

### 3. Self-righteousness and conflicts in the global arena

#### Outline

#### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: The farcical notion of self-righteousness is used to justify global conflicts by citing democracy, humanism and international law. These unleash detrimental impacts in the global arena. However, the situation can be remedied through an all-encompassing approach that targets social, economic and political determinants of the facade of self-righteousness and global conflicts.

#### 2. Prejudice and arrogance due to self-righteousness

#### 3. How self-righteousness fuels conflicts in the global arena

- (a) Ambiguity of Article 51 in the UN Charter
- (b) Claim of Responsibility To Protect
- (c) Propagation of democracy
- (d) Protection from The Great Replacement of indigenous population
- (e) Sheltering national economies

#### 4. Profoundly negative manifestations of conflicts in the global sphere <sup>caused by</sup> self-righteousness

- (a) Mounting casualties in the face of global conflicts fueled by self-righteous claims
- (b) Floods and push towards climate catastrophe
- (c) Threat of nuclear annihilation
- (d) Action-reaction chain of events
- (e) Upticks in mass migration

#### 5. Remedies to curb self-righteous claims that and

## global conflicts

- (a) National sovereignty upheld
- (b) Adoption of institutionalism
- (c) Learning from the ideas of Mandate of Heaven adopted by China centuries ago
- (d) Push towards globalisation and commercialism
- (e) <sup>Disarmament</sup> Demilitarisation and arms control globally
- (f) Use of AI for unbiased mediation
- (g) Increased awareness through social media translated to government policies

## 6. Conclusion

### ESSAY

Perception of reality is often limited to one nation. In the global sphere one may see an act as self-righteous whereas another may see it as malicious. Such is the story of the Israel-Gaza conflict. From the eyes of Israel, Gaza Hamas attacked its people which triggers the claim of self-righteous self-defence and illuminates into the vile atrocities unfolding today on the people of Gaza today. On the other hand, Hamas through its lens of the world, viewed Israel as a settler state that was an existential threat on the people of ~~Gaza~~ Palestine. Thus, self-righteous claims unfolded on their end which led to their attack to begin with. By each taking on the notion of self-righteousness, the war has expanded onto the global arena with multiple actors becoming involved, each with their own version of self-righteous claims. ~~Some~~ Self-righteousness fuels conflict in the global sphere.

due to <sup>the</sup> ambiguity of Article 51 in the UN Charter, excuse of propagation of democracy and to shelter national economies. This often leads to detrimental implications which include evildoer, threat of nuclear war and mounting casualties globally. But, ~~and as these~~ global conflicts brought on by ~~self-righteousness~~ self-righteousness can be remedied <sup>by</sup> through upholding national sovereignty, adopting institutionalism and using AI to arrive at unbiased conclusions to global problems. The farical notion of self-righteousness is used to justify global conflicts by citing democracy, humanism and international law. These unleash detrimental impacts in the global arena. However, the situation can be remedied through an all-encompassing approach that targets social, economic and political determinants of the facade of self-righteousness and global conflicts.

Self-righteousness is the adoption of a mentality that entails that one's ideas, morals and ~~pre~~ perceptions are superior than others. ~~Often times~~ ~~national~~ ~~learning~~ ~~out~~ ~~to~~ ~~a~~ ~~global~~ ~~scale~~, nations adopt certain morals and values that become part and parcel of their national identity. ~~Now these~~ ~~inadvertently~~ these ideals are considered the best <sup>compared to</sup> ~~out of~~ ~~the~~ other ideals which is why they are adopted in the first place. This leads to the redoubtful notion that all other ideals are inferior and thus should be ignored or in extreme cases eliminated. In the case of Afghanistan, for example, the Afghan government feels that their fundamental

-ist ideologies of Islam are better and compared to Pakistan who follows a generally liberal Islamic ideology. This leads to social and political conflicts between the two because each perceives the other-inferior and themselves - superior. Hence, self-righteousness mentality on a local and global scale can lead to conflicts because of the easy adoption of arrogance and prejudice against other ideals.

