

PSYCHOLOGY

# Conflict Can Be Eliminated In Community of Nations

## Though International Wars Continue, Many Kinds of Strife Known in Earlier Days Have Given Way to Peace

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*This timely article was written by Dr. Stratton for Science Service. It gives the substance of his remarks on the occasion of the opening of a new psychology building at the University of California in connection with the meeting of the Western Psychological Association.*

**T**HE PROBLEM of international peace can perhaps most fruitfully be studied in connection with all those great areas of human conduct, where peace has actually been established. And international war can likewise well be studied in connection with other great areas of conduct where peace has not been established at all. And by peace established let us mean that conflicts, serious clashes of purpose, do constantly recur without physical onslaught. We do not mean by peace an absence of opposition of aims.

Between individuals peace is not established in the behavior of childhood and of youth in its early years. Nor is peace found in the behavior of certain exceptional youths, nearly adults, who are delinquents; nor among criminal adults.

### Warlike Primitives

Between groups, large or small, peace is absent completely or is ill-established among the tribes or clans of backward peoples, and among gangs in the underworld of civilized communities, and between organized labor and its employers in some countries, including our own. Nor until recent decades was peace established among certain families in the mountains of our south; as it was not, in earlier years among the powerful feudal families of Italy, Japan, and other countries. And finally, peace is indeed far from established among the independent States of the Society of Nations, in our time, or in any time of history. Their violent conflicts burden the whole world.

But is peace really established anywhere? Yes, and in large areas of human intercourse, both of individuals and of large groups.

Of individuals, their conduct toward one another is peaceful among the vast

majority of the adult fellow citizens of almost any nation of the world—in belligerent countries today, such as Great Britain and France and Germany, as well as in countries not at war, in Sweden for example, or Switzerland, or the United States. Indeed it is only by establishing a firm peace within its own population that any nation can join in waging a terrific foreign war.

And between large groups, peace is established between most of the great bodies of men in mining, industry, transportation, and commerce. The situation is not everywhere as with us. In Scandinavia, for example, there have been in recent years more strikes, in proportion to the number of men in industry there, than in any other countries of the world, and yet with the least of violence in these strikes. Their conflicts are stubborn, but without physical onslaught. Firm peace exists, too, within the British Commonwealth; it is established, we confidently believe, among the States of our Union.

### Areas of Peace

We thus find many areas of human intercourse where peace, in spite of human pugnacity, is well established; and many in which it is not. And it is the task of the social psychologist along with other social scientists, to discern the forces present in all the areas of the one kind and absent in the other kind of area. For in this way we shall find the cause of such an important contrast in behavior.

And first, to speak negatively, I fail to find any pervading economic equality among those who live together without violence, and inequality only among those whose physical fighting is frequent; nor is capitalism present among all fighters and absent among all those who adjust their conflicts peaceably; nor does it appear probable to those who study young boys and savage tribes and sovereign states that all these who are persistently unpacific are also especially neurotic, or subject to uprisings of the unconscious. The "fighting instinct" is clearly present among the peaceable and the violent. Such explanations and others like them seem quite distant from the facts.

What seems close to the facts is this. The individuals or groups that live amicably together are fellow members of a living community, are in habit, emotion and practice, supporters of their community in its essentials, their minds being gradually so shaped by the invisible forces of the community that they feel some mutual respect, and defer to the customs and standards of mutual behavior which prevail wherever the spirit of community is real. For it always favors much accommodation of will to will, rather than much stark insistence on one's own will alone.

Wherever, on the contrary, conflicts frequently end in violence, the contending individuals or groups are not fellow members of a living community which overspans them. If in name and in the eyes of the law they are fellow members as children may be or criminals or criminal gangs of the underworld, one easily detects that they are not fully initiated psychically into their community, are not yet reshaped in mind by its unseen force. As to tribes and clans of backward peoples, these clearly are each psychically apart; no greater company psychically embraces them and calls for a superior loyalty. Sovereign States likewise have but the faint beginnings of fellow membership in a still greater body.

The organized community, then, is the great instrument of peace among its own members. It re-creates them. It reclaims their conduct from its natural readiness to support purpose with physical compulsion guided by self-will.

The re-making of men by the community would thus appear to be the fundamental cause of peace established. The lack or the limitation of such re-making is the fundamental cause of violence, including war. Other factors clearly influence any particular conflict, urging it much or little toward a pacific termination or toward onslaught. But these are of minor consequence. The major factor is the reclamation in the particular area of conduct; or the lack of reclamation.

