Anowsha Rahat

Topic :

" Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war "

1. Introduction

Famous words by English poet and Historian John Milton hold a timeless reminder ; the most glorious victories resulted in death and destruction ; only victories of peace brought lasting happiness to man.

Thesis statment : Although more eminence, is assigned to victories of war over the underrated victories of peace. However, it is the supremacy of peace vanquished over disease, death, tyranny, illiteracy and ignorance that have brought eternal happiness to man.

2. Understanding the Context of the statment

3. The aftermath of war victories

a) A period of violent transition

b) Mass destruction of human life and property

c) An eara of disease, infirmity and epidemics.

d) Long term physical and psychological damage to war survivors.

e) Clash of civilisation

4. **Examples from history : The post war world**

a) World war II, the most destructive war in history

b) Impacts of First World war and Europe today.

c) The war on terror and the United States

5. **Victories of peace are far greater**

a) The era of peace is an era of science and discovery.

b) Peace creates art and promotes literature

c) In peace man fights against poverty and ignorance.

d) It is a period of economic growth and political stability.

6. **Challenges to the notion of attainment of peace.**

a) Geopolitical aggression and intransigence

b) The relabelling of conflicts as counter-terror struggles

c) Regime change and military intervention

d) Struggling humanitarianism.

7. How can the world achieve fruits of peace.

   a) Ensuring human rights of nations

   b) Establishment of system of global governance based on principle of representative and participatory government.

   c) Eruption of extreme nationalisms and ethnic strife to be dealt with Constructive dilogue and acumen.

8. Conclusion

   War is an organized violence which results in death and destruction; the aftermath of war blurs out the false glory of victory; whereas victories of peace are far greater in terms of human development, discovery and science; Serious efforts are needed to eradicate evils of war and establishment of peace at global level.

The fact that the majority of the world demands justice by sole means of war forgets that there is a concept of harmony in the abscence of hostility and violence, known as peace, whose victories are far greater and vital when compared with glories of war. Although great epics have grown around the deeds of heroes on the field of battle. Even today, men read the wrath of Achilles with wonder and admiration, the heroic acts of an Alexander or a Napoleon with rich glamor of imagination However, despite the glory attached with war and victories the core question lies at what a terrible cost of blood and brutality such a victory was achieved It may be contended that although more eminence is assigned to the victories of war over the not so glamor and underrated victories of peace. However, it is the ultimate supremacy of peace over disease, death, tyranny, illiteracy and ignorance that have

brought eternal peace and betterment to mankind. The following words of former predient of the United States, William Mckinley summarise the importance of peace as:

"let us ever remember that our interest is in Concord, not in conflict; and that our real eminence rests in the victories of peace, not those of war."

It is of primary importance to understand the context of the statment, 'Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war'. John Milton, an English poet and former Secretary for Foreign Tongues by the Council of State of England, wrote in a letter to Oliver Cromwell, an English statesman and politician in the backdrop of religious and civil liberty. The lines indeed carry a word of wisdom and truth. Victories of peace are won over pain and suffering, over blood and brutality

Hence, they are far greater in bringing comfort, innovation and releif to the whole humanity.

    While discussing the aftermath of war, firstly it is important to realise that post-war period is a period of violent transition where conflicts do not simply escalate or de-escalate but follow multiple dynamics which potentially breeds the soil of chaos, uncertainity and political instability. Hence, poverty, suffering, deranged economy and lawlessness results. The Guatemalan civil strif of twentieth-century has similar characteristics of instability and authoritarianism with six coups d'etat, five constitutions and thirty five different governments. People have suffered widespread physical and human destruction. This is. the result of post war power transition and violence.

    In addition to the violence and political instability the mass destruction and loss of human life is another aftermath of war. In

the form of disease and infirmity, spread of Communicable diseases and deadly epidemics post war. The death of five lac Japanese by two atom bombs; the spread of influenza virus amid the upheavels of word war I, first publicly reported in Spain killed some fifty million otherwise healthy young adults. Many governments tried to contain the spread through isolation, disinfecting efforts and quarintine centres but movment of troops hindered containment. Thereby contributing towards more death and misery.

On one hand there is disease and death due to war crimes and spread of epidemics, on the other hand impacts of war and conflict situations need to be realized in another dimension of psychological impairment especially of women and children. The frequent occurence of post traumatic stress disorder in war survivors, nightmares, sleep difficulties, physical symptoms of

headaches, stomach aches, bed wetting and difficulty concentrating are a few example. The recent example of this is war Ukraine which is dubbed as the first social media war. Medical experts have potentially warned of the development of psychological trauma in those consuming war through social media. Hence it shows the amount of trauma war survivers go through.

