

McConochie 44-item Warmongering Scale;

A Multifaceted but primarily unitary measure of warmongering as a psychological trait.

Manual.

6/13/07 Edition

Introduction: Prior investigators have included in research studies items measuring endorsement of militarism, as might be found in the minds of the general public. However no specific measures of warmongering as a psychological trait characterizing the mind of a warmongering leader per se are apparent in the literature.

In a recent APA American Psychologist article, Warren Bennis, urges psychologists to study the psychological makeup of leaders, stating: "In bad times, which have been plentiful over the millennia, twisted leaders have been the leading cause of death, more virulent than the plague." While he cites no supportive data, history certainly is replete with tales of war and warmongers. In the journal Political Psychology, frequently are found research articles of psychological studies of the psychological makeup of leaders, such as U.S. presidents. The most dangerous leaders would seem to be those who instigate wars. The psychological makeup of the warmongering mind seems an important topic for scientific investigation and understanding. For example, we can imagine that the Central Intelligence Agency is especially interested in understanding the minds of persons such as Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. While such leaders are rarely available for direct study, the trait of warmongering itself can be directly explored. Important in this effort is development of reliable and valid measures of this and related traits.

The present author has conducted numerous studies in the field of political psychology, using several scales of warmongering as a psychological trait. These earlier studies included three scales measuring warmongering, with 10, 20 and 32 items respectively. These are presented in a manual of over 20 traits measured by scales developed by the author in this line of research (McConochie 2006a, McConochie 2006b). The present manual describes the most sophisticated and most recent of the warmongering trait measures, a 44-item scale. The development of this scale is detailed in a separate research report (McConochie, 2007), available on the author's web site (politicalpsychologyresearch.com).

Warmongering as a psychological trait is defined by the author as the psychological predisposition advocating the development and use of military weaponry to aggressively dominate other groups and nations. Prior studies by the author have demonstrated that this trait can be measured reliably with questionnaire statements reflecting thoughts, beliefs and attitudes of this disposition. These studies consistently demonstrate positive correlations between warmongering and religious fundamentalism and with anti-social traits such as right wing authoritarianism, social dominance orientation, social disenfranchisement (the five Eidelson worldviews) and violence-proneness.

Warmongering correlates negatively with endorsement of human rights, a positive foreign policy, and public democracy serving the best interests of the community overall.

Factor analysis of prior scales and discussion with other scientists prompted the author to build the present more elaborate nine-facet theory of the content of this trait.

Specifically, the refined theory proposes nine psychological facets represented by a new 44-item questionnaire that includes items from the 10-item warmongering scale mentioned above. The new theory proposes nine facets. The facets were created to capture much of what goes on in the mind of a typical warmonger. These are presented in questionnaires in 5-option Likert format (strongly disagree to strongly agree). The items were written to have clear content or face validity. The items and facet categories are as follow.

1. Admiration for military warmongers as aggressive, invasive warriors.
 9. I admire Adolph Hitler, Chancellor of Germany during World War II.
 18. I admire ancient military leaders, such as Genghis Kahn, Attila the Hun, and Alexander the Great.
 27. I admire powerful and clever persons such as Osama Bin Laden and persons who have assassinated political leaders to promote their causes.
 34. I admire military subordinates who carry out their orders to kill and exterminate prisoners and civilians, even if breaking some international conventions or laws.

2. Wanting personal military power.
 1. I would like to be the leader of a nation with much military power.
 10. I would enjoy being a military commander, designing battle plans.
 19. It is more honorable to serve one's nation as a warrior in combat than as an anti-war protester.
 35. I find military parades exciting and inspiring.
 43. War is a noble and glorious activity.

3. Interest in promoting the development of military might.
 2. I endorse organizations that fight for civilian rights to have guns.
 11. Some industries of a nation should always stay strong by building and selling military weapons even in times of peace.
 20. A wise nation will spend more money for a strong military than for a national health care program.
 28. The military is the most important aspect of any government.
 36. A good reason to promote athletic competition and scouting programs in youth is to ready them for military combat.
 40. The government should keep the importance of a strong military on civilian minds, as by sponsoring daily television programs that feature victorious war films and programs.

