

# Peace and Nonviolence Education Australasia Digest Update 9 (15<sup>th</sup> August 2022)

Compiled by Brendan McKeague and Michael Wood  
[www.peaceandnveducation.org](http://www.peaceandnveducation.org)

## 1) **The Shortest History of War** by Gwynne Dyer

War has always been a defining feature of human society. This pacy, lively history explains why we do it - and how we can stop.

**Acclaimed historian and military expert Gwynne Dyer tells the story of war from its earliest origins up to the present age of atom bombs and algorithms.**

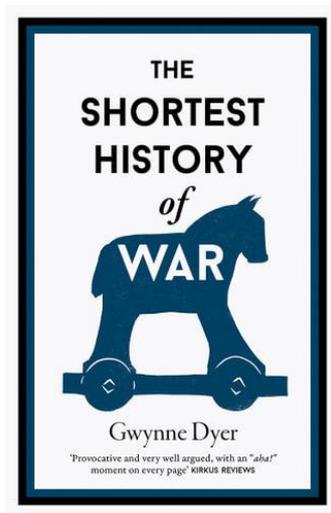
Gwynne Dyer chronicles the advent of warfare in the first cities; the rise of inequality and tyranny as humans multiply; the 1000-year classical era of combat until the firearm and the Thirty Years' War, which changed everything. He traces how the brief interlude of limited war before the popular revolutions of the eighteenth century ushered in total war - and how the devastation was halted, for now, by the shock of Hiroshima.

We are in the longest stretch of peace between major powers in modern history. It marks a precarious balance, as the looming threats of nuclear proliferation, climate change and superpower rivalry threaten our world. This concise, vivid and clear-sighted book is vital reading for anyone who wants to understand the role of war in the long human story - and how we can stop it from dominating our future.

Michael Wood who recommends this book, writes... *“one of the things I found fascinating about this book is that it is written by a military ‘insider’ who is also a historian. There are no illusions here. Dyer points that war in all cultures (including ancient indigenous cultures) is rooted in tribes/communities fighting over scarce resources. This is entirely consistent with Rene Girard’s theories of mimetic (imitative) rivalry. The foundation for peace, for the Christian, is the entirely non-rivalrous God who we encounter in Christ, who refuses to be enlisted on anyone’s side in battle. To the question asked by Cain, ‘am I my brother’s (meaning my enemy) keeper?’ (Genesis 4:9), the answer is a rounding ‘yes’). While Dyer is not writing from a Christian theological perspective, he does offer some cautious signs of hope in the form of international moves to constrain the potentially devastating impact of modern weaponry (drones, artificial intelligence; robotics, chemical/biological) – we literally will either all live or die together, depending on whether we can find collaborative and communal mindsets and practices at an international level.”*

### **Book details below**

Listen To ABC Radio National interview with Gwynne Dyer by Geraldine Doogue  
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/the-shortest-history-of-war/13478546>



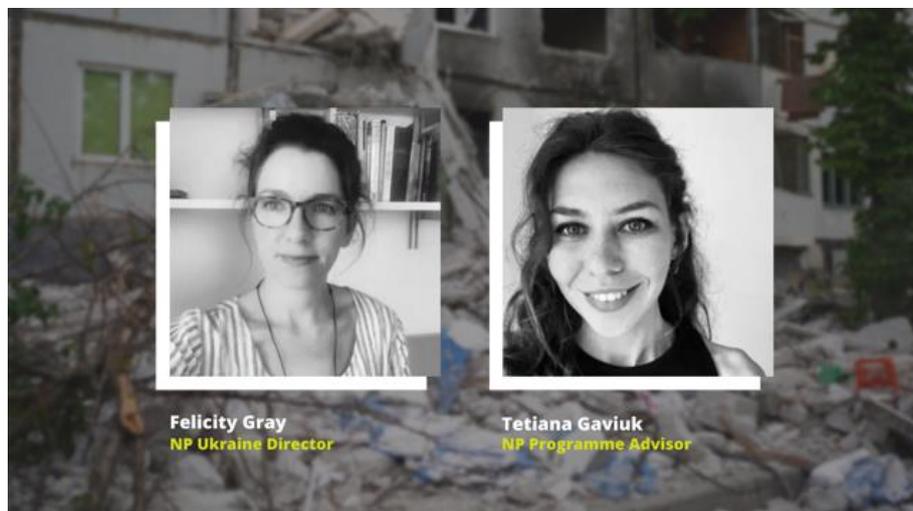
## 2) Nonviolent Peaceforce: What is Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) - how is it working in Ukraine?

For peace educators, this is an opportunity to learn more about how nonviolence is applied in destructive conflict zones....a useful resource for both the Nonviolence and the War modules. I am impressed by the clarity of vision, the courage and creativity of these young women (Felicity is Australian, Tetiana is Ukrainian), sharing from their experiences, particularly in answer to the oft-posed question: **"what can UCP really do in a situation where there is active fighting?"** (@36mins)

View this (zoom-recorded, 53min) [presentation](#) from young NP workers on the ground in Ukraine and learn more about the practice of UCP.

*"Jul 22, 2022 Please join us for a conversation with NP Ukraine Director, Felicity Gray, and Programme Advisor, Tetiana Gaviuk, on how we're working with local community groups to address the ongoing protection crisis. Since shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, NP has been conducting a rapid program assessment as one of the few civilian protection agencies on the ground. We've met with women's shelters, student groups, elderly residents, and more to keep people safe and connect the vulnerable to resources they need...."*

*Go beyond the headlines: Hear stories directly from Ukraine and learn more about our work."*



### 3) The Missing Peace: Business as the Change for Good

*This is an interesting and often undervalued aspect in our Peace Education movement....a useful addition to the War and Peace module.*

**Conflict exists all around us.** [Business Plan for Peace](#) provides the skills and support to transform destructive conflict and build sustainable peace personally, locally, internationally.

**Why? Because we know it's possible.**

We support people to develop the inner practices that make their work in the world far more effective.

We work with communities, decision-makers and business leaders to develop competence, confidence and commitment to transform conflict and invest in peace.

*"Sustainable peace requires design, infrastructure and investment. It needs a business plan."*

Our new report ([The Missing Peace](#)) shows how the private sector can immediately contribute to the prevention of future conflict. Building peace has often been left to the UN, NGOs and local communities; these efforts are noble and demand great courage, but are grossly under-resourced. The expertise of business and the private sector has rarely been engaged – until now.

### 4) Nothing Changes by Diane Scanlon

<https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/new-song-dedicated-to-peace-educators-around-the-world/>

Longtime peace education community member Diane Scanlon dedicates one of her newest songs, Nothing Changes, to the International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) and peace educators around the world.

We are delighted to share with you the video of the song [here](#). Diane is an inspiring songwriter, performer, and dedicated peace educator with a passion for pursuing change through music. We hope you find her music, voice, and message as uplifting as we do in these challenging times where hope is needed more than ever.

*Dear IIPE friends and fellow peace educators,*

*I was told by Pete Seeger to stop asking myself if the song is good and start asking what is the song good for.*

*This video is dedicated to all of you — because nothing changes- until it changes. Keep the fires burning.*

*Diane Scanlon*

*Longtime IIPE Community Member*

***"Every generation has a song to sing..."***