A very defining factor and the primary source of conflict in the post war world is Clash of civilizations. This phenomenon has gained importance in modern times in the backdrop of clashes between the west and the "Muslim world". The events of 9/11 could be seen as initial signs of a 'civilizational war' which later led to hostility and hate towards muslims as a whole in the name of Islamic fundamentalism. The US-response 'war on terror' targeted muslims and led to considerable loss of life, property and ultimately economy.

Peeping through the window of past, it is important to look at the havocs caused by major wars in the human society. World war II was, arguably the most significant & influential event of the twentieth century, with total military and civilian deaths estimated to be 70-85 million. It also saw the dawn of the nuclear age and nuclear arms race that continued even today. The legacy of the end of world war II being death and destruction with over 400,000 Americans sacrificing their lives and emergence of two power blocks - USA and USSR which again resulted in Cold war.

Having shed light on the world war II, the preceding word war I changed the world. It led to Russian Revolution, the collapse of the German empire and led to the restructuring of the political order in Europe and particularly in the Middle East. It resulted in world war II and another revolution in Germany, which brought Hitler to power

The war affected consciousness and shattered the secure, ordered life of England. It went on for so long and brought 1.39 million military deaths for French and British had around 800,000 dead. Such were the blood stained victories of war.

As discussed in the foregoing, war and conflict between nations are worrying reality which has adversely affected humans and civilizations. Before analyzing workable solutions to combat war and suffering, it is important to realize the fruits and victories of peace.

First of all it is important to note that at large peace is the absence of war between nations and in this era of peace lies the foundation of many scientific discoveries and innovations. Man's discoveries during this time may appear to be uneventful. It is in peace that scientists can apply the knowledge in improving condition of mankind. that's why name of Pasteur who found the

process of making vaccines, is still remembered with great reverence. The discovery of electricity by Farraday, of antibiotic Penicillin by Alexander Fleming and the radio have all benefited all mankind alike. In this way peace and stability creates space for innovation.

There is an unending advantage that belongs exclusively to the victories of peace. They benefit not this or that country, but the entire world. Nightingale's system of nursing the wounded soldiers was evolved in peace, though perfected in war. Similarly It is in peacetime that a poet composes great poems, an artist paints the history and a philosopher propounds theories. Many profound examples of architectural brilliance and heritage can be seen in the seventh and eighth centuries when there was period of peace and stability.

It is indeed true that victory in war is achieved after a great loss of life and property. But those

won by great apostle of peace, the manifestation of which is seen during Conquest of Makkah by the army of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) who Conquered the hearts of people not with sword but love and sympathy. In this way, The Prophet made a stop to the reign of injustic, oppression and war. by showing immense humility and an open forgiveness to all enemies for the sake of peace and betterment in Makkah.

It is important to reiterate the Connection between human development and peace which is supported by social science research. All the standard indicators of economic development, including per capita income, economic growth rates, levels of trade and investment are significantly correlated with peace. Every study on causes of war finds a strong Connection between low income and the likelihood of armed conflict. Similar study to rank

the nations of the world by their peacefulness is The Global Peace Index. It has shown that societies that have well functioning governments, low levels of corruption, high education and amicable relations with their neighbors are more likely to grow economically and politically.

In order to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to appreciate the presence of peace, it is important to address the challenges of geopolitical aggression in the form of intense rivalries between global powers and regional powers. The wars in Syria and Yemen are prime examples. Not only this, the use of pretext of counter-terror to crush dissent and political opposition by leaders needs to stop as it escalates violent conflict rather than reducing it. Similarly, framed as interventions to counter terror and save civilians or remove rogue regimes, military intervention and regime change have failed to bring lasting stability Hence, disturbing peace.

In the face of challenges in the attainment of lasting peace, there is a need to work collectively at Global, regional and national level for sustaining peace. This can be partially done by ensuring human rights of nations by using the vision and mandate of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Moreover, the establishment of system of global governance on basis of principle of reprentative and participatory government can further strengthen the sustaining peace. Another important actionable point is to support those who work for peaceful change - women and youth. In this way the world can collectively bear the fruits of peace.

    To sum up, it is important to reiterate the fact that war is an organized violence which results in massive destruction of human life and property. Its victories are stained with blood and suffering. whereas, the progress that man has made

from barbarism to modern civilization is the achievement of peacetime only. It is in peacetime that man realizes his higher arms and can think of his duties to his country, humanity at large and even to God. Thus from the worldly as well as moral and spiritual point of view 'peace hath her victories no less renowned than war'. And the attainment of this peace is possible with leaders promoting peacebuilding; working to prevent conflicts and to build just and inclusive societies by virtue of their right intent for betterment of mankind. and generations to come. As Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American philosopher and poet has said:

> "The God of victory
> is said to be one-handed,
> but peace gives victory
> to both sides."