4. Harshly opposing and suppressing opposition to one's personal military power within one's own group.

- 3. If I were the leader of a nation, I would be willing to take strong measures to repress persons in my country who opposed me.
 - 21. If necessary to maintain my power as a leader, I would be willing to imprison and execute anyone I thought was a traitor.
 - 29. A strong military leader must be ruthless in demanding obedience from his subordinates.
 - 37. I admire powerful national leaders who eliminated others in their nation on their way to power.
5. Taking pleasure in watching, reading about or participating in hostile actions of a military or quasi-military nature.
- 4. I think I would enjoy flying a military jet airplane or tank and shooting its cannons.
 - 13. I like to read or hear true stories of military battles.
 - 22. I like to watch war movies.
 - 30. I like to play military games, such as video games involving shooting enemies.
 - 38. I would like to learn more about how to make bombs or how military weapons work.
6. Endorsing aggressive military actions.
- 5. President Bush was justified to invade Iraq to track down Saddam Hussein.
 - 14. A nation would be justified in invading other nations to stop them from building up powerful weapons.
 - 23. Nazi Germany was justified in invading Russia in World War II.
 - 39. Japan was justified in invading the Philippines in World War II.
 - 41. Military forces in Israel and Palestine have been well justified in invading and killing each other and civilians.
7. Endorsing past warmongering nations.
- 6. The Roman Empire was justified in invading neighboring countries to expand its power.
 - 15. Centuries ago the Spaniards were justified in killing natives in Central and South American to get their silver and gold.
 - 24. The ancient Inca and Aztec nations were justified in invading neighboring countries to build their power.
 - 31. The United States was justified in killing off Native American Indians and taking control of their land.
8. Endorsing war to dominate other peoples, reduce other populations, kill inferior people, or beat competitors.
- 7. Using captured enemies for slave labor in time of war is a wise strategy.
 - 12. Military leaders who start wars and kill many civilians should not be tried as war criminals.
 - 16. Ethnic cleansing to rid the world of undesirable types of people, is a justified aspect of war.

25. During war, killing civilians in enemy countries to lower morale is a reasonable military action.
32. The United States should have stuck it out in South Vietnam until it won the war.
9. Endorsing war for assuring access to natural resources.
8. My national government should do what best serves our nation's interests, at the expense of other nations, enforced by military action if necessary.
17. War is God=s and nature=s best way of deciding who should survive.
26. It is better to have a powerful military than powerful trade agreements.
33. Our country should go to war whenever we think our access to resources in other countries is threatened.
42. A good reason for our nation going to war is to kill enemy soldiers and civilians in order to reduce population numbers so there are more resources for the people of our nation.
44. A good reason for our nation going to war is to assure access to whatever raw materials, such as oil, we need from other nations.

Initial research studies: reliability and validity data.

Study # 1. The instrument was administered to 42 community college students over the Internet from the author's web site politicalpsychologyresearch.com. The students earned school course credit simply for participating. They received their personal scores on the traits measured immediately after completing the questionnaire, via the author's web site. Their scores were kept confidential. Their professor only received the list of persons who participated. The students also received electronically a 3-page summary of the study findings for their edification. The process went very smoothly, overall, with no problems suggesting complications that would distort research data gathered in this manner. The study included a lengthy questionnaire. Many traits were measured in addition to the warmongering-44 scale, as presented below.

The warmongering scale in 44 items was presented in two formats, one containing all pro-trait items and another with half con-trait items. The formats did not change the reliability or validity of the instrument; both were highly reliable and had similar validity characteristics. The author argues that the all pro-trait version has advantages, as discussed in his report on this initial study, referenced above. Therefore, the all pro-trait version is the topic of the present manual.

Results.

Basic Statistics:

Scale	Range	Mean	Standard Deviation	Chronbach Alpha reliability
Warmongering - 44	46-146	87.11	27.08	.96

The scale did not correlate significantly with age, gender or years of education in this study.

All 44 of the items in the pro-trait version of the warmongering scale correlated at the .01 level or better with the total score for the 44 items. Factor analysis calling for a single factor with Varimax rotation yielded a factor that accounted for 41 percent of the variance. All but four of the 44 items correlated .50 or higher with this factor. The others correlated .24, .39, .43 and .46.

When several factors were called for, 11 factors emerged with Eigenvalues greater than 1.0, the second and subsequent factors each accounting for 9 percent or less of variance. The 11 factors collectively accounted for 83% of the variance. Each of these factors had loadings of .50 or higher for one or more of the 44 items, as presented below. 40 of the items loaded on only one factor. Item 8 loaded on two factors.

Warmongering Scale Facet Factors

	Factor label	% of variance	Load- ing	Item core meaning.
1	General warmongering endorsement	41	.64 .71 .62 .54 .80 .59 .76 .64 .67	5. Bush was justified invading Iraq 12. Warmongers should not to be tried as war criminals. 14. Preemptive war to prevent weapons buildups is okay. 18. Ancient warmongering leaders admired. 19. Warrior service to nation is honorable. 20. Military spending is better than health care spending. 26. Military spending better than other international relations spending. 28. Military most important aspect of government. 35. Military parades exciting and inspiring.
2	Nationalistic warmongering	9	.69 .52 .72 .85 .87 .71	6. Roman Empire justified in warmongering. 8. My nation at expense of other nations. 23. Nazi Germany was justified invading Russia. 24. Incas and Aztec warmongering justified. 39. Japan warmongering justified. 41. Israel and Palestine warmongering justified.
3	Selfish cruelty	6	.74 .59 .62 .51	9. Admiration for Hitler. 25. Killing civilians in war to lower morale. 33. War if access to resources threatened. 36. Athletics and scouting to prepare

