named *Great* sent his cavalry scouts, supported by infantry, crashing through the Granicus and into the center of the Persian line.

Brilliantly Alexander's conspicuous battle dress had drawn off cavalry from the Persian center to his opposing wing to face him and now the central assault had created just enough of an opening...

Alexander turned inward from the wing amid trumpets blaring and terrible battle cries with 13 squadrons of Companion Cavalry he personally led the ferocious charge through blood, water and mud to smash through the Persian Center.

The Persian Center broke and the wing's streamed away in rout.

It is breath taking history but it probably never happened!

History is often a collection of stories and opinion, usually written by the victor, and invariably rewritten every generation as a parable to current times. Without an accurate understanding of history it is impossible to predict the future.

Our dreams, values, aspirations and fears are woven and shaped into history and form at least one fact;

*We, as a species, have destroyed every past human civilization.*

How would we explain our stewardship to an individual from another planet?

What were the well armored and well trained Greek mercenaries doing positioned out of the battle, behind the lines?

It has been argued that the Persians feared them to be unreliable. If that were true placing them at their vulnerable rear would be bizarre...at the rear they could also flee first.

Alexander and his army had just marched 10 miles and were formed for attack late in the day therefore, even should they win the battle, nightfall would prevent pursuit.

The populous Persian army could simply regroup to fight again at the next river.

Fighting against such difficult terrain and position turns a sure victory into the prospect of defeat. This is not brilliant.

It is interesting that in both Greek and Jewish accounts Parmenion is refuted and scathed. He is constantly a mediocre backdrop to the flair of Alexander but *all these accounts were written after Parmenion was implicated in a mutiny*. Alexander had him executed and Calisthenes' official history makes a point of blackening his name.

There is little honor for the future King of the Known World in such a history but at dawn Alexander crossed the river unopposed, It was not a Persian practice to begin a march before dawn and camping on the riverbank would mean tethering the horses, so the army probably bivouacked one or two miles away.

Alexander fanned out his battle line and clashed with the Persian cavalry screen (explaining the absence of the Greek mercenaries, back at the camp, moving on foot).

The cavalry was routed and the Macedonians poured into the camp. There were 20,000 Greek mercenaries and 2,000 were taken prisoner and sent as slaves to the mines.

This leaves a disquieting thought for the first recorded leader to proclaim that "all men are brothers":

*Fifteen thousand men were slaughtered where they stood.*

After Watergate Richard Milhous Nixon considered how history would record his Presidency. "It depends on who writes it," he said, simply and insightfully.

In the same way Ptolemy, Alexander's general was writing his official history of his campaigns. At the time Ptolemy was military ruler of Egypt. A powerful and unchallengeable history of Alexander also legitimizes Ptolemy's conquests and makes his position more stable.

Self interest can be a successful shaper of history but it is propaganda that weaves its web silently and imperceptibly through the stories we are told:

The Germans of the First World War, which was really the Eighth World War, were not the Huns. The Huns were the Hsiung-nu tribe from the Gobi. They were later called the Mongols and, later still, the Mugals.

Caesar did not defeat armies of hundreds of thousands in his Gallic campaigns he inflated the figures in beautiful aristocratic Latin. (The region and technology of the time could not have supported such armies. However he did include the number of dead women and children as casualties and he sometimes brutally chopped off the right hand of his captives.)

The Iraqis did not cast babies from their incubators during the invasion of Kuwait. This propaganda was disseminated by a Washington, D.C. public relations firm encouraging the US to enter the war.

The Second World War visited death, mutilation and atrocity on tens of millions of people. It was not “the Good War”.

Considering the propaganda from the battle of the Granicus, the discrepancy of the Persian army size only varies from Arrian’s 40,000 to Diodorois’ 110,000 and Justin’s 600, 000.

Alexander’s vision was to spread Hellenistic influence and culture, killing all those barbarians, and sometimes Macedonians, who stood in his way. Ironically if it were not for the Arab and Moslem barbarian’s enlightened preservation of science and humanities in the Dark Ages we would know very little of Alexander, or the Ancient World, at all.

Propaganda has been obscuring the true causes of war for 5, 000 years. As the centuries have passed Alexander has changed (although contemporary Indian historians viewed Alexander as a hideous monster and an appalling butcher):

Caesar wailed in painful jealousy “I am now too old to accomplish the feats of Alexander.”

Trajan nearly lost Rome’s eastern conquests by overextending in the footsteps of Alexander.

Gustafus Adolphus, Peter the Great and the expanding British Empire reveled in the classical examples of World Civilization (or that which justifies their own “civilizing the World”).

