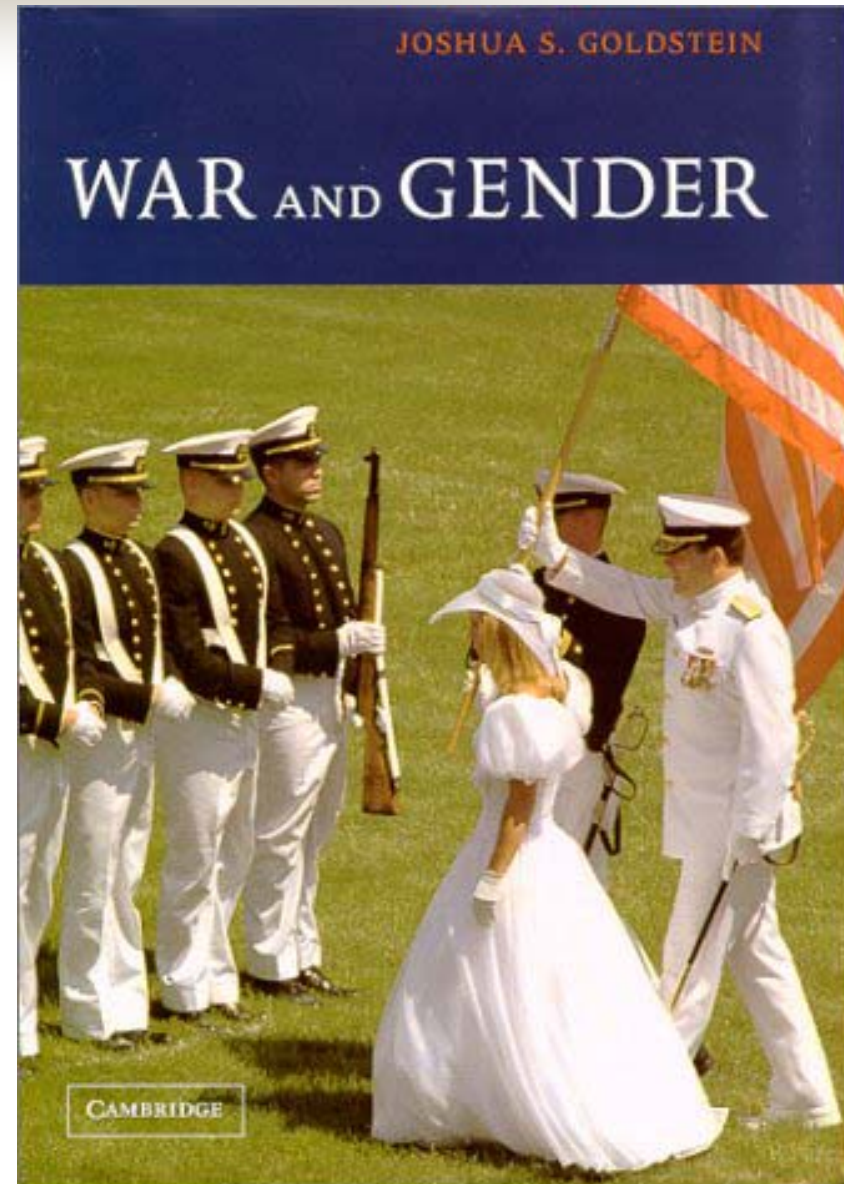


Gender and War

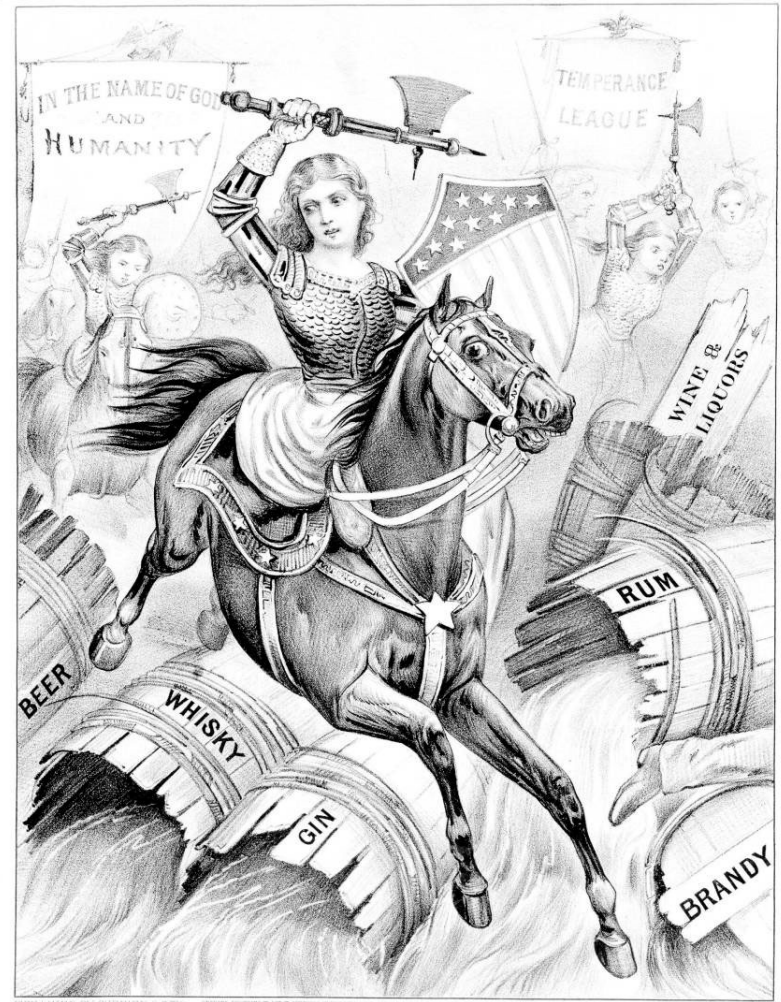




The Puzzle:

- Why despite diversification in gender roles outside of war, gender roles are more rigidly defined in regard to war?
