Close mindedness and aggression.

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In this presentation, I will present theoretical arguments and empirical evidence demonstrating a positive relation between the Need for Cognitive Closure (NFC) and aggression. The theoretical argument derives from the urgency tendency assumed to arise from the NFC. The urgency tendency implies seizing on the first impulse that comes to mind, including the first action impulse that comes to mind, in order to avoid ambiguity. There is evolutionary evidence that the impulse to aggress when harmed or angered is primordial. Therefore, one would expect that individuals who are high on the NFC would be more prone to aggress when harmed. Indeed we have correlational and experimental evidence to suggest that this is the case. There is a positive correlation between NFC and individual vengefulness measured in different ways, and we also find that Need for Closure is associated with tougher attitudes toward perceived enemies of one’s group, such as terrorists. The latter is also consistent with the NFC based permanence tendency to preserve the stable shared reality that one’s ingroup represents. The discussion will consider the relation between epistemic considerations and aggression that have not been heretofore explored.