Alexander’s homosexual relationship with Hephaestion was down-played by the Victorians.

Suddenly in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the idea of expansion and world conquest becomes unpalatable to these same Victorian empire builders: the new victims. These are the very countries from which we receive our history.

How uncomfortable to hear phrases of: *Hellenistic purity, civilizing other races the right to rule or might is right* when it is coming from your neighbor, especially in the 1910s and 1930s.

Our history masks the obvious: all societies believe they are superior to others and all countries are in a permanent state of war with all others. Though alliances, detente and real politic this is reality disguised.

We only live in one frame of the historical movie:

It only appears that there is an order in the international political framework and that we have natural enemies and allies.

If we view events on a longer times scale we find all enemies and allies to be completely arbitrary and in a dramatic and constant state of flux.

For example:

The western powers still continue a 500 year struggle for economic and military hegemony over Europe:

- 1) France was still an enemy to Spain during the Hapsburg bid for European domination (1520-1660) and shared interests with England.
- 2) By 1700 France stood alone against an Anglo/Dutch/German alliance
- 3) By 1735 England was clashing with Spain, now France's Ally
- 4) 1756 saw France join it previous enemies the Hapsburg in a War against Prussia
- 5) Anglo/German armies make colonial gains against France in the Seven Years War
- 6) Napoleon fought everyone in reach through the early 1800s until being routed by Russia.
- 7) Russia then became France's ally to buffer a united Germany under Bismarck.
- 8) In the 1900s France and England (very untraditionally) formed an alliance against Germany
- 9) The western Europeans joined NATO to buffer an expanded Russia.

Now, without a threat from Russia the 500 year struggle will continue.

*"Success has a thousand Fathers but failure is an orphan."*

In victory there is a tendency to think every course of action you took was brilliant but the loser is often viewed poorly.

5,000 years of history have been considered basically as a success by historians of the victors by in reality the converse is true.

History is not at all a story of great change or progress. Countries have played out the same screenplay with the same dialogue for thousands of years. Even our current myth of historical, linear, technological progress flies in the face of reality.

Before the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the life of the average person changed little for centuries. The Industrial revolution was the catalyst for modern technology, but the steam engine was actually invented by the Greeks over 2,000 years ago;

Hero, in the time of Alexander's general Ptolemy invented a steam driven machine for opening the doors of the Athenian temple. Being a slave economy, the Greeks and later the Romans, saw no use for it.

Even Mankind's glorious race for the moon, was hitched to a Titan missile, designed for carrying nuclear intercontinental ballistic weaponry.

Reveling in the glorious and myths of the past, has secretly eclipsed our understanding of the present, and our predicting the future. Without addressing the abject failures of the past, we will surely continue to repeat them in the future.

There exist only quite vacuous studies on the causes of war and atrocities based on conventional history.

Consider one of the most vital issues of all, *the cause of the destruction of empires*.

We all know that Rome fell because of the collapse of moral fiber, but Rome did not really fall because of orgies, that was written in by the Victorians. The Victorians were in the process of dividing the entire planet with the other European Powers at the time therefore they shared affinity with the empire builders of classical times.

This is why the classical figures are so "British". The British were rewriting the histories.

Today, of course we know the Roman Empire fell because of the rise of the Military Industrial Complex and the privatization of military command. The desiccation of the Italian peninsula is also an important consideration.

Is this also a rewriting of the past?

In reality the Han dynasty collapsed in China 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD and the resulting turmoil displaced the Hsiung-nu tribe westward. This, in turn displaced the Goths westward into the frontiers of the Roman Empire. The Ostragoths, the eastern Goths were replaced further west than the Visigoths, the western Goths, and waves of terrified refugees flooded helplessly across the border.

Emperor Valens allowed them to enter in Rome's earlier days newly acquired peoples were treated with respect and ultimately earned citizenship but here Roman officials never missed an opportunity to exploit and mistreat these refugees.

Consequently, instead of assimilation they formed a political and military faction within the borders of the Empire. After the Visigoth leadership was treacherously killed during negotiations the inevitable clash of Adrianople (378 AD) saw the slaughter of 40,000 Romans and the Goths swarmed unchecked through Thrace.

Clearly it seems impossible to separate history from the present and the future. The irony is that the Roman Empire did not fall. It lasted nearly 1000 years longer in the form of the Eastern Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire.

The Roman Empire had been divided by Constantine the Great. On the 11<sup>th</sup> May 330 AD the house was divided.

