

Essay

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“World Peace is a Choice of Superpowers.”

Outline

1) Introduction

Thesis Statement: A peaceful world can only exist until and unless there exists a harmony of interests among the superpowers.

2) The Origins of Peace

a) Analyzing the historical background of the Concept of Peace.

b) The tools for building Peace

3) The World as a Playground for Superpowers

a) Delving into the history of wars and analyzing the role of superpowers to instigate or prevent them.

4) Peace or no Peace: That is the Question

a) The interests of superpowers in maintaining world peace.

- 5) The Champion of the Liberal World Order:
Advocating Peace and Harmony
 - a) Case Study of the US as the biggest supporter and advocator of World Peace.
- 6) A View through Rose-Tinted Glasses:
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 - a) Western World: Peace maker or Peace Breaker
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- 7) New World, New Superpowers
 - a) China's emerging role as a global power and a mediator.
 - b) Economic Interests and incentives as a tool of Peace.
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 - a) Environmental Degradation, Hybrid Warfare and Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence
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and the efforts of superpowers in
peace making.

10) Conclusion: Peace is inevitable for the
Existence of mankind.

The world is a pendulum that oscillates between the times of peace and war. Its delicate harmony is maintained by those in power to keep it from falling apart. History is a witness to the times when the world bled and the times when it healed. The world slowly started to discover the tools to heal itself from the pains of war. It became a playground for those in power to exert their will and dominate. It led to conflicts and those conflicts led to peace because for some powers, rationality was the key to prevent the destruction of humanity. Interests of powers matter when it comes to peace; either these interests are based on Machiavellian or Kantian perspectives, they are crucial for the existence of peace and harmony in the world. Therefore, a peaceful world can only exist until and unless there exists a harmony of interests among the superpowers; a disharmony can lead to the demise of mankind.

The origins of peace is rooted back in time with the advent of Greek city-states. Ancient Greek was no stranger to wars but its rich culture and philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle gave the importance of individual virtues in maintaining peace. They stressed the need to cultivate qualities like justice, tolerance and collective cooperation to maintain peace. Greek city-states made laws and treaties to govern peace. Then entered the Roman Empire whose Pax Romana was a relative period of peace and stability that lasted for two centuries. This indicates the nature of the world that is in a flux. With the fall of one empire, a new one rises to take its place.

It displays the desires of emerging powers to displace the governing ones. This is done by creating a scenario of war followed by a time of peace. The world powers craft wars and use the tools of peace to shape it into a new world according to their will.

The tools for building peace were perfected slowly over the course of time.

Diplomacy is the major tool in peace-making a strategy of the cunning statesman to

Coerce his fellow beings into following the path of peace. These diplomatic efforts lead to peace-building. Peace can be defined as the times of absence of war. Over the time, the efforts for peace were divided into three tiers; peace-making, peace-keeping, and peace-building. The superpowers learned this with continuously evolving nature of war. They developed the tools for peace and maintaining order which involved diplomacy, negotiations, mediations, and exchange of people from grass-root to top level diplomats along with giving good offices. It opened the doors of new avenues but also invited even bigger challenges.

The world became a playground of superpowers vying for their interests. The contemporary history begins with the advent of Europe which became a battleground for bloodshed and wars. Peace was a distant echo in these conflicting times. The Medieval Europe was contested between Catholics and Protestants; the era of Religious wars. Then came the age of Renaissance and

the period of Enlightenment. Europe was pulled out of the dark ages by the enlighten^{ment} philosophers such as Rousseau and Kant who gave treatises. Kant's treatise on 'Perpetual Peace' was an eye opener for many during those times. It advocated for a peace based on reason and international cooperation. But Europe still had a long way to go. Napoleon was one influential figure that made France a world power and his hegemonic interests disrupted world peace. This led to the Napoleonic wars and eventually to stop the world from falling into the brink of destruction, a Concert of Europe was held where different leaders gathered to discuss and maintain the peace of the world. From the time of the Concert of Europe (1815) till the outbreak of the first World War (1914), the world had witnessed a century of peace. However, peace is relative and can not remain constant in this world gripped with elements instigating anarchy and destruction whenever they get the chance.

The first World War was a choice of superpowers to enter into conflict due to their hegemonic and expansionist intents, but it was countered and eventually stopped by superpowers who chose peace over destruction. They fully understood the need to preserve the world and it came with difficult choices. Nonetheless, the war ended and peace was restored with the concept of collective security introduced as a new tool for peace-making efforts. The concept of collective security was envisaged in the League of Nations; a loosely formed organization that vowed to maintain peace at the global level. This was the first time the major powers of the world formed an official organization to keep order and stability in the world. This can also be seen as a manifestation of the choices of superpowers to foster peace and security. This was the evolution of the tools of peace from simple diplomacy to collective security at the international level.

The concept of collective security, however magnanimous it sounded, still had some cracks. It also weakened the foundations of the League of Nations. Collective Security was a utopia in a world filled with power-hungry states. The decisions of major powers at the end of the first world war and the Treaty of Versailles also left resentment for the losers of the war namely Germany who rose again to reclaim its glory. This led to the Second World War. The choices of the world leaders are never perfect and their choices and the cracks left in the foundations of peace started breaking as Germany rose to power with Hitler as its instigator. The United Kingdom and France were unable to stop this war. America had gone into isolation and did not want a part in advocating or controlling the global affairs. Yet it was compelled to do so after an attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan. This dragged America into the war and ended it with an even greater destruction with the detonation of nuclear bomb.

