### Violence Paper

The reason the scientists in the articles are disagreeing is that the evidence to support any conclusion is weak. For example, one of the disagreements in the article was whether the human fist evolved for fist fighting. The evidence for this claim is that a buttressed fist protects the bones in our hands during a fistfight. Another researcher rebutted the claim that traditional societies rebutted with the fact that warring tribes would use weapons, not fists. This means that there would be no reason to evolve our fists for combat if they aren't used for that purpose, due to the concept of natural selection (Gabbattiss, 2017). The data the scientists are reviewing is the product of hundreds of thousands of years of evolution, so to try and draw a direct cause-and-effect relationship from human's distant past for any single trait when there are an uncountable number of factors contributing to them is futile.

The most compelling argument against violence as an intrinsic part of the human experience is that not all traditional cultures have violent tendencies. The article states that the Martu of Australia tribes' language lacks words for "feud" or "warfare" (Gabbattiss, 2017). The reason this shows a lack of violent tendencies is because language is a method of communicating useful ideas, so when a language lacks a word it means that the idea that it communicates is not useful. ln, this case it's communicating about conflict among the Martu of Australia. While this doesn't conclusively prove that violence is a product of culture, it does strongly suggest it is. The counterargument to this would be that the vast majority of small-scale societies would wage war with each other throughout the prehistoric period (Brian Ferguson, 2018). I argue that these wars were not out of some innate propensity to violence but out of necessity for resources. Under scarcity there are not always enough resources to go around with compromise, so the only way to resolve the issue for them would be to volunteer to die, or fight.

One thing that I have observed in my own life that makes me think humans do not have a propensity for violence is the tendency to share within my family. In my family, all resources are shared equally with whoever needs them. There is rarely conflict because we make compromises with each other. This highlights the central point that humans tend to cooperate instead of fighting.

The data that I would want to collect to confirm my belief that humans are not naturally violent is to run an experiment with traditional tribes in a post-scarcity society. If the tribes would still war with each other despite having an abundance of resources it would convince me that humans are prone to be violent. If the tribes do not war with each other and possibly even cooperate it would convince me that humans are not prone to violence.

# References

Brian Ferguson, R. (2018, September 1). *War Is Not Part of Human Nature*. Scientific American. Retrieved September 13, 2022, from https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/war-is-not-part-of-human-nature/

Gabbattiss, J. (2017, July). *Is Violence Embedded in Our DNA?* SAPIENS. Retrieved September 13, 2022, from https://www.sapiens.org/biology/human-violence-evolution/