

Hill, Andrew, The Open University, United Kingdom

War and Beauty

This paper examines the relatively underanalysed relationship between war and beauty. Beauty is a category that figures as marginal to contemporary conceptions of war and conflict. This paper examines how ideas of beauty, beauty's ties to visuality, how beauty functions and what beauty does, serve to illuminate key dimensions of war. The paper scrutinises the way in which beauty can figure as a cause of warfare, how beauty functions as a target or lure in war, and beauty's capacity to figure as a defence and source of protection. In so doing the paper surveys a range of conflicts, including World War I, the War on Terror, the Trojan war, and the break-up of Yugoslavia.