

“If it is a primordial component of being, then war fathers the very structure of existence and our thinking about it: our ideas of the universe, of religion, of ethics; war determines the thought patterns of Aristotle’s logic of opposites, Kant’s antinomies, Darwin’s natural selection, Marx’s struggle of classes, and even Freud’s repression of the id by the ego and superego. We think in warlike terms, feel ourselves at war with ourselves, and unknowingly believe predation, territorial defense, conquest, and the interminable battle of opposing forces are the ground rules of existence.” (*James Hillman*)

“All appearances to the contrary, the only watchmaker in nature is the blind forces of physics, albeit deployed in a very special way. A true watchmaker has foresight: he designs his cogs and springs, and plans their interconnections, with a future purpose in his mind’s eye. Natural selection, the blind, unconscious, automatic process which Darwin discovered, and which we now know is the explanation for the existence and apparently purposeful form of all life, has no purpose in mind. It has no mind and no mind’s eye. It does not plan for the future. It has no vision, no foresight, no sight at all. If it can be

said to play the role of watchmaker in nature, it is the *blind* watchmaker.” (*Richard Dawkins*)

“If we were told that a man had lived a long and prosperous life in the world of Chicago gangsters, we would be entitled to make some guesses as to the sort of man he was. We might expect that he would have qualities such as toughness, a quick trigger finger, and the ability to attract loyal friends. These would not be infallible [unfehlbar] deductions, but you can make some inferences about a man’s character if you know something about the conditions in which he has survived and prospered. The argument of this book is that we, and all other animals, are machines created by our genes. Like successful Chicago gangsters, our genes have survived, in some cases for millions of years, in a highly competitive world. This entitles us to expect certain qualities in our genes. I shall argue that a predominant quality to be expected in a successful gene is ruthless selfishness.” (*Richard Dawkins*)

It is scientifically incorrect to say that war or any other violent behaviour is genetically programmed into our human nature. While genes are involved at all levels of nervous system function, they provide a developmental potential that can be actualized only in conjunction with the ecological and social environment. While individuals vary in their predispositions to be affected by their experience, it is the interaction between their genetic endowment and conditions of nurturance that determines their personalities. (*Seville Statement on Violence*)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Das Statement, welches am 16. Mai 1983 in Sevilla (Spanien) beschlossen wurde, wurde auf der Sitzung der Generalversammlung am 16.11.1989 als UNESCO-Resolution angenommen; [http://www.unesco.org/shs/human\\_rights/hrfv.htm](http://www.unesco.org/shs/human_rights/hrfv.htm); (heruntergeladen: 03.05.04).