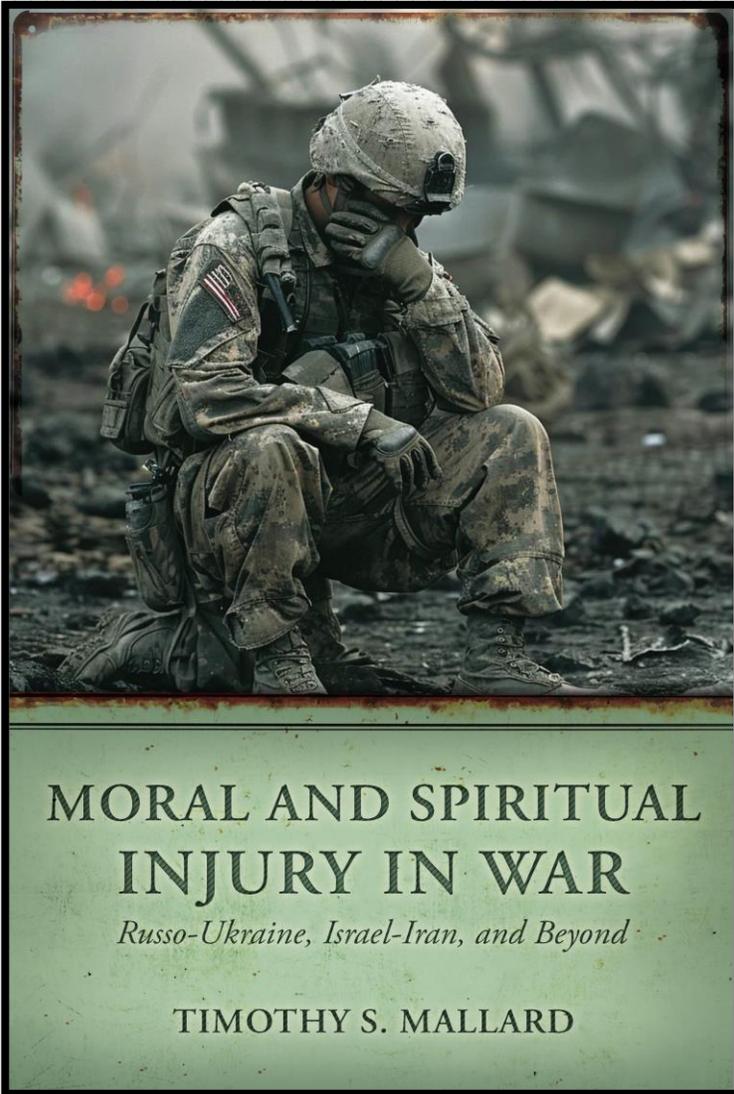


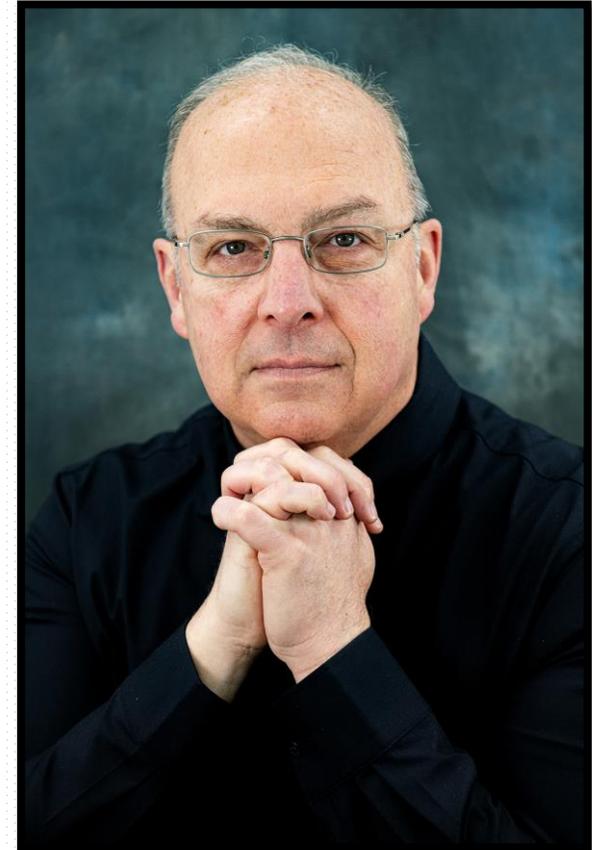


# *Deeply Held Values, Principles, and Beliefs as Boundary Markers for Moral Injury in War”*



## The Central Idea

“Moral Injury in war is an internal wound (individually and communally) arising both from emotional disequilibrium and ethical dissonance.”



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(Newport, RI: Stone Tower Press, JUN 2025)



# Why is This a Problem for Individuals and Nations?



- \* Pervasive (to the Core of a Person) and Persistent (over the Whole of Life).
- \* Moral Injury is Present Not Only at the Tactical But Also the Operational and Strategic Levels of War.
- \* Applicable Not Only in the Profession of Arms But Also Other Vocations and Experiences (Business, Health Care [COVID-19], and Education as Well as Victims of Sexual Trauma, Racism, and Domestic Violence, etc.).

# Where or What is the Locus of Moral Injury?

- A Betrayal of What's Right
- By a Person in Authority
- In a High Stakes Situation

“Combat trauma destroys the *capacity* for social trust, accounting for the paranoid state of being that blights the lives of the most severely traumatized combat veterans. This is not a selective mistrust directed at a specific individual or institution that has betrayed its charge, but a comprehensive destruction of social trust.”

