

Why I Believe War Is Not the Answer
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Since the beginning of humanity, wars have been fought over land, resources, food, religion, and leadership. Arguably, great things have come from wars. America gained its independence because of a war, after all. It may seem like violence has enabled our society to grow and develop, that war is a necessary evil. But that's only because we don't know any other way. We have the potential to end world hunger, to raise everyone's life expectancy, and to send humans to other planets. We could be living in a world powered by clean energy, a world where everyone has access to education. But we aren't. These goals can only be accomplished through cooperation between all nations, races, and denominations. Because I believe in a better future for humanity, I believe war is not the answer.

The examples of war holding society back are everywhere. Africa is a country torn apart by constant conflicts. It also has some of the lowest life expectancies and highest rates of poverty anywhere in the world. Every day, thousands of children die from preventable diseases. There are nations and individuals with the capabilities and resources to offer aid, but they are unable to do anything because of war. Food and medicines can't be distributed, and doctors are unable to reach those who need help most. Conflict impacts countries on the opposite end of the spectrum as well. The United States is seen as one of the richest and most developed countries in the world, but we could be achieving so much more. Because of the "threat" of war from all sides, our current president has proposed pumping more money into an already inflated military budget while cutting funding to almost every other agency including Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, and Health and Human Services. The U.S. is refusing to be pulled out of the past. With money diverted from the military budget to some of the agencies mentioned above, we could be pioneers of clean energy and our students would grow up to be leading researchers, scientists, and doctors.

As an example of what world without war would look like, we can look at countries of Sweden and Switzerland, who have remained neutral for most of the world's conflicts. Both countries have much better income equality than the U.S. and both have an average life span at least 3 years more than America. Per capita, the U.S. emits almost twice as much carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming) as both countries combined, and spends almost twice as much of its GDP on the military as both countries. On the other hand, both Sweden and Switzerland spend almost twice as much on education.

In order to provide a better future for generations to come, we need to change our culture of war. If all the nations and people of the world put aside their differences and work together, great things can be accomplished, and this is why I believe that war is not the answer.