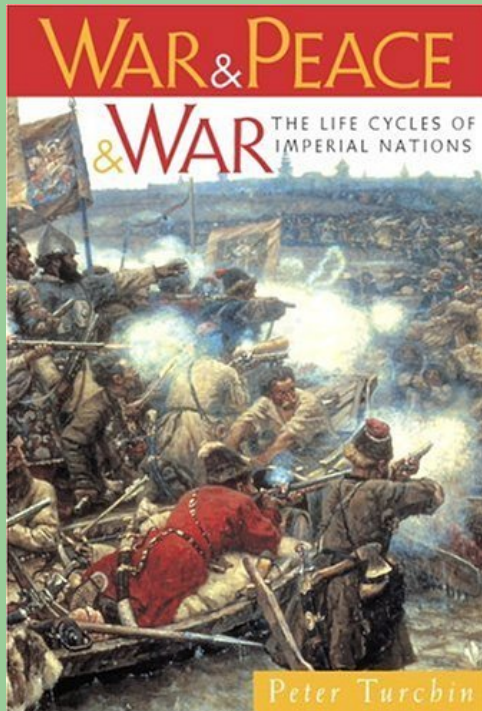


War & Peace & War

The Life Cycles of Imperial Nations

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Chapters 10-12

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The Matthew Principle

Why the Rich get Richer and the Poor get Poorer

Chapter 10



The Root of It

- *“For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.”*

(Matthew 13:12) New Testament

A general mechanism by which ALL kinds of inequalities can arise, aside from wealth distribution.

Secular Cycles

- Conflict between classes and within themselves. Undermining one another causes factional conflicts.
- The disintegrative (not united) phase follows the integrative ones and causes inequality to rise and fall.
- Disintegrative secular phases= degraded asabiya in the nation

“Positive Feedback Loop”

- Growing inequalities due to the fact that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, increases the economic and class gap and causes imperiopathosis the process by which imperial nations lose their high asabiya.
- Overpopulation of limited land: driving force
- Inheritance, those that have more land and/or fewer children thrive in the area...

Model: An Egalitarian Society

- An idealistic country, there is no theft and violence, and all families within the realm are granted identical plots of land, which can only be bought from one another or inherited.
- *Primogeniture*, when only one child inherits the familial goods, is nonexistent, and all the offspring of each family inherits an equal amount. The single child family offspring will end up the whole sector of land, while a family with more children splits the area and becomes poorer by the second generation.

Moreover...

- Individual plots will join when citizen marry one another, in historical fashion and the tendency to wed within one's class, the richer gets richer and the poor remain the same and ultimately get poorer as time passes.
- A working class is formed by the less affluent sector of society for and by their wealthier neighbors, because they lack the resources to support their own families with their humble inheritance (theoretically divide between numerous siblings)... and within a few generations the original egalitarian distribution of wealth/ land ceases to exist.

In the Actuality

- *Primogeniture* does exist and is practice. It causes secondary offspring to be without land inheritance and sends them into a lower SES class. These are the workers that are employed by the wealthy
- History shows us periods when status inequality increased, but also there were times when the gap decreased
- Example: United States... “Roaring twenties” and later the “Greed Decade” of the 1980s,
- Changes due to:
 1. Population Changes
 2. Imperialism
 3. Technological Advances

Wheels within Wheels

The Many Declines of the Roman Empire

Chapter 11



Cycles

- Generations of war bring generations of peace.
- It is when they forget the downfalls and mishaps of warlike attributes that the Romans (and in most societies in general) are driven to return to battle and other external conflicts.

Discrepancies within the Citizens Lifestyles

- Internal Conflicts
- Within the nation, the gap between the affluent and the poverty-stricken became too great and ultimately led to revolts.
- Example: External upset versus internal conflicts... Rotation, not so much times of *true* peace, but rather peace in larger “international” affairs and turbulence within the borders switching off with the eras of the unified front when the empire groups together against a foreign force.

Fall of the Roman Republic

- Return to instability:
 1. Pruning of the elites and their aspirants
 2. Resumption of external conquests
 3. Shifts in social moods (Ready for something new)

“Wheel of Fortune”

- In agrarian societies, the wheel speeds up or slows down but never stops.
- The mechanisms are always the same, it depends on the society to predict to length the Wheel spins

War and Peace and Particles

The Science of History

Chapter 12



All for One

- *“Only by taking the infinitesimally small units for observation and attaining to the art of integrating them can we hope to arrive at the laws of history.”*

Leo Tostoy: *War and Peace*

The sum of the individual tendencies of men as a predictor of the larger picture.

Societal Mistake?

- We continue to overestimate the influence of an individual on the course of history.
- *Asabiya* the capacity for collective action... as a property of a group, not an individual.
- Small acts can cause large effects, but the actors usually have no idea whether there will be an effect, nor what it would be.

Cliodynamics

- The science of historical dynamics that offers insight to all the individuals in a group (societies/ states), rather than specific individual people.
- Productive Framework... the present dilemma of ignoring the role of individuals
- Examples: Constantine and Napoleon *not* Saddam Hussein. (as Tolstoy had predicted, his regime's capture did nothing significant)

Free will

To choose one's actions at the micro level

- Imagine: Gas molecules within a confined container that's subject to heat, they, individual free will, act in chaotic, unpredictable trajectories- yet as a whole, we can predict the amount of pressure that is produced in the area.
- Exercising free will lacks the ability to influence events at the macro social level.

Small Perturbations in a “Stable” Dynamical System

- Voting... one person's say, in almost all cases, will not have an affect on the ultimate outcome which reflects the group's favor.
- Suicide... a personal choice, a sign of free will that is impossible to predict, but the overall annual statistics of suicide rates are highly predictable across the nation as a whole.
- Individual decisions can be made, yet the group effort dampens out those that do not comply

It's all a Formula

- Col. Trevor N. Dupuy's *Understanding War: History and Theory of Combat...* The combat power of an army is the sum and balance of:
 1. Force Strength
 2. Operational & Environmental Factors
 3. Combat Effectiveness
- War, as in society, depends on individual people, and individual factors coming together to form the overall outcome of any situation. It is a science of the interplay between such subjects.