Conflict, War, and Terrorism
War

- War, the most violent form of conflict, refers to organized armed violence aimed at a social group in pursuit of an objective.
- Whether war is just or unjust, defensive or offensive, it involves the most horrendous atrocities known to humankind.
War and the Development of Civilization

- War resulted in small groups and villages becoming incorporated into larger political chiefdoms.
- Centuries of war between chiefdoms culminated in the development of the state.
State

- An apparatus of power, a set of institutions—the central government, the armed forces, the regulatory and police agencies—whose most important functions involve the use of force, the control of territory and the maintenance of internal order.
War and Industrialization

- Industrialization can decrease a society’s propensity for war, but it also increases the potential destructiveness of war because, with industrialization, warfare, technology becomes more sophisticated and lethal.
Cold War

- The state of military tension and political rivalry that existed between the United States and the former Soviet Union from the 1950s through the late 1980s.
Cost of War to the US

- Iraq: $782,329,500,000. (June 6, 2011) the Iraq war will cost $3 trillion
- Afghanistan: $421,240,380,000.
- All war costs to the US since 2001:
  - $1,203,570,145,100.

- Note: these numbers changed as I wrote them down. For more precise numbers, visit the site: [http://costofwar.com/en/](http://costofwar.com/en/)
Structure-Functionalist Perspective

- Gives members a “common cause” and a common enemy.
- In short term, war increases employment and stimulates economy.
- Inspires developments that are useful to civilians.
- Structural functionalists argue that a major function of war is that it produces unity among societal members.
- Societal members feel a sense of cohesion, and they work together to defeat the enemy.
Conflict Perspective on War

- War is the result of antagonisms that emerge when two or more groups struggle for control of resources.
- War benefits corporate, military, and political elites.
Military-Industrial Complex
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

- Meanings and definitions influence attitudes and behaviors regarding conflict and war.
- Attitudes and behaviors that support war develop in childhood.
- Most world governments preach peace through strength, rather than strength through peace.
Patriotism

- The face of patriotism is changing.
- A recent survey of 2005 college graduates found that 83% defined themselves as patriotic.
Do you display the flag at home, office, or on your car?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White</strong></td>
<td>67</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>African American</strong></td>
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<td>59</td>
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Do you display the flag at home, office, or on your car?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18–29 years old</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30–49 years old</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–64 years old</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years old and older</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>28</td>
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Do you display the flag at home, office, or on your car?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Causes of War

- Conflict over Land and Other Natural Resources
- Conflict over Values and Ideologies
- Racial and Ethnic Hostilities
- Defense against Hostile Attacks
- Revolution
- Nationalism
Conflict over Values and Ideologies

- World War II was largely a war over democracy versus fascism.
- Cold War largely involved conflict over capitalism versus communism.
- Wars over differing religious beliefs have led to some of the worst episodes of bloodshed in history.
Constructivist Explanations

- Explanations that emphasize the role of leaders of ethnic groups in stirring up hatred toward others external to one’s group.
Primordial Explanations

- Explanations that emphasize the existence of “ancient hatreds” rooted in deep psychological or cultural differences between ethnic groups, often involving a history of grievance and victimization, real or imagined, by the enemy group.
Security Dilemma

- A characteristic of the international state system that gives rise to unstable relations between states.
- As State A secures its borders and interests, its behavior may decrease the security of other states and cause them to engage in behavior that decrease A’s security.