LIST OF FIGURES xvii

PREFACE xxi

# Chapter

# 1 A FOREIGN COUNTRY 1

Human Prehistory 2

Homeric Greece 4

The Hebrew Bible 6

The Roman Empire and Early Christendom 12

Medieval Knights 17

Early Modern Europe 18

Honor in Europe and the Early United States 21

The 20th Century 23

#### 2 THE PACIFICATION PROCESS 31

The Logic of Violence 31

Violence in Human Ancestors 36

Kinds of Human Societies 40

Rates of Violence in State and Nonstate Societies 47

Civilization and Its Discontents 56

#### 3 THE CIVILIZING PROCESS 59

The European Homicide Decline 61
Explaining the European Homicide Decline 64
Violence and Class 81

Violence Around the World 85
Violence in These United States 91
Decivilization in the 1960s 106
Recivilization in the 1990s 116

# 4 THE HUMANITARIAN REVOLUTION 129

Superstitious Killing: Human Sacrifice, Witchcraft, and Blood Libel 134
Superstitious Killing: Violence Against Blaspheniers, Heretics,
and Apostates 139

Cruel and Unusual Punishments 144

Capital Punishment 149

Slavery 153

Despotism and Political Violence 158

Major War 161

Whence the Humanitarian Revolution? 168

The Rise of Empathy and the Regard for Human Life 175

The Republic of Letters and Enlightenment Humanism 177

Civilization and Enlightenment 184

Blood and Soil 186

#### 5 THE LONG PEACE 189

Statistics and Narratives 190

Was the 20th Century Really the Worst? 193

The Satistics of Deadly Quarrels, Part 1: The Timing of Wars 200

The Statistics of Deadly Quarrels, Part 2: The Magnitude of Wars 210

The Trajectory of Great Power War 222

The Trajectory of European War 228

The Hobbesian Background and the Ages of Dynasties and Religions 231

Three Currents in the Age of Sovereignty 235

Counter-Enlightenment Ideologies and the Age of Nationalism 238

Humanism and Totalitarianism in the Age of Ideology 244

The Long Peace: Some Numbers 249

The Long Peace: Attitudes and Events 255

Is the Long Peace a Nuclear Peace? 268

Is the Long Peace a Democratic Peace? 278

Is the Long Peace a Liberal Peace? 284
Is the Long Peace a Kantian Peace? 288

#### 6 THE NEW PEACE 295

The Trajectory of War in the Rest of the World 297
The Trajectory of Genocide 320
The Trajectory of Terrorism 344
Where Angels Fear to Tread 361

## 7 THE RIGHTS REVOLUTIONS 378

Women's Rights and the Decline of Rape and Battering 394

Children's Rights and the Decline of Infanticide, Spanking,
Child Abuse, and Bullying 415

Gay Rights, the Decline of Gay-Bashing, and the Decriminalization of Homosexuality 447

Animal Rights and the Decline of Cruelty to Animals 454

Whence the Rights Revolutions? 475

From History to Psychology 480

Civil Rights and the Decline of Lynching and Racial Pogroms

### 8 INNER DEMONS 482

The Dark Side 483

The Moralization Gap and the Myth of Pure Evil 488

Organs of Violence 497

Predation 509

Dominance 515

Revenge 529

Sadism 547

Ideology 556

Pure Evil, Inner Demons, and the Decline of Violence 569

#### 9 BETTER ANGELS 571

Empathy 573
Self-Control 592

Recent Biological Evolution? 611 Morality and Taboo 622 Reason 642

# 10 ON ANGELS' WINGS 671

Important but Inconsistent 672
The Pacifist's Dilemma 678
The Leviathan 680
Gentle Commerce 682
Feminization 684
The Expanding Circle 689
The Escalator of Reason 690
Reflections 692

NOTES 697
REFERENCES 739
INDEX 773