Clearly there is a powerful message here for futurists:

*The messages are not at all clear.*

It has now been more than 50 years since the Second World War but it is still too short a time to discuss the events still intertwined in propaganda. There exist only contradictory beliefs and theories about:

The failure of Appeasement  
The Treaty of Versailles  
The Cruelty of War reparations (which, in fact, were not even paid)  
The Nazi Psyche  
Hitler creating Germany  
Germany creating Hitler  
The Great Depression.

If these were the factors the Second World War would be the greatest aberration in Human History. Unfortunately it is not.

*War is not the exception but the rule.*

WWII was just the continuation of a 500 year old struggle.

Countries collide because we design them to do so and at present we are in the progress of making the same mistake for the third time this century.

Our understanding of history has been severely compromised by an endearing human quality;

*Anthropomorphism*

Being the charming primate creatures that we are we have personified our history

Of course it is an easy step to organize Kien-Lung's reign of China, Aurungzebe's of Hindustan or Tamerlane's rule onto a personal history.

"Tutmosis III, while building a great pyramid..."

"Enraged, Napoleon Bonaparte declared war on Russia."

This has helped to perpetuate the most ubiquitous and dangerous myth;

*Human affairs are shaped by Human Nature.*

Human affairs are not shaped by Human Nature but by man-made institutions.

There is a fundamental difference between fundamental human behaviors and human social or group behaviors. This fact is not well documented partly because the average person is lucky to receive a single page, or even a footnote, in history.

More than 400 years ago in *the Prince*, Machiavelli realized that countries operate outside the moral codes of the individual.

Leader's decisions are shaped and confined by the parameters of the social structure and institution, much like the chairman of a corporation.

There are indeed parallels between a company takeover and a country's take over. We would be surprised to learn of a compassionate IBM rushing, altruistic, ally to a sickly Microsoft. Our social structures are created for self perpetuation and bottom line considerations

They are created by humans but they are not human.

Later, we personify these decisions and attribute them to Human Nature.

"Wisdom cometh by suffering" Agamemnon, Aeschylus.

The same can not always be said of Human Society:

An injured mother and her child lie bleeding on the road fallen from a bicycle. Most human reactions will be compassion and help.

All countries' reaction to another country hemorrhaging and declining are:

Exploitation, attack and/or expansion of influence and borders (even though the declining nation does indeed contain women and children.

Examples of this in history include literally, most history because this is precisely when conflicts do occur; when a neighbor shows weakness:



The War of the Austrian Succession 1740s  
The War of the Spanish Succession 1700  
The War of the Ottoman Succession 1600s  
The Decline of the Austro- Hungarian Empire 1910s  
The Decline of the Mauryan Empire in Maharashtra 100 BC  
The Decline of the Soviet Empire 1990

*The forces of anger, hatred and bigotry do not shape our destiny.*

There is a dramatic attraction for recording an event that began a war for example the assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand in Sarajevo 1914 or a King being enraged or greedy but in reality the event is only the spark.

*History is often deficient in an accounting of the fuel.*

Incidentally almost no wars in history were caused by an angry monarch.

Soldiers in the front lines are not in a permanent state of anger against the enemy. It is also physically impossible to stay angry for any length of time. They fight for their lives as well as for their country, their fellows their families or simply because they have no choice.

Generically there is negligible difference between any races, furthermore the Human Genome is 98% the same as any chimpanzees. Human beings have fought more frequently with like-peoples than with different races. The forces of community are so strong that arbitrary differences must be used to separate them. When these did not exist philosophical or religious differences were created and fostered to perpetuate conflict..

The Middle East is a good geographical example but so are most places on the planet. What we consider bigotry induced conflict is an illusion which masks our own drive to be included in the group. Superimpose a primate style hierarchal power structure and we now have a working model.

Blaming human conflict of evil and misguided leaders absolves us from having to deal with a disturbing truth:

*What we consider to be our most noble qualities perpetuate warfare: fellowship, concern for loved ones, nationalism, patriotism, hierarchal society and deference to leaders.*

“A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it.” Oscar Wilde.

Today we would consider it ridiculous to lay down our lives for the local County Board... but we would;

It would be the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and we would be in the *Wars of the Roses*.

Future historians will view our present behaviors with equal amazement.

This paper indicates that war is much more fundamental to civilization itself than we dare to believe. This is why our current models do not explain every historical conflict.

In parallel, Science is now finally working on a unified theory of everything, a model or equation that incorporates all physical laws: the Uncertainty Principle, Quantum Mechanics and Relativity.

In the past it has been easier to change history to fit the model but now there is great opportunity here in facing, and being prepared for, these very real dangers.