- Males are the main combatants in almost all societies across space and time, even dating back before historical records.

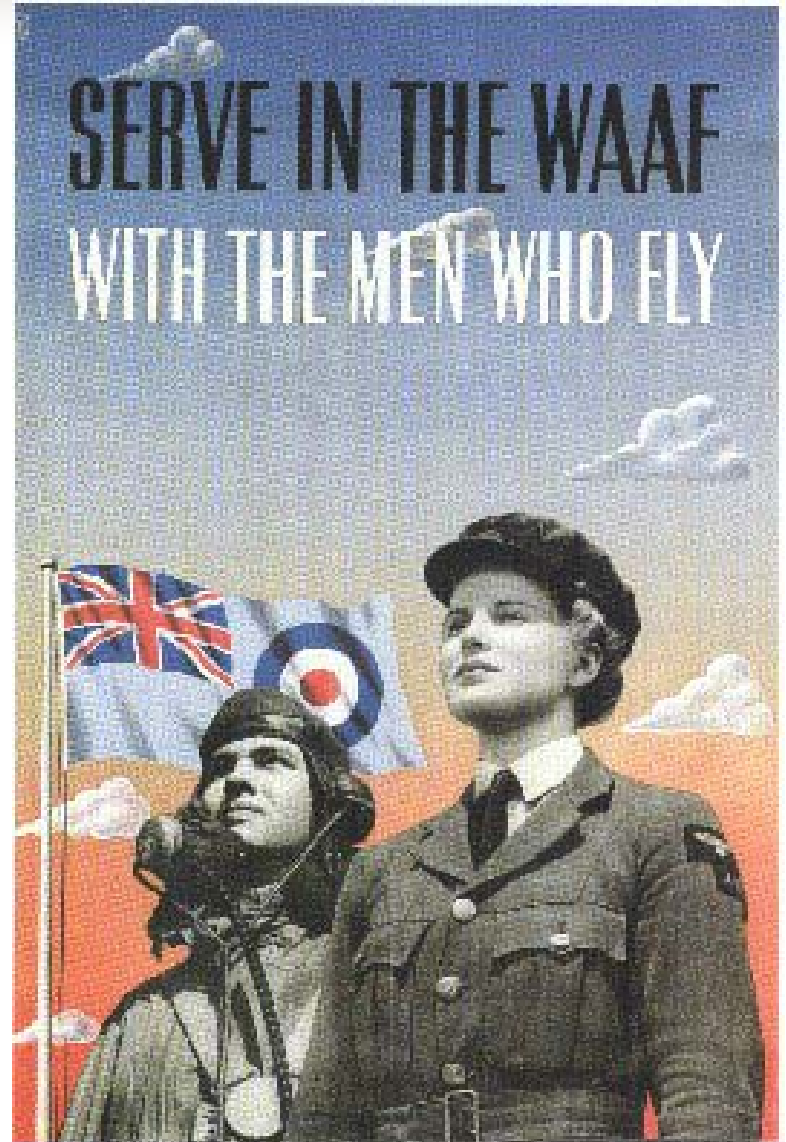
- Accounts of Amazon Warriors is typically exaggerated.
- Males have predominated ranks of combat troops, sometimes with women in auxiliary roles.