			.54 .69	combatants. 37. Leaders who eliminate local competition. 42. War to reduce populations for own gain.
4	Vicarious warmongering pleasure	5	.78 .83 .82	13. Enjoy reading true war stories. 22. Like to watch war movies. 30. Like to play war video games.
5	Killing helpless, weak.	4	.76 .59 .74 .53	15. Spanish warmongering for gold endorsed. 27. Political assassins endorsed. 31. Killing off American Indians endorsed. 34. Military killing of prisoners endorsed.
6	Weapon love.	4	.81 .85 .62	2. Civilian gun access endorsement. 4. Enjoyment of fighters/ shooting cannons. 38. Interest in bombs and weapons.
7	Vengeance.	3	.69 .72	21. Imprison and execute traitors. 32. U.S. should have stuck it out in Vietnam
8	Battle planning	3	.71	10. Would like to design battle plans.
9	Nationalism	3	.77 .51	1. Would like to be powerful national leader. 8. My nation at expense of other nations.
10	Cruel self-aggrandizement	3	.67 .53 .50	7. Slave labor okay in time of war. 29. Ruthlessness in leaders okay. 44. War for resources we need.
11	Survival of fittest	2	.72 .55	16. Ethnic cleansing endorsed. 17. War for natural selection.

This factor analysis data is considered to support the starting definition of the trait. Warmongering appears to be a psychological trait that is in one sense uni-dimensional and in another sense multi-faceted. Items in the present measure of the trait all are tightly interrelated, justifying the trait as a unitary psychological concept, "warmongering" or "warmongering endorsement". Detailed analysis of the trait reveals that it is made up of many facets that spring logically from the central concept.

Note: The 10-item warmongering scale from prior studies, was embedded in the 44-item version. It correlated .86 with the other 34 items in the 44-item scale. The Alpha reliability of the 10-item scale was .88 in this study

Concurrent validity data:

The 44-item scale correlated with the other traits measured as follow:

Pearson Product Moment Correlations between
Warmongering and other Traits (most measured with several items).

Correlation	Trait
-.42**	U. S. Should get out of Iraq
-.27	Citizens should participate more directly in government decisions.
-.56**	The U.S. should have a positive, helpful foreign policy.

-.38*	Democratic forms of government are better than authoritarian ones.
-.61**	Natural resources should be conserved and recycled.
-.67**	People should cooperate more than compete with each other.
.31*	Religious fundamentalism.
-.29	Kindly religious beliefs.
-.07	Religiousness.
.01	Personal valuing of religion.
-.54**	Human rights endorsement.
-.31*	Interest in a new type of political party serving the community overall.
.34*	Voted for Bush in 2004
-.38*	Voted for Kerry in 2004

All of the statistically significant correlations between warmongering and the other traits are consistent with findings from prior studies by the author. Persons higher on warmongering tend to be higher also on religious fundamentalism but lower on a wide range of pro-social traits, such as endorsement of human rights and a positive foreign policy. Higher warmongering scores are associated with voting for Bush (.34*) rather than Kerry (-.38*) in 2004.

Study #2. (6/07)

The 44-item scale, all pro-trait items, was included in a second study of 45 community college students, with results similar to those reported for study #1, as follow.

Basic statistics:

Scale	Range	Mean	Standard Deviation	Chronbach Alpha reliability
Warmongering - 44	44-220	89.23	36.18	.98

Validity data:

Pearson Product Moment Correlations between Warmongering and other Traits

Trait	Correlation
Authoritarianism endorsement	.56**
Violence-Proneness (ARFV)	.69**
Terrorism endorsement	.54**

The three traits above are measured by scales developed by the author and are described in the political psychology research manual (McConochie, 2006, b). The positive correlations with other anti-social traits are consistent with previous research findings by the author.

Factor analysis in this study again yielded many factors (10) with Eigenvalues of 1 or greater. The first factor accounted for 41 percent of the variance. The 10 factors

accounted for 81 percent. 10 items loaded .50 or higher on the first factor, the highest being:

Item #	Item loading	Item content
20	.87	A wise nation will spend more money for a strong military than for a national health care program.
26	.87	It is better to have a powerful military than powerful trade agreements.
11	.81	Some industries of a nation should always stay strong by building and selling military weapons even in times of peace.
8	.77	My national government should do what best serves our nation's interests, at the expense of other nations, enforced by military action if necessary.
28	.69	The military is the most important aspect of any government.

Conclusion. Warmongering as a psychological trait can be measured with reliable and valid questionnaires. Understanding this trait and its correlates can provide insights into the minds of dangerous leaders. For example, the author has used it to develop a reliable and valid 50-item rating scale for assessing the warmongering-proneness of current and historical leaders (McConochie, 2006a, and McConochie, 2006,b).

References:

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