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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. Introduction -- 2. War and Peace before Sociology: Social Theorizing on Violence from Thomas Hobbes to the Napoleonic Wars -- 3. The Long Peace of the nineteenth Century and the birth of Sociology -- 4. The Classical Figures of Sociology and the Great Seminal Catastrophe of the Twentieth Century -- 5. Sociology and Social Theory from the end of the First World War to the 1970's -- 6. After Modernization Theory: Historical Sociology and the bellicose Constitution of Western Modernity -- 7. After the east-West Conflict: Democratization, State Collapse, and empire building -- 8. Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Name Index -- Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book, the first of its kind, provides a sweeping critical history of social theories about war and peace from Hobbes to the present. Distinguished social theorists Hans Joas and Wolfgang Knöbl present both a broad intellectual history and an original argument as they trace the development of thinking about war over more than 350 years--

from the premodern era to the period of German idealism and the Scottish and French enlightenments, and then from the birth of sociology in the nineteenth century through the twentieth century. While focusing on social thought, the book draws on many disciplines, including philosophy, anthropology, and political science. Joas and Knöbl demonstrate the profound difficulties most social thinkers--including liberals, socialists, and those intellectuals who could be regarded as the first sociologists--had in coming to terms with the phenomenon of war, the most obvious form of large-scale social violence. With only a few exceptions, these thinkers, who believed deeply in social progress, were unable to account for war because they regarded it as marginal or archaic, and on the verge of disappearing. This overly optimistic picture of the modern world persisted in social theory even in the twentieth century, as most sociologists and social theorists either ignored war and violence in their theoretical work or tried to explain it away. The failure of the social sciences and especially sociology to understand war, Joas and Knöbl argue, must be seen as one of the greatest weaknesses of disciplines that claim to give a convincing diagnosis of our times.

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