WOMAN'S HOLY WAR.
Grand Charge on the Enemy's Works.

War and Societies

- War, or threat of such, appears universal across time and space.
- Some societies have been more war-prone than some, but none are totally free from war.





Difference Feminist thought.

- **Difference Feminism believes women are qualitatively different than men, particularly regarding their nurturing nature, which makes them better at conflict resolution. Women mirror their mothers, while boys are more autonomous and less connected.**
- **Thus, more participation of women in politics would change politics -- better communication and empathy.**



Liberal Feminists

- 1. Liberal Feminists believe there are no big differences between men and women.**
- 2. Though women are often excluded from politics, this does not imply the outcome would be different.**
- 3. Not including women equally means sub-optimal use of nation's resources.**
- 4. Focus is on equal access and rights**



So, is there a difference between men and women on politics?


Voting patterns show that women do vote a bit differently than men, such as more likely to vote democratic and support social welfare programs. American women are sometimes less supportive of the use of military force.

But does this mean women are better nurturers or would alter international politics?



Post-modern Feminism

- No objective reality
- Thus, gender roles are socially defined, arbitrarily, by social mores that themselves are created, not natural or innate.
- Biological explanations are also downplayed considering social forces affect the preferences and perceptions of political reality. Alternative societies and lifestyles are possible.



Overall there is evidence for both the Liberal and Difference perspectives. We can see with the use of bell curves that there is overlap and differences between the sexes.



Our Bodies?

- Is it the case that genetics plays a role?
 - Y genes are not the source, and extra genes are more related to criminal activity as a source of mental retardation.
- Is it our hormones?
 - No! There is nothing about our hormones that causes aggression, although testosterone may elevate aggression once initiated.



Our Bodies?

- Key point though is that there is nothing distinct about our biology that explains organized warfare.
- However, our body chemistry, hormones, explains differences in size and strength and can affect ability in some roles.



Sociological factors

- Boys tend to self-segregate by gender in elementary school and ‘rough-play’, which is not a function of environment.
- This later makes it difficult to integrate women into warfighting groups.
- Women seem to work better in hierarchies whereas testosterone responds to disruptions in hierarchies.



Social Bonding and Conditioning

- Male bonding is not inherent genetically.
- Males are typically toughened up in most cultures, emotionally shut down to endure trauma.
- Some sports foster warfighting skills



Women and War in society

- Some women participate in peace movements
- Some women support wars and go so far as to reinforce male masculinity. To not fight means women will not see you as manly, which some women actively support.



Other interesting points

- Sexual relations are disrupted by war.
- Rape increases but war is not sexual for most men.
- However, feminization of the enemies is very common cross-culturally, expressed in gendered insults and war rape.



Crucial Themes

- Sorting out causality is not easy, reverse causality may play a role.
- Dichotomies between environment and biology are too simple: There is evidence showing that environment can affect biology, such as hormone levels.
- Biology and environment both likely play important roles in explaining gender differences in war.



Crucial Themes

- Women can fight but inclusion in interstate wars have been rare because (1) the most masculine societies will not allow it (Nazi Germany being an extreme case) and (2) other wars are just not as dire.



Crucial Themes

- Small differences in biology seem to be reinforced sociologically.
- Also, the environment of threat seems to have an effect in reproducing gendered roles of male and female in combat.
- Today the USA is most integrated military by gender in modern peacetime history.