

CHAPTER 31: HAS WAR ALWAYS EXISTED?

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48. Four experienced anthropologists made the following declaration in 2001: “In his book *The Fierce People*, Chagnon has fabricated a sensationalist and racist image of the Yanomami, describing them as cunning, aggressive and fearsome, and falsely stating they lived in a state of chronic war.... We have, between all of us, spent over eighty years with the Yanomami. Most of us speak one or more Yanomami dialects. None of us recognizes the society described in Chagnon's books.” Albert, B., Ramos, A., Taylor, K. I., & Watson, F., *Yanomami: The Fierce People?*, Survival International, 2001.

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52. Carol Ember, notably, asserts that societies of hunter-gatherers were not at all as peaceful as we are led to believe, and that 90% of them often wage war. But included under the term "war" are any sorts of hostile behavior (just as one could metaphorically describe as "war" a long series of hostilities perpetrated between two families in certain cultures), including revenge murders by a single individual, which scarcely makes sense. What's more, half the societies analyzed by Ember are not in fact itinerant hunter-gatherers, but more sophisticated societies, including hunters on horseback, etc. It is not immaterial to mention this example, since Carol Ember's article has been abundantly quoted. Ember, C. R. (1978). Myths about hunter-gatherers. *Ethnology*, 17(4), 439–448. Quoted in Fry, D. (2007). *Op. cit.*, pp. 195–196.
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58. For a series of tables collecting the various data on this subject, see
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Declined*, Viking, 2011, pp. 49, 53.
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