Post war prosperity can continue and spread but now we know for certain;

*Let go of the reins and the horse will follow the path... that leads over the cliff.*

The significance for the future in not understanding the historic nature of our social structures would be catastrophic. Many great social and political forces will collide in the next century and if peaceful resolutions to conflicts are not sought with the same fervor as a country mobilizes for war, catastrophe will be inevitable.

Throughout history countries have balanced unprofitable war expenditures against trade and productivity. or colloquially; *guns against butter*. The United States and the Soviet Union compromised both their economies in a 50 year struggle. The Soviet Union collapsed and the United States is in relative economic decline on the world stage compared to developing nations. Now, in characteristically innovative thinking the United States has turned the centuries old guns/ butter dilemma on its head.

*Sell arms FOR butter*

The United States is now heading into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as the world's leading arms dealer.

The will not only reek havoc on humanity at large but will also be counter productive to the United States' interests, despite the pervasive myth in the US that wars are good for the economy.

(This myth arose from the Second World War. War expenditure has always been a burden on any economy but in the 1930s the US profited by NOT being in WWII until late 1941 and by massive supply and trade to Europe and the Soviet Union (lend-lease), and the adoption of a free market system.

After WWII, with so many countries in ruins, nobody else was in any shape to compete with the US.)

One lesson learned from history was the impact of dissenting speech in the media during the Vietnam War. Now, instead of exploring very gray issues the media divides them into black and white, good or bad.

The misleading packaging of Persian Gulf War with its controlled press coverage has helped to prepare the public for future conflict;

*A country that no longer fears war is more likely to miscalculate.*

Although the electronic superhighway will place anyone in anyone else's living room empathy will not be enough.

We have had mankind's good nature for 40,000 years and it certainly has not been enough. Further, although there is an apparent increase in electronic information the trend is and will be towards fewer and fewer sources (journalists) and distributors (main stream media). There is now ownership of media by arms manufacturers as well as sponsorship and underwriting of vehicles of communication.

For example General Electric, the worlds' second largest arms manufacturer, owns NBC.

There is no longer a bipolar world and there is no credible enemy.

*The world will seem to change to where conflicts are shades of gray and capitalism is not synonymous with democracy.*

The political and military structures we have set up to combat our 20<sup>th</sup> Century enemies are now searching for an enemy.

We consider morality in war but war is inherently immoral by nature. Nuclear weapons are immoral but the conventional fire bombing of cities was carried out with impunity.

*The Greeks considered the Roman Short Sword to be an immoral technological Development*

Death is still violent death to an individual in any country, in any time period.

We in the West have nuclear weapons and superiority in conventional weapons.

Historically a country not able to fight a conventional war will fight a guerilla war.

(Interestingly it is a myth the Revolutionary War was won because the British foolishly fought in bright red rows and were easy targets for the sly colonials hiding behind rocks and trees. In reality this occurred only once on the march from Concord to Lexington, 1775.)

Unable to fight a guerrilla war a country will resort to intrigue and even terrorism.

*Next century the West's adversaries will rely more and more on terrorism and Guerra Warfare.*

Public attitudes will no longer polarize based on the morality of a war's prosecution. The concept of Total War is now the norm but in reality atrocity is inherent in war.

War itself is the atrocity.

It is not a coincidence that atrocity occurs on a massive scale during war and is virtually non-existent in its absence.

Nuclear terrorism will become more readily accessible with increasing availability of Beryllium. Be reduces the required levels of enriched uranium for detonation. High technologies are available commercially, impossible to keep secret, and can themselves subvert counter terrorism.

Historically plagues and diseases have always taken more lives than war. Next century we risk continuing this trend with manufactured disease, evolving strains and confluence of armies.

*The 1918 flu epidemic alone killed over 20,000,000.*

Before WWI there had been 50 years of Pax Britannica and it was generally believed Western Civilization had transcended War. War was a thing of the past.

The unprecedented conflict of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century has subconsciously militarized even our words and turns of phrase:

caliber, rally, rout, surrender, defeat, victor, disarming, flanking, demoted, keep our powder dry, War on Poverty, War on Drugs, war upon war.

In reality there are countless variations of approach to problems within countries and between countries.

We have instead attributed the causes of war to our own self-serving causes.

“The Civil War was over Slavery.”

The altruistic and moral white man was prepared to sacrifice his own life and perhaps that of his family to kill and die for the well-being of the black man.

This would be almost preposterous notion today let alone 140 years ago. Meanwhile every other civilized country did away with slavery perfectly well, without war.