### Task For Nations

The task set for nations who would establish international peace seems fairly clear in its fundamental character. They cannot be content to be able to win the next war and the one thereafter. Theirs is the far greater enterprise of disestablishing violence in their conduct. And this disestablishment requires them to have it as their central purpose to create a community of nations so interested in the common welfare that whatever gravely befalls anyone of their number does in an important degree befall them all;

whether it be pestilence, flood, earthquake, or an armed attack from another nation. The spirit of all true communities includes this and more. It includes the preparation long beforehand of ways and means to render aid when needed. Spirit and organization—neither of these is vital without the other. The task here set will not be light, nor yet will it be impossible. And the motives to perform it are powerful. For unless the great waste-land of conflict between nation and nation is reclaimed, nations may expect war after war, each more cruel, in its intent than all the wars before it, and more terrible in its instruments.

*Science News Letter, July 27, 1940*

**PALAEONTOLOGY**

## Gigantic Toothed Birds Described in New Bulletin

"SCARCE as hens' teeth" wouldn't have been an apt simile, back in dinosaurian days. Birds had teeth then—plenty of them, and plenty sharp, too. Toothed giants in feathers are featured in a new publication on fossil birds of North America, by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

One of these nightmare birds was a creature six feet long, built more or less on the lines of a modern loon, that lived in the seas that rolled a hundred million years ago where the plains of Kansas now are. This aquatic monster was practically wingless, but was a powerful swimmer and diver. It must have been a terror to little fishes. Another group of toothed birds were built like gulls, though not directly related to modern gulls. They could fly as well as swim.

These and other birds, belonging to families long since vanished from the earth, were striving for their place in the sun when dinosaurs were still a regnant, but passing, dynasty in the animal world. The real chance of the bird tribe came later, about 60 million years ago, at the turn of an epoch when the great reptiles had become extinct and the mammals, with which birds now share the earth, were also beginning their rapid development.

*Science News Letter, July 27, 1940*

A new method of *marking timber* is to use a paint gun, instead of an axe.

Germany, planning for post-war activities, announces as a primary project a grand-scale *housing* program, with war veterans receiving preference.



### PLENTY OF TEETH

*If Hesperornis were living today he would certainly be called the Alligator Bird. His great size, expert swimming powers, and long beak lined with rows of sharp teeth must have made him a terror to fishes that swam in Late Mesozoic seas.*

**MEDICINE**

## Zinc Peroxide Treatment Aids in Cancer Cases

**SUCCESS** in treating painful, foul-smelling, infected ulcers or sores in 35 cancer patients whose condition was so bad they had been given up as hopeless is reported by Dr. Bromley S. Freeman, of the Tumor Clinic at the Veterans Administration Facility, Hines, Ill. (*Journal, American Medical Association*, July 20).

The ulcers or sores had followed X-ray or radium treatment for cancer which in some cases had persisted. Persistence of the cancer after the radium or X-ray treatment was in some cases hidden by the infection in the ulcers. After the zinc peroxide treatment cleaned up the ulcers, it was possible to give more irradiation for the cancerous condition and in some of the cases reported the patients have advanced to the stage where plastic operations can be done to restore bone and other tissue destroyed by the first treatments.

The zinc peroxide treatments relieved pain to the extent that most of the patients could get along with only mild sedatives instead of the morphine or other narcotics they had previously required. The foul odor from these sores, so bad that patients in the next ward complained about it, grew definitely less, in all but one case, starting within 24

hours after the first application of the zinc peroxide.

"Freedom from embarrassment and the return to normal social contacts and interests together with newly acquired confidence and hope have been noted uniformly," Dr. Freeman states in his report of the patients' condition after the treatment. He is now using the zinc peroxide prophylactically to prevent or lessen the frequency or degree of bone destruction following irradiation.

The treatment is for cancers, or sores following their irradiation treatment, occurring on the surface of the body. Among cases reported were those where the ulcers were on the jaw, throat, or mouth. It consists in using the zinc peroxide for dressings on the sores and as a mouth wash in some cases of lip and mouth cancers.

Zinc peroxide is effective in the treatment apparently because when suspended in distilled water it sets free oxygen which destroys certain germs, among them the kinds Dr. Freeman found most frequently in the sores of the advanced cancer patients. He states that after disappointing results with other products, he is using only the special medicinal brand of zinc peroxide.

*Science News Letter, July 27, 1940*