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causes of change; 2.2 Mid-nineteenth century individualism; 2.3 The development of the individual self and implications for politeness; 3. The rise of conventional indirect requests; 3.1 Factors relating to the development of ability-oriented conventional indirect requests 3.2 Evidence for the existence of pre-nineteenth century ability-oriented conventional indirect requests4. Investigating the rise of ability-oriented conventional indirect requests in the nineteenth century; 4.1 Evidence from the late eighteenth century; 4.2 Evidence from the nineteenth century; 4.2.1 Tracking the overall distribution of ability-oriented conventional indirect requests in the nineteenth century; 4.2.2 Clarity of requestive force of ability-oriented conventional indirect requests; 4.2.3 Genre differences 4.2.4 Outcomes from the analysis of ability-oriented conventional indirect requests in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century texts5. Conclusion; Acknowledgements; Notes; Sources; References; "[T]his most unnecessary, unjust, and disgraceful war"; 1. Context and background; 2. Sources and method; 3. Lack of truthfulness; 4. Bad conduct of the war, a hopeless situation and "insanity"; 5. Self-aggrandisement and subservience to a foreign power; 6. Private character and "extinction"; 7. Concluding observations; Acknowledgements; Note; References; A socio-cognitive approach to historical politeness

#### 1. Theorising about politeness

#### Sommario/riassunto

This paper is intended as an overall template of the evolution of (im) politeness. It elucidates how (linguistic) rapport management originated and developed over time, and tries to come to grips with (some of) the sociocultural factors behind such changes. Taking its point of departure in human prehistory (Section?1), the paper argues that, contrary to received wisdom, politeness and impoliteness are not two sides of the same coin (Section?2), and it discusses the dissimilar evolutionary antecedents of politeness and impoliteness (Sections 3 and 4). The paper then maps out three broad-scale di