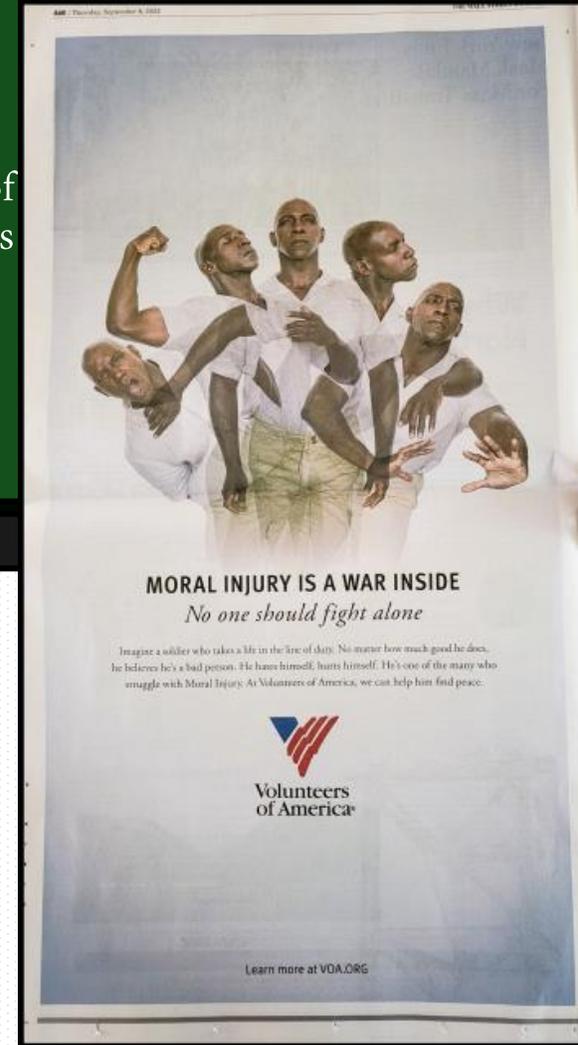
Shay (1994 and 2014)

“Like psychological trauma, moral injury is a construct that describes extreme and unprecedented life experience including the harmful aftermath of exposure to such events (e.g. combat trauma). Events are considered morally injurious if they “transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations”. Thus, the key precondition for moral injury is an act of transgression, which shatters moral and ethical expectations that are rooted in religious or spiritual beliefs, or culture-based, organizational, and group-based rules about fairness, the value of life, and so forth.”

Litz, Maguen, et. al. (2016)

“Moral Injury refers to the experience of sustained and enduring negative moral emotions - guilt, shame, contempt and anger - that results from the betrayal, violation or suppression of deeply held or shared moral values. It is distinct from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which entails the body and mind's adaptation to situations of extreme fear and stress.”

ICMI (2024)

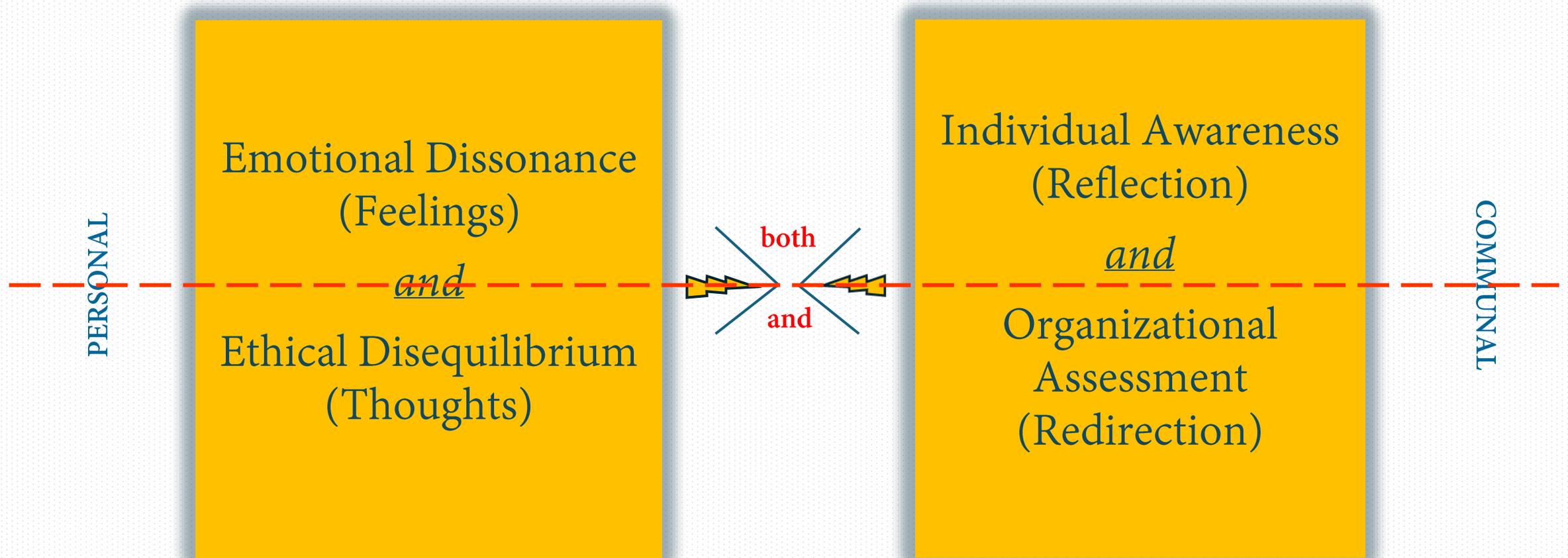


From the Communal to the Individual

From the Interpersonal to the Intrapersonal

From the Moral / Ethical to the Emotional / Mental

# Returning to Balance in Understanding the Process of Moral Injury



What Are Keys to Understanding Both as Legitimate, Necessary Processes  
to Bring Change and Growth?