CAUSES OF WAR

It was six men from Industan, to learning much inclined,
Who went to see the elephant (though all of them were blind)
That each by observation might satisfy his mind..........,

.....disputed loud and long, each in his opinion still and strong,
though each was partly in the right, and all of them were wrong.

John Saxe

War is at least as complex and potentially confusing as an elephant, with many dimensions and components

1. The Personal Level---the inclinations and behaviors of individual people, especially people with power.
   a. human nature approaches: instinct—Lorenzian approach; Freudian psychiatry; socio-biology—predispositions
   b. frustration-anger-aggression hypothesis; social learning----the authoritarian personality

2. The Group Level----nationalism
   a. national independence---the tension between peace and freedom
   b. national unity---secessionism, irredentism (not yet redeemed)
   c. national prestige
   d. racial and cultural intolerance
   e. nationalism and the public mood

Opinion, whether well or ill founded,
is the governing principle of human affairs

Alexander Hamilton
3. *The State Level*----Realism and the War consensus

   a. sovereignty
   
   b. the state system---*competition*
   
   c. *Realpolitik*----a state’s policy should be oriented toward and based upon considerations of power rather than ideals
   
   d. *Raison d’Etat*----the state’s own best interests justify its actions *and* the right of a state to act in its own best interests
   
   e. internal cohesion ("wag the dog” “1984”)
   
   f. arms races

4. *The Decision-Making Level*----The Role of Leaders

   a. Crisis Decision-Making
   
   b. Perceptual and Cognitive Issues:
      ---*double standard of hostility*
      ---*projection*
      
      *How wicked these people must have been to make me do this to them*
      
      *Adolph Hitler*

5. *The Social, Economic and Environmental Level*

   a. Democracy and War
   
   b. Social Stresses----demography, etc.
   
   c. Imperialism
   
   d. Military-Industrial Complexes
   
   e. The Economic Effects of War
   
   f. The Effects of Military Spending