

DATE: 29/12/24

Sunday

Topic: The Unseen Consequences of War

- outline -

A. Introduction

(i) The concept of war given by Margaret MacMillan in his book "War: How Conflict Shaped us"

(ii) The unseen implications of war

(iii) ~~Thesis statement~~

B. Causes leading to the Unseen Consequences of War

1) war is fought for the 'Survival of fittest':

a) "Humans fight each other to make themselves masters of other men's persons, wives, children, and cattle."

— Thomas Hobbes

b) Saddam Hussain seized Kuwait because he wanted its oil

c) Hitler took his war to the East for resource accumulation

2) self-defense:

a) Israel attacked its neighbours: Egypt, Syria, and Jordan in 1967 for self-defense

b) In 1914, Germany feared Russian getting modernised in war

3) Fear of rising power;

a) Cold war between USSR and US.

b) "When a rising power threatens

an established one, war is likely
~ Thucydide Trap

c. Peloponnesian war between Athens and sparta; spartan's fear of the growth of Athenian power.

4) Insult, humiliations and the war of ideology;

a) Austria ~~also~~ waged war against Russia over the murder of its archduke in 1914, led to WWI.

b) Thirty years war between Catholics and Protestants.

c) "The hands that wield the sword and wield with it, is not man's hand but God's" ~ Martin Luther

C. The Unseen Consequences of War

1. The Psychological impact on survivors;

a) The physical and emotional scars presented in the novel 'Burnt Shadows' by Kamila Shamsi

b) The emotional instability of an artist turned soldier presented in the novel "Islands in the Stream" by Ernest Hemingway

c) The term "Lost Generation" focused on the survivors of WWI

2. Gender Violence in wars;

a) In Bosnia, 1990s, between 20,000 and 50,000 women including men were raped

b) "You are allowed to rape, said the French commander, but do it secretly"

c) American women's Army corps in WWII were accused of being little than prostitutes

3) Environmental degradation;

a) Experts terming Gaza's environmental destruction as "ecocide"

b) loss of vegetation, deforestation, contamination of water resources, and lack of hygienic and burial facilities.

4. The profound impact of war on children's cognitive wellbeing and health issues;

a) 96% of children in Gaza feel that death is imminent

b) The deadly Influenza virus in WWII killed almost 50 million people

5. The implications of recalling past loved ones and emotional pain;

a) The character of Henry in the novel "A Farewell to Arms" by Ernest Hemingway, damaged mentally by the past love

b) Hiroko Tanaka, lost her husband during Nagasaki atomic explosion, depicted in the novel "Burnt Shadows" by Kanako Shamsi

6. The existential crisis;

a) People lost faith and hope,

believing that there is ~~there is~~ no God.

b) Pierre in the novel "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy was in search of meaning of life during the French-Russo war of 1880's.

7) Identity and Belonging;

a) The post-9/11 and war on Terror gave rise of xenophobia and Islamophobia against Muslims

b) Changes were facing dual identity crisis in America, a character in the novel "Reluctant Fundamentalist" by Mohsin Hamid

c) Hiroko, in the novel "Burnt Shadows", disconnected from her Japanese identity, searching for new identity

8. The Moral vacuum left by war;

a) In the novel, "The Sun also Rises", Jake Barnes futilely seeks solace in drinking, professional success, and romantic relationships

b) Spanish army in Netherlands in the 16th century had 400 mounted prostitutes and another 400 on foot

9. The mounting societal tensions;

a) Massive deportation, lack of civil liberties, and rising poverty levels, fuelled social upheaval during French-Russo war of 1880's

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10. The lethal impact of the continuous cycle of wars and ^{long-term} economic impacts;

a) Germany had to pay £ 6,500,000,000 in installments leading to the occupation of German states and division in four parts among great powers.

b) The transition from great wars, cold war, and modern warfare and their ^{unseen} lethal impacts.

D. Peaceful Strategies to Overcome the Unseen consequences of wars;

(i) Individual actions to sabotage the governments' war efforts.

(ii) Understanding the role of women in the war.

a) "Men should be trained as warriors and women as recreation for warriors" ~ Guebbles - Nazi Chief propagandist.

(iii) "Seeking legitimate ends of war" - Michael Walzer in "Just and Unjust wars".

(iv) Respecting and obligating the International Humanitarian law.

