

Call for Papers on the topic “**Psychotherapy, War and Peace**” for the Fall 2011 issue of Voices: The Art and Science of Psychotherapy, the journal of the American Academy of Psychotherapists.

“The whole world is festering with unhappy souls.  
The French hate the Germans, the Germans hate the Poles,  
Italians hate the Yugoslavs, south Africans hate the Dutch  
And I don’t like anybody very much.”  
--Tom Lehrer

In a recent editorial in Explore: the Journal of Science and Healing (vol 5 no.4), Psychologist John Rhead\* posed the surprising question that we have chosen for the topic of our Fall 2011 issue of Voices: **Can Psychotherapy help prevent war?** In his article Rhead distinguished between short-term therapy, which provides emotional balm during a crisis, and in-depth therapy, which helps people understand their own motivations and take responsibility for their previously dis-owned and split-off “shadow side.” It is the latter which might, he suggested, help achieve world peace.

So much violent conflict in the world reflects the common human impulse to band together in hatred of a demonized other. The Capulets and the Montagues, the Hatfields and the McCoys -- we all have someone we love to hate. Racial hatreds and religious wars provide the nightmare stuff of our present day world. Could psychotherapists have a role to play in addressing these problems?

Can treating individuals one by one have an impact?-- helping them increase their capacity to integrate fear and anger, thus reducing the need to act out these emotions in war and acts of terror? Could promoting psychotherapy for world leaders make a difference? Can psychotherapy ever take place at a society-wide level, in some form such as the Truth and Reconciliation hearings in South Africa?

The value of an official public apology from one nation to another is gaining recognition as a step in healing international strife; within the past decade, Japan apologized to China and Russia apologized to Poland -- both for atrocities committed during WWII. In 2009 the British Prime Minister apologized for slayings in Northern Ireland in 1972. Could a family therapist have helped these wounds heal sooner? What potential does psychotherapy hold for resolving or preventing violent international conflict?

Please send articles, poems, memoirs, case histories and artwork to editors Penelope Norton at [psynorton@aol.com](mailto:psynorton@aol.com) and Doris Jackson at [dorisj@comcast.net](mailto:dorisj@comcast.net). Electronic submissions only. The deadline for submissions is August 15, 2011

\* Dr Rhead is a member of the Voices Editorial Review Board.