

Why I Believe That War Is Not the Answer
By Leah Olund
Boscobel High School VFP Scholarship Recipient 2017

“War is neither glamorous nor attractive. It is monstrous. Its very nature is one of tragedy and suffering.” This quote from the fourteenth Dalai Lama, an important Gelug school monk named Lhamo Döndrub, describes the true nature of war. In truth, war is not appealing in anyway, for it leaves many humans in misery, agony, and pain. It is malevolent, demands horrific bloodshed, and creates economic problems; it leaves areas obliterated and completely destroyed with years of repair needed to fix the battle areas, the civilizations, and the human minds. War, in its simplest form, is a destructive force that affects the environment, the atmosphere, and the human race. Those are the reasons why I do not believe that war is the answer to any problem, for the consequences cannot, nor ever, outweigh the basic ways of pure communication and peaceful alternatives.

Because of wars, the Earth’s environment is being affected in very harmful ways. The weapons that are used to attack other enemy countries, such as bombs containing uranium and other dangerous chemicals, harm the environment around the civilizations and animal habitats. The structure of these harmful chemicals poisons the soil and water; if consumed by an organism, it can severely damage its body and create detrimental diseases. Air pollution can also result from chemical sprays and war vehicles; likewise, bodies of water can become contaminated from spills, wastes, and naval war. Along with organisms, ecosystems and its inhabitants can be completely demolished from the country. For instance, thousands of trees in Afghanistan have been removed at a disastrous rapid rate from the conflicts in its region; many species have been lost as well (Mathiesen 4). On many occasions in recent years, the countries that have been affected by war are poorer than others and cannot afford, nor have the resources, to rectify the environmental situations. When the lands are so toxic and broken and refugees are forced to inhabit the areas, health issues can ensue; the people can suffer from malnutrition, famine, and other health effects from poor harvests, food scarcity, and soil contamination. For this reason, I do not believe that war is the answer to any problem.

Another consequence of war, as well as another reason why war is never the answer, is the damage to the atmosphere. With the use of fossil fuels from the weaponized vehicles and the chemicals released from weapons, the ozone layer of the Earth, which protects humans from incredibly harmful and dangerous ultraviolet (UV) radiation that can cause skin cancer, is being damaged; this reduces the protection against the UV radiation, creating an increase in the risk of acquiring skin cancer. In fact, before the war even begins, the weaponized vehicles and regular modes of transportation used by the United States Department of Defense releases the same amount of carbon dioxide from the fossil fuels as a medium sized European country (“Environmental Impacts” 1). For example, one study found that 190.8 million liters of oil was used because of the Iraq invasion, and about two thirds of the fuel is consumed just to bring fuel to the battlefield vehicles (“Environmental Impacts” 1). This high-level of consumption harms the Earth’s atmosphere; this can change the ecosystems around the world. In addition, changes in the ozone layer create higher

temperatures around the globe due to the more direct sunlight; because this is happening today, global warming has started, a danger to humans, animals, and ecosystems. As a result to these dangers to the atmosphere, war is incredibly harmful and unnecessary, and I do not believe that it is ever the answer.

Finally, wars affect human beings in so many different ways, and that is the last reason why I do not believe that war is the answer to any problem. People at the battle sights, from single digit numbers to thousands to even millions, can be affected by war. Death is a common result from war, for there is a thought that eliminating the current enemies is the solution to the current problem; however, even with the “enemies” gone, others may arise with the same thought or idea of vengeance. Moreover, physical wounds, such as loss of limbs or other body parts, are only a few effects that war veterans receive. Scars, both physical and emotional, will stay forever with an individual, no matter the amount of therapy for the emotional scar or the treatments for a physical scar; the individual will always have the reminder of the battles or overall war, but the emotional trauma can be far more damaging than any physical wound. For example, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a possible result of the horrors experienced during heated battles or pointless wars; although different treatments are available to help alleviate the problem, it can be hard to manage for some, and it may be permanent. Overall, the physiological impact on soldiers is relentless and innumerable. It is hard for a soldier to ever be the same again, emotionally and mentally, for the horrors that they have experienced is so traumatic and agonizing that they must change to manage the pain and savagery that war brings. Evidently, whether physical, emotional, or mental, it does not truly matter because there is no difference between the three in the end; each affect a person so dramatically that some can be beyond repair. Because of the effects on humans, I do not think that war is ever the answer to any problem.

In conclusion, there are several reasons why I do not believe that war is the answer. First, wars severely harm the environment. The soil and water absorb the dangerous chemicals that can damage plants, trees, and people, who can potentially kill them. Second, because of the harmful chemicals released from the military vehicles, wars damage the atmosphere, especially the ozone layer. The carbon dioxide given off from the vehicles slowly eat away at the ozone layer, which protects people from the harmful sun rays. People can obtain skin cancer from these rays. Lastly, wars damage people. Besides dying, people can develop many wounds, both physically and mentally, that can change them in unimaginable ways. For example, soldiers of war can acquire Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which affects the people and their lives in a variety of ways. As the fourteenth Dalai Lama said, war is “monstrous,” as well as very damaging, and for these reasons, I do not believe war is the answer.

Works cited

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- Mathiesen, Karl. “*What’s the Environmental Impact of Modern War?*” *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 6 Nov. 2014, Web. 19 Jan. 2017