The detonation of the nuclear bomb signalled the peace but at the cost of millions of lives lost. It was a grim choice made by a sole superpower to end a war that was engulfing the world in an abyss of perpetual anarchy. Yet this choice had forever changed the landscape of the world and the wars fought in it. America rose as the sole superpower and gave the world the concept of a "Liberal World Order." It also created the United Nations, a replacement for the League of Nations that failed miserably to maintain peace. The UN was a more stronger tool that advocated for maintaining peace in all three dimensions; peace-making through negotiations, peace-building through development funds, and peace-keeping through deploying forces in war torn areas to restore order.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was an epoch of incredulity, it was an epoch of belief; it was an ~~era~~ season of light, it was

a season of darkness; it was a spring of hope, it was a winter of despair; it was the reign of America as the supreme superpower over the world. After the events of World War II, America started praising the liberal order and advocated peace yet behind this facade was true face of the Machiavellian power. There are many case studies that reveal America's true intentions; the Iraq war, the Kuwait crises, the Vietnam war and Korean war are just some examples of American interventionism on the name of democracy that destroyed these states. Peace was a reality for some and an illusion for others. The rise of Russia pushed the two superpowers into a long driven coldwar where only the interests of the two superpowers mattered. Peace was far from their agenda. The end of cold war yet again signalled America's triumph over Russia and the age of neoliberalism began.

The age of Neoliberalism was propagated by America as the age of free market. The peace of the world was maintained with the world shifting towards globalization and new economic trends.

The old world fought traditional wars due to the superpowers' territorial expansionist ambitions but the advent of neoliberalism brought new changes in the interests of the global leaders.

Their territorial expansionist ambitions got replaced with economic incentives.

The Western world emerged as a bastion of Peace for the entire international community. The West developed a new rules based world order to maintain peace. This order included the UN as

the main body of regulating relations between states, an International Court

of Justice was established along with an International Criminal Court to punish those instigating war. Other organs such

as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank along with the

World Trade Organization were established to regulate international political economy and help those states in need of funding. This was the world America advocated as a peaceful one yet it was viewed through rose-tinted glasses; a utopia of the American dream which hid the true reality underneath the facade.

The Western rules-based order presented America as a peace-maker of the world but reality ~~was~~ couldn't be more further from the truth. These organizations, presenting a utopian fantasy were ^{nothing} short of a failure in reality. They worked purely on the basis of the interest of the Western World. It was the choice of America to lead the war on terror and intervene in Afghanistan for peace-building efforts yet they left it as they found it, a war-torn country grappling with instability. Similar case studies can be found in the Middle East where Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Libya are struggling as war torn countries, in need of

Peace-making and peace-building efforts yet they are denied these rights. America, for all its slogans of peace and liberty, does not implement them in war-torn parts of the world. This presents a picture of the Western world not as a peace maker but a peace breaker in today's world.

All hope is not lost as the new world of today has found grounds in other emerging powers rising to challenge the American rules based order and advocate a peaceful new rules based order. These emerging powers include the states of the Global South namely China, India, the South African Nations, and Russia to challenge the American dominance and provide new direction to the world for maintaining peace.

The case study of China as a mediator between Saudi Arab and Iraq shows its efforts to create peace in a war-torn region, the Middle East. China wants to transform the face of the world by connecting it with its BRI project and economic

incentives. China has also put in efforts to maintain peace between India, its next door neighbor and enemy, and Pakistan, its friendly neighbor. This indicates the choices of China in brokering peace over the hard liner realist choices of America in advocating war. China wants to integrate the world economically. This interest leads it to maintain peace in various parts of the world as it would work to facilitate China's dreams of becoming the power that shapes the world for the better.

For China's dreams to become a reality, it must achieve a harmony of interests with other emerging powers such as Russia, and India along with its BRICS members to tackle the challenges to peace and stability. Today's world is facing many challenges which are different from the traditional ones; the non-traditional challenges such as environmental degradation, hybrid warfare, and weaponization of Artificial Intelligence along with many others. These challenges

require peace-making efforts by establishing new rules and norms for the world community to follow. The United Nations, despite being heavily influenced by the U.S, still plays a minute role in enforcing some rules, therefore, all the countries would need to get aside their differences and establish a harmony of interests for the collective good of mankind.

Today's world is gripped by non-traditional challenges but there is a revival of traditional challenges as well in the face of two wars being fought in two different corners of the world. One side is the European theatre where Russia is engaged in expansionist designs in Ukraine while the other side is the Middle Eastern theatre where Israel is engaged in expansionist designs in Palestine. The world, however, is not making any efforts to curtail these wars. The superpowers of the Western world, the U.S along with Europe, have their own interests which that prevents them from engaging in any meaningful efforts to combat these wars and

Return these states to peace and normalcy. It all bleeds down to the choices made by superpowers to maintain peace. If America, in all its glory, wants peace in the world, then it would make efforts to achieve it. China and the other emerging powers still don't wield enough influence without America's involvement to stop the war. Therefore, the consent of the superpowers, the harmony of interests, and the morality of states is required for world peace.

Peace is inevitable for the world to exist and to maintain it is the responsibility of the global rulers. Without peace, the destruction of mankind will become inevitable as man has invented such destructive weapons that can wipe ^{out} humanity in a blink of an eye. Therefore, to sustain the world today, the leaders need to develop a consensus and use all the tools of peace to heal the world of the wounds inflicted on it during war times. War and peace are two sides of the same coin; both inevitable, both relative. The right choices made will lead to the path of prosperity, peace and stability.