E. Conclusion

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- Essay -

War is an indispensable part of human history. The rise of empires and the geopolitical changes ^{were} directly dependent on war waging. In his book, "War: How Conflict Shaped Us", Margaret MacMillan has given the concept of war and its deadly consequences. He said that war is basically an organised, purposeful violence between ^{two} political units. War is fought for the survival of fittest, the greed for resource concentration, for defense purposes, ideologies and nationalism, or religious freedom. As MacMillan termed greed for what others have food for survival, women for servitude, precious minerals, trade or land. Apparently, there may be some devastating implications of waging a war. ~~For instance, infrastructure damage, massive refugee displacement, and economic collapse.~~ However, there are many hidden or unseen consequences of waging wars that are barely noticed or acted-upon by the world leaders. The such as the immense psychological trauma on the survivors, the emotional pain by recalling the loved ones, the gender-based violence

the massive Environmental destruction, and its long-term consequences, the profound impact of war on children's cognitive well-beings and the spread of deadly diseases, the massive existential crisis, including others. Therefore, it is imperative upon the world leaders to safeguard the human rights and ensure global peace and prosperity. As always, war is not a solution because it results in wreaking havoc worldwide. Hence, this essay explains the causes of war, then will describe the unseen consequences of the war; finally, addressing the remedial measures to avoid the war waging in order to ensure peace and prosperity worldwide.

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To begin with, war always happens because of numerous reasons. The first reason is the 'Survival of the fittest', the concept given by Charles Darwin, which states that human beings survive because of acquiring food, security, and resources. Due to the greedy nature of a man, he always search for wealth accumulation whether by acquiring the large piece of land or by precious minerals. As Thomas Hobbes once stated, "Humans fight

each other to make themselves masters of the other men's persons, wives, children, and cattle." No doubt, it was the

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time when the Great Britain colonised major portion of the world and became a great empire. Similarly, later on,

Sadam Hussain also seized Kuwait because he wanted its oil. Same is

the case with Adolf Hitler. He took his way to the East because he believed that German race needed more land and resources. But who knows

the cost of human suffering during the concentration camps, especially designed for innocent Jews, by the Nazis government.

To sum up, ^{one of} the major reasons of war is the greediness of human beings which results into the ^{inherent} obliterating consequences.

Moreover, most countries wage war because of their fear of the rising power or for their self-defense purposes. "When a rising

power threatens an established one, war is likely," the words of Thucydide Trap. This fact can not be denied

because most war happened just

because of the fear that the neighbouring states were planning a war against the

one. For Instance, Israel attacked its neighbours ^{that is} Egypt, Syria, Jordan first

in ~~1967~~ because it feared that they were ~~planning~~ a coordinated war against her. Similarly, in the crisis of 1914, the German High command argued that it had only ~~three~~ years left before a rapidly modernising Russia, too strong for Germany to defeat. Hence, such type of reasons are not up to mark because they have an enormous ~~unseen~~ consequences which are felt for the longer-run.

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After describing the reasons for waging war, now the ~~essay will~~ delves into the unseen consequences that are caused by wars.

The first one is the Psychological impacts of the wars on the survivors. Most of the survivors, especially the armed forces, they face severe Post Traumatic Stress disorder (PTSD). Furthermore, the destruction of the great world wars in the history has left the profound physical and emotional scars on human-beings. Specifically, the term, "Lost Generation", has been used by many authors, referring to those people including the group of writers, artists, and intellectuals who came of age during world war II. This

generation experienced the devastating effects of the war firsthand and grappled with the widespread disillusionment, alienation, and moral uncertainty that result from the conflict. The term

was specifically used by Ernest Hemingway in his novel, **"A Farewell to Arms"**.

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Moreover, the emotional and body scars felt by Hiroko, a protagonist of the novel **"Burnt Shadows"** written by **Kanila Shamsi**, cannot be neglected. She

was the survivor of the Nagasaki Atomic explosion, which brought scars like birds on her back as well as emotional pain which she felt throughout her life. The traumatic memory was never easy to unlearn.

Similarly, in the novel **"Islands in the Stream"**, by **Ernest Hemingway**, portrayed the life of an artist turned soldier who was struggling for his dual identity. Thus, emotional instability is another crucial element resulting from the war that affects ^{both} the protagonists' lives. The unseen consequences of war wreaked havoc on their emotions.

