



# Sex and War: How Biology Explains Warfare and Terrorism and Offers a Path to a Safer World

By Malcolm Potts, Thomas Hayden

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As news of war and terror dominates the headlines, scientist Malcolm Potts and veteran journalist Thomas Hayden take a step back to explain it all. In the spirit of *Guns, Germs and Steel*, *Sex and War* asks the basic questions: Why is war so fundamental to our species? And what can we do about it?

Malcolm Potts explores these questions from the frontlines, as a witness to war-torn countries around the world. As a scientist and obstetrician, Potts has worked with governments and aid organizations globally, and in the trenches with women who have been raped and brutalized in the course of war. Combining their own experience with scientific findings in primatology, genetics, and anthropology, Potts and Hayden explain war's pivotal position in the human experience and how men in particular evolved under conditions that favored gang behavior, rape, and organized aggression. Drawing on these new insights, they propose a rational plan for making warfare less frequent and less brutal in the future.

Anyone interested in understanding human nature, warfare, and terrorism at their most fundamental levels will find *Sex and War* to be an illuminating work, and one that might change the way they see the world.

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**Sex and War: How Biology Explains Warfare and Terrorism and Offers a Path to a Safer World** By Malcolm Potts, Thomas Hayden **Bibliography**

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#### Review

"Worth reading, and arguing about." -- "The Toronto Star"

#### About the Author

**Malcolm Potts, MB, BChir, PhD, FRCOG**, is the Bixby Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. A graduate of Cambridge University and trained as an obstetrician and research biologist, his profession has taken him all over the world. Potts led a medical team into Bangladesh immediately after the War of Liberation in 1972, and he has worked in many other war-torn places including Vietnam and Cambodia, Afghanistan, Egypt, the Gaza Strip, Liberia, and Angola. His most recent books are *Queen Victoria's Gene* and *Ever Since Adam and Eve: The Evolution of Human Sexuality*.

**Thomas Hayden** is a freelance journalist who writes frequently about science, medicine, and culture. Formerly a staff writer at *Newsweek* and *US News & World Report*, his articles and reviews have appeared in more than 20 publications, including *National Geographic*, *Nature*, and *The Washington Post*. He is coauthor of *On Call in Hell: A Doctor's Iraq War Story*, a 2007 national bestseller. He lives in San Francisco with his wife and fellow writer, Erika Check Hayden.

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