

HI126: Lecture 2 Jan 10

Primitive Warfare

-civilization derives from latin: social stratification, and hierarchy, division and specialization of labour, formally structured administration, government and religion, written records (laws, tax rolls, inventories, chronicles)

-historians, anthropologists refer to societies that lack these characteristics of civilization as primitive

-the earliest primates that are clearly human came 1.5-2 milli years ago

-**homo erectus** (upright) first human

-**homo sapiens** (thinking human) emerged about 200,000 years ago

-**homo sapiens sapiens**- thats us- appeared about 125,000 years ago

-**paleolithic** or old stone age: 400,000 to 7000BC

-humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers (fruit, berries ,nuts) cooperated to the hunt game

-lived in kinship groups or small tribes with several families

-**Neolithic** or new stone age: 7000-3000 BC

-agriculture appeared: humans planted grains (wheat, barley, peas, lentils) and domesticated animals

-settled in villages and worked together

-early humans lived in bands, foraged for food, developed tools, and weapons and hunted together

Were these prehistoric humans violent?

-view one: **Hobbesian view**- every man is enemy to every man, no knowledge of earth, violent and danger everywhere

-view two:**The Rousseauian Myth of the Noble Savage**- untamed wild (dates back to the 1609 French description of first nations, associated with jean Jacques rousseau described the man as in 1754: independent, free, nature existed together

How do we know anything about the past?

-**archaeological evidence** about the past (cave paintings:grotto in France 15,500 BC, Spain/ traces of massacres or 59 people in Jebel Sahaba, Egypt) and talheim death pit in German

-**anthropologists and ethnologists have studied primitive**(non-literate, non-state) societies that still exist

Types of Combat:

-*raid and ambushes*

-*massacres*

-*battles (ritualistic)*

Yanomamo People of Amazon Forest

-anthropologist Napoleon Chignon lived with these people and studied them in 1960s

-25,000 lived in 250 farming villages

-villages fight each other with buffer zones for protection

-villages fight each other over women and men achieve status through bravery

-men would killed children of women to stop the life of other genetic offspring

The Dani of New Guinea

-stone age tribe living in Baliem Valley, Indonesia in 1938

-conflicts over pigs and women, land

- the ritual battle in no mans land with 200-2000 warriors

-women would come to watch

-30 clans and used long spears and arrows, fighting would last 10-15 minutes

-although no one is really killed in primitive warfare, overall it effects small tribe populations a lot e.g. Jivaro tribe

Civilization: agriculture developed in the Near East circa 9,000-8,000 bc and was probably brought West by migrants into Europe

-farming and raising domesticated animals (cattle, goats, sheep) meant that people settled in one place and specialized.

-settlers had to defend themselves against raiders who wanted their food

- In circa 8,000 BC Jericho had 2,000 people living in the first walled city know to us

- In circa 6,700 BC settlers found Turkey

The “Fertile Crescent”: coined by James Henry in 1914:

-moist, fertile land, developed writing, the wheel systems of irrigation and city states

-**Mesopotamia:** land between two rivers

-early civilization in fertile crescent is called hydraulic civilization and it led to the foundation of hydraulic empires

-Geoffrey Parker, the Cambridge illustrated history of warfare



“Hydraulic projects, improved agronomic techniques, and planned economies [...] created the necessary capital to support armies, logistics and fortifications. Far more important, sophisticated agriculture instilled an overriding territorial impulse: growing but stationary populations sought ever more effective ways to defend and to acquire productive farmland.”

Mesopotamia (land between rivers): the emergence of city states in summer, circa 3200 BC

-these were urban centres of perhaps 35,000 people and the surrounding country side under the authority of one government

-the diverse population were craftsmen, priests, peasants, slaves

-primitive societies had lacked the centralized authority and coercive power to mobilize people for sustained warfare

-growing population, large agricultural surpluses and increased state power now changed war

“All the city glitter could not compensate for the crowded living conditions, bad hygiene, high prevalence of epidemic disease, and hours-long walk to the fields, which were the inseparable aspects of city life. The principal motive was defence [...]. City-states were so decisively and unusually urban not because of massive industrial and commercial concentration, which [...] existed only in a few high-profile, especially maritime, historical cases; rather city-states were so configured because of the threat posed by other city states only a few kilometres away.” – Azar Gat, *War in Human Civilization*