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Sommario/riassunto	The myth of the peace-loving ""noble savage"" is persistent and pernicious. Indeed, for the last fifty years, most popular and scholarly works have agreed that prehistoric warfare was rare, harmless, unimportant, and, like smallpox, a disease of civilized societies alone. Prehistoric warfare, according to this view, was little more than a ritualized game, where casualties were limited and the effects of

aggression relatively mild. Lawrence Keeley's groundbreaking *War Before Civilization* offers a devastating rebuttal to such comfortable myths and debunks the notion that warfare was introduced t

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