The second most unnoticed consequence is the gender-based violence or gender discrimination ⁱⁿ the war. Mostly women are affected by it. They face humiliation, treated like a prostitute, taken with

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men just to provide food, services, and physical pleasure during the course of war time. However, they face severe hygiene crisis, leading to the skin issues and reproductive problems. A large scale of women raped in the war got abortion or face maternal death during delivery time. For instance, in Bosnia, 1990s, between 20,000 and 50,000 women including men were raped. Similarly, during the Partition of India and Pakistan, thousands of Muslim women were raped. Further, it was said, "You are allowed to rape, said the French commander leader to his men in Algeria during its war of independence, but do it secretly." Most of the American women's Army corps in WWII were accused of being little than prostitutes. When they came home who had not fought, accused them of going off to the front to chase men. Saying "we know what did you do there." Hence, women were objectified, raped, or labelled as prostitutes. These probably are the unseen consequences of war which no one bother to discuss, ^{and} violate the basic human dignity.

The third one is the massive environmental degradation which rarely

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go noticed. The ongoing war of Gaza, recently recognised as a genocide by the International Court of Justice, has garnered global attention for its devastating humanitarian impact. However, beneath the immediate human tragedy lies a less visible, but equally alarming crisis: the systematic destruction of Gaza's environment and its ecosystems. This environmental catastrophe, which some experts are terming, 'ecocide' threatens to have long-lasting consequences that extend far beyond the current conflict, affecting the region's ecology, public health, and future habitability. Moreover, the food chains are disrupted, due to the loss of vegetation, the marine habitat are affected due to military pollution, the small mammals and birds have migrated, the massive deforestation has led to desertification and salinisation of soil. There has been scarcity of water resources. ~~and due to the intensive bombing on water infrastructure, the sewage water are mixed with potable water.~~ According to the reports, the displaced population lack access to basic sanitation facilities leading to an increase in open defecation and further contributing to the spread of water born diseases. Similarly, the

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the lack of burial facilities poses significant threat on health.

To conclude, the environmental degradation in Gaza is multifaceted, which highlights the unseen consequences of war which go unnoticed internationally.

Afterwards, the essay will further shed light on some peaceful strategies which must be adopted by the state authorities in order to safeguard human rights.

The profound challenges faced during the war can be avoided if governments will ensure human protection over their greedy nature. First, it is the responsibility of the individual to resist against the government war efforts and sabotage them. For this reason, he must directly resist or unwilling to cooperate in the war. He must refrain from buying war bonds or refuse to work extra hours during the war preparation. For instance, community party of France directly resisted towards war against Germany in the face of non-aggression pact between Germany and the USSR. Second, the state must understand the role of important in the war, without assistance of women, the deadly consequences of war can never

be combated. As Goebbels, a Nazi chief propagandist, emphasized that 'Men should be trained as warriors and women as recreation for warriors'.

Third, States must seek the legitimate ends of war. Even in the just war, as Michael Walzer stated in his book "The Just and unjust wars", if the situation is controlled under political reach, the fighting should stop. Forcing soldiers to fight is a crime akin to that of aggression.

Last, the international humanitarian law, which signifies the direct difference between the combatants and non-combatants should be followed by all states in order to ensure human rights and dignity.

~~In a nutshell, the essay first discussed the causes of war which led to the unseen consequences, and finally the commendatory measures to sabotage the happening of war.~~

~~Waging wars were never an appropriate decision. It led to many consequences that had profound implications on the psychological well-being of the people, who resorted in long-term post traumatic stress disorder. Mostly people took their lives because they were not able to get away~~

from the painful or traumatic conditions, they faced during the war time. The hidden implications of the war including the massive environmental degradation and ecological collapse were paramount to be highlighted. It took centuries to recover from huge loss caused to the ecological and environmental destruction.

Similarly, the impact on women, the cognitive impairment of the children and prolonged health issues, the emotional pain of recalling the past loved ones, the existential crisis, the crisis of identity and belonging amid unprecedented xenophobia spread against Muslims, the moral deprivation, the mounting social upheaval, and the long-term lethal impacts of economic damage and the rise of modern warfare, poses a potent threat on the survival of humanity. The world will turn into a wasteland if the proper peaceful actions are not adopted today. It will cause severe existential crisis if the world leaders did not come on the same page for ensuring the civil rights and peace globally. Hence, Sun Tzu, in his book "The Art of War", has given a valuable strategy to defeat an enemy without a fight. He stated, "The Best way to win a war is to

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defeat the enemy without fighting?

At last, it is true that the great nations
win without fighting by ensuring
peace and stability across the globe
and preserve human rights and their
dignity.

- The End -