

Why I Believe War Is Not the Answer

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How much is one life worth? For many it is worth everything. Losing a loved one or a close friend is so painful and can make even the strongest want to do anything to change what happened. Wars have taken so many lives, not only of soldiers who left families behind, but of innocents caught between two political powers. What good can come out of such bloodshed? The answer is none. In the eyes of political leaders, it is for the cause of freedom, for the economic gain, or for destroying something that they do not understand. War is not the answer to the world's problems for war is a waste of money and, above all, a waste of the lives of such wonderful people.

The amount of money wasted on military funding is appalling in respect to the amount of funding that could be added to the Department of Education alone. According to "America First: A Budget to Make America Great Again," three departments are planned to receive greater funding than last year: Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans' Affairs. However, it also shows that the departments of Education, Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Transportation, and Labor are planned to be cut by at least 10 percent. With the youth of society being the future of our country, I find it difficult to understand how security and defense are of such far greater importance than health and education. This, of course, includes the amount of time our government and others are placing into military research.

The citizens of a country are much more important than money. The amount of nobility in patriotism is completely honorable. However, war leads to a strenuous patriotism, especially in the case of a drafting. Some young men were forced away from their families to fight in a war of someone else's creation. Many died. Silence and heartbreak were found at so many doorsteps of families when they would hear a knock and open a door to see someone in uniform, someone they did not know. Defending your country is honorable, but risking life and limb for political gains is not worth a life. A large number of families in the United States know someone who is in the military. That person left behind a little boy or girl and a wife or husband. That person hopped on a plane to travel across the world, not knowing if they would return in a few months. That family would go for weeks without hearing anything. My experiences with being a trumpet player for military taps at funerals have given me insight into the sacrifices these families make each day. Every day the soldier is gone cannot be obtained again.

The waste of money and the loss of life from war is absolutely atrocious. However, after participating in Badger Boys State, I realize the impact that those who survived the wars have had on youth. Veterans have taught us not to take our freedoms for granted. They have taught us to take a stand for our country to make a change for the better. The effect that the living can have on this world is so great, especially united. When working together, the human race can find peace among hostilities. War is a terrible event that someone made a choice to use to accomplish something while so many other alternatives could be used more effectively without

loss of life. Only one instance exists where war may even be slightly justifiable: When the choice is to fight or die. No matter the case, war today has become an “easy way out” for politicians to obtain desired results in desired timelines. War should never be the answer.