

Contents

<i>Preface: The Riddle of War</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>List of Illustrations</i>	xiii

PART 1. Warfare in the First Two Million Years: Environment, Genes, and Culture 1

1. Introduction: The ‘Human State of Nature’	3
2. Peaceful or War-like: Did Hunter–Gatherers Fight?	11
3. Why Fighting? The Evolutionary Perspective	36
4. Motivation: Food and Sex	56
5. Motivation: The Web of Desire	87
6. ‘Primitive Warfare’: How Was It Done?	114
7. Conclusion: Fighting in the Evolutionary State of Nature	133

PART 2. Agriculture, Civilization, and War 147

8. Introduction: Evolving Cultural Complexity	149
9. Tribal Warfare in <i>Agraria</i> and <i>Pastoralia</i>	157
10. Armed Force in the Emergence of the State	231
11. The Eurasian Spearhead: East, West, and the Steppe	323
12. Conclusion: War, the Leviathan, and the Pleasures and Miseries of Civilization	401

PART 3. Modernity: The Dual Face of Janus 443

13. Introduction: The Explosion of Wealth and Power	445
14. Guns and Markets: The New European States and a Global World	449
15. Unbound and Bound Prometheus: Machine Age War	512

Contents

16. Affluent Liberal Democracies, Ultimate Weapons, and the World	570
17. Conclusion: Unravelling the Riddle of War	662
<i>Endnotes</i>	674
<i>Index</i>	809
<i>Picture credits</i>	821