

The Rules of War (&) Etiquette

Be Civilized! War is never an isolated act —

it is always a means to an end.

What are the rules of the game, and who gets to play

Civilization is made up of a set of rules and codes:

There is a code to all conduct

Codes are inscribed on our bodies

There is a code to all acts of war, a sportsmanship of violence.

Codes are read on the face of your friend & on that of your adversary

Who writes these codes?

Codes are invisible architecture that keep people housed in place; a stable harbor on a shifting landscape

Politesse leads to passive aggression.

Civilize the UnCivilized through Chivalry, Cultivation, Ceremony and Courtliness

Culture is a set of codes.

Maintaining decorum is what keeps society together

(What else differentiates us from brooding tribesmen, ready at any moment to erupt in war?)

Maintaining decorum is what keeps fascists in power

(fascists love etiquette, fascism loves rules)

(Decorum: noun. *behavior in keeping with good taste, **Geschmacksache***)

It is undesirable to be uncivilized :: It is ugly to be uncivilized. A lack of civility is a sign of profound indignity

(A lack of civility is a jolt to reality: when rules are broken, they are deconstructed.)

Can a War on Civility, be a Civil War?

Manners are an instrument of assimilation and convention.

Manners are an instrument of socialization.

Manners are an instrument of war.