**Conflict and War**

**Volume 1 The Dynamic Psychological Field**

**1975**

**CHAPTER 1 Introduction**

* **Problem statement** (p.3-4)**:** Humanity is dulled by the repetition of numbers of violences and wars. It became routine. Efforts to understand man’s propensity to violence has increased but wars still goes on. It seems to be understanding and eliminating violence from stage thus appear beyond man’s powers.
* **Research questions** (p.4)**:**
  + Are violence and war really inevitable?
  + If not, what can be done to eliminate them?
* **Research objective:** to develop a theory of war which would help to bring about its resolution (p.4).
* 10 years of quan research on the emprical nature of war and violence and relationship between behaviour and the dimensions of the nations has led to development of a field theory of behaviour. It is an aspect of the Gestalt comprising biopsychological nature of man, sociocultural existence, and environmental context. Field theory of behaviour integrates variety of theoretical and philosophical approaches to war and violence and serves as the framework for analyzing his research questions (inevitability of war) (p.4). One aspect offield deals with man’s psychological nature and freedom. Any consideration of violence and war assumes a view of man’s character and nature, of his motivations and goals, of his potentialities and power, and of his constraints and freedom. Psychological approach to war beneficial for understanding war&violence but remained limited because of lack of knowledge of psychologists on war&violence (p.5).
* His research questions made him focused on the fundemental philosophical questions, on the nature of man and society, and our ultimate ethical dilemmas.
* Three intellectual efforts on field view on the nature and resolution of violence and war. These 3 constitute a foundation to build a unified analysis of violence and war (p.5).
  + **Applied Factor Analysis** explains;
    - primary methodology used in related emprical research,
    - model employed in structuring the math aspects of the field.
  + **Dimentions of the Nations** presents an emprical mapping of national characteristics and conflict behaviours within a field perspective.
  + **Understanding Conflict and War** serie (1975 onwards):
    - emprical results of efforts,
    - philosophical presuppositions, conceptual framework and aspects of field theory itself,
    - dominant questions about violence.
    - 3rd in serie but first to consider conflict from the FP.
* Rummel’s general orientation to war starts with man, so he argues that to know man who is the main figure before the violence and war, we need to understand his meanings, values, motives, perceptions, motivations and power (p.6). Since this includes human being it will be subjective (view of field phenomenon depends ontological perspective, attempts to understand it presuppose an epistemology, and solutions manifest man’s ethical system, p.4)
* **Preliminaires:**
* Man has intentional field and it consist of continuous mutual relations, dependencies, and causes. These are patterning his mind, body, culture, and environment. This field is transmitting and generating man’s intentions, dispositions, and expectations. Man’s behaviour is generated by this field (p.6).
  + Gradual approach to reach to the total field:
    - Man’s mental transactions with reality,
    - Psychological space and dynamic field,
    - Motivations, dispositions, and expectations,
    - Cognitive dissonance,
    - Behavioral inclinations,
    - dialectical change and trigger causes,
    - meanings and values and the intentional field,
    - the self, will, and freedom,
    - and intentional humanism.
  + Major interest is a communicating a feel for psychological reality from field perspective.
  + Field conception grew from social analyzes, not an extention of phsical field.
  + There is no defintions. He uses primitive constructs as starting points. Uses in different contexts will give them sufficient meaning.
  + Field related with violence and war is mentioned, others intentionally omitted.
  + Good deal of metaphysics. Reasons:
    - It is a way of comprehending reality, relationship between man and nature.
    - He begins his analysis with metaphysics because he believes its principles underlies nature of reality of meaning of man and it provides explanation to comprehend man, perception and nature which he believes the root of all conflicts. His end point is man’s progress where there is no war, between these two lies the disciplines of logic and mathematic to understand the phenomenon of violence and war (p.8-9).
* **Overview and Summary**
* **On Fields**
* Approach to war and violence requires theoretical perspective and conceptual framework. Rummel’s framework sees (p.10);
  + man as dynamic pyschological field of disposition and powers.
  + mankind as a dialectical balance of these individual fields.
    - idea of field is crucial to understand violence and war.
    - variety of field appraches has explanation for physical nature and man. this provides a theoretical context for his description of man’s dynamic and intentional fields.
    - field theories to social science are divided into 3:
      * dynamic field: extention of energy into the region
      * equilibrium field:balance between forces
      * relational field: comprise a whole of interrelated dependent parts.
* **On perception (p.11)**
* Understanding of perception is basic to understand violence and war. Truism of reducing war’s causation to processes of misperception.
* Perception is the dynamic balance between reality and man’s mentality. It requires assumptions about reality. He analyses reality in 3 levels:
  + Potentiality: infinite and intersecting possibilities
  + Actuality:
  + Manifestation.
* Man is not a passive victim of external power but their active combatant. He *transforms* the reality bearing upon him by his perspective on it. Perception is then a consequence of the dialectical conflict between actuality and his perspective *transformation* of this reality.

**CHAPTER 2 Physical Fileds**

* Presents a psychological ontology of man. It is;
  + the basis of a whole
  + a field integrating his intentions and nature.
* Most important concept for this is field concept.
* It is explained gradually within analytical model by;
  + Physical field theories,
  + Psychological and social field conceptions.
* He starts with physical theories because intentional field might model already in-place physical field theories.