In summary the two most vital studies for the future of humanity, economics and warfare are not only connected but, as studies, are also in the same state of self contradictory infancy.

“Civilization is a race between Education and Catastrophe,” H.G. Wells.

Now war is a commercial product and this development is unfortunate in the Nuclear Age.

The United States is the only remaining superpower. Instead of embracing the democratic potential of an East/West Bloc we have rejoiced in our “winning the Cold War” and exploited the collapse. Actions that once were buffeted by a bipolar world will now shape the future, unfettered.

The West is not designed or prepared for a fractured Russia. Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) no longer works and the chances of a nuclear conflict are greater with unsecured nuclear artillery shells.

If NATO continues to spread its nuclear umbrella over the Eastern blocks countries Russia will court other powers and form alliances with China.

China, the weakest of the powers is expanding its power by every pragmatic means, historically much like Colbert’s France.

*Within 50 years Asian countries will shift global power eastward and without a direct threat from Russia European alliances will weaken.*

Consider the meteoritic collapse of interest in the Maastricht Treaty in the collapse of the USSR and the desperate search to give NATO a task.

The now distinct and separate aims of each distinct European country has manifested itself in recent conflicts: Germany’s desire to recognize Bosnia and Slovenia before minority issues were settled and further, the European powers encouraged a continuation of the Balkan War to seek a preferred result, rather than end of the conflict.

Germany is Croatia’s ally Russia and Greece are Serbia’s and Turkey and Islamic Countries are the Muslim allies.

Interestingly the division here is precisely where King Constantine divided the Roman Empire and Christianity into East and West in 330 AD.

East became Greek Orthodox and later Russian Orthodox and the West, Roman Catholic.

Later came the Muslims from the Ottoman Empire.

In the same way national political structures have failed to seize the potential of a democratic Soviet Union they will also be slow in realizing a united Germany has changed the European complexion of the future.

Historically Germany became a significant power only as recently as last Century. Known previously as the *Holy Roman Empire*, England, France, Sweden and others attacked, plundered pillaged and humiliated the weak nation. German Unification under Bismarck altered the balance of Power and rivaled even the economic might of Britain. This engendered the miscalculations and polarization of power that lead to WWI.

National Political leaders must still be prepared for European powers acting independently and in pursuit of their own agenda.

French/Russian alliances may be unthinkable, but they are historical.

This may sound strange but the French nuclear arsenal, recently tested will protect France from any and all-comers, including England and Germany.

Historically wars always occurred over the right of accession therefore;

*there exists dreadful potential for war in the former Soviet Union and its bordering areas.*

Any disruption of the status quo historically leads to war. The near future world will be one of expanding western corporate influence possibly colliding with fragmentation of the former Soviet Union and the rise of nationalism and religious enthusiasm.

Indeed the advent of a fertile field of conflict makes for a grim prospect.

Now however, unlike before, countries do not have to follow this tragic course. Future wars are not inevitable. Awareness of the past is a practical and vital step in prediction and preparing for the future.

Science creates a theory, designs a model, makes a hypothesis and predicts the future, but the predicting of a country's future behavior is lost in a plethora of contradicting theories and opinion.

Science can not tolerate conflicting theories and yet our present lack of understanding of history produces them.

Our model is only as good as our history.

We have mistakenly declared this study *as a Humanity*, complete with the capriciousness of human behavior but, in reality, the behavior of countries is perfectly predictable over time.

We immediately need a fresh study of the future using a scientific format and incorporating computer projection, economics, education and military strength. If we assume the west is not seeking further war then the solutions will be as many and varied as the sparks of war are varied.

War was made illegal in 1928 by the ratification by 62 nations of the Kellogg-Briand Pact. This well-intentioned act illustrates a lack of understanding of the interaction of countries and the lack of power of International Law.

Solution to the dangers of war can not be achieved by isolationism and the West must not only become active but also proactive. Globally inactivity in one situation may lead to peace, in another directly to war, but in either case this may only be the spark.

The fuel is; *we designed our civilizations to collide and (except for the creation of the UN) have little changed this principle in over 10,s of thousands of years.*

The United States and the West have enormous resources and the power to promote democracy and conflict resolution. Leaders will have to forgo even their own country's short term interests.

Inequality, injustice and economics play a large role in conflict but this is not always true. History is replete with wonderfully planned and imagined utopian societies so there is no shortage of brilliant minds, only of brilliant political leadership.

Success will be a triumph of insightful leadership over the inertia of blundering society.

Ironically society will not build sculptures and memorials to these leaders because as we know...

Our memorials are to war.

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