The ambiguous nature of Article 51 of the United Nations (UN) Charter has culminated into global conflicts. Article 51 advocates the right of self-defense which has ~~constantly~~ been used as a tool to carry out pre-emptive strikes on nations around the world while ~~claiming~~ adopting self-righteousness. A nation claims that its morals and values are superior and thus it should be able to interpret international law according to their own ideals. For example, the US invaded and obliterated Iraq in 2003 while claiming that they had the right to defend themselves and also to protect the people of Iraq from Saddam Hussein. Hence, self-righteousness have culminated into global conflicts due to the ambiguous nature of Article 51 which ~~permits~~ doesn't disclude pre-emptive acts of self-defense.

The global community adopted the moral prerogative of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) which entails self-righteous claims and possibility of global conflicts. Responsibility to Protect ensures that the world community would step in if they feel that human beings in a large group of people are threatened but what constitutes as

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What would be determined by ~~the~~ <sup>(John Baylis, Responsibility</sup>  
<sup>The Globalisation of World Politics, 1997).</sup>  
~~to protect~~ ~~entire~~ Adoption of this ideology entails  
That some groups are ~~was~~ worse off according to  
The standards and metrics of other nations,  
violating the ideals of the indigenous people. For  
instance, the US invaded Afghanistan for their  
own attainment of revenge but also cited the  
Responsibility to protect the people of Afghanistan  
from extremists. This constituted freeing women from  
The apparent ~~from~~ tyranny of the wujabs and  
adopting western ideals which were the US's  
own notions of self-righteousness. Therefore, Responsibility  
to protect has been used to further self-righteous  
claims and led to global conflicts.

By and large, democracy is propagated as  
the only means of progressive government which  
adopts a self-righteous claim and has led to  
global conflicts. Democracy, ~~a western~~ was  
seen as ~~the~~ our and above any other  
form of government and its forceful adoption  
worldwide was seen as a means to achieve  
world peace which ironically led to ~~war~~ conflict.  
Francis Fukuyama, upheld democracy as the  
way to ensure progress and no other form  
of government came close especially after the  
~~termination~~ <sup>end-cessation</sup> of The Cold War (The End of  
History and The Last Man, 1992). This led to the  
US going on a quest to forcefully shove  
democracy down the throats of non-democratic  
countries such as Iraq ~~however~~ which led to  
conflict and destabilisation of the Middle East.  
All in all, democracy - the very means to attain

world peace according to western ideals and self-righteous claims, led to global conflict.

Nations sought to protect themselves from the Great Replacement of the indigenous people and this self-righteousness <sup>leads</sup> led to global conflict. The demographic make-up of countries is seen to be shifting ~~from~~ especially in the west from <sup>the</sup> caucasian race ~~South Asian and Arab ethnicities~~ to the brown race which has led to hue and cry about protection of local culture and heritage. Countries have engaged in global conflicts as a means to reduce the overall population of this race to ensure they are not overpowered by them. This idea is highlighted by Arsalan Iftikhar who opines that ~~the~~ self-righteousness are ~~superficial~~ used to justify obliterating brown people and especially Muslim nations world-wide (Fear of The Muslim Planet: Global Islamophobia in the new world order, 2021). ~~Ergo~~ The Great Replacement ~~and~~ ~~is~~ ~~now~~ seen as a threat to western culture and ideologies. Ergo, the self-righteous claims of protection from the overpopulation of the brown race ~~is~~ has led to global conflicts.

In today's world, national economies are protected to ensure survival of a nation and this has entailed global conflicts. National economies are ~~now~~ seen as a means to attain progress, peace and stability which leads to nations going to extreme lengths to protect them including global conflicts. With globalisation compressing time and space and increasing interdependence,

nations seem to ~~opted~~ <sup>try to</sup> uphold their economic safety. ~~Through~~ for example, Western nations ~~have~~ recently collaborated ~~with~~ military to conduct strikes against the ~~Red~~ Houthis rebels in the Red Sea who were disrupting shipping trade. The Western economy was at risk of falldown due to shipping disruptions. Thus, ~~self-right~~ self-righteous claims to protect national economies have manifested into ~~the form of~~ global conflicts.

Self-righteousness has led to detrimental implications in the form of mass casualties of innocent people. Nations tend to value their own people over others outside of their borders which ~~shows~~ shows that self-righteousness has led to severe negative implications. The mounting casualties are seen as ~~unfortunate~~ collateral damage instead of seen as the ~~sole~~ reason to ~~lose~~ ~~was~~ ~~an~~ conflict. For example, more than 23,000 ~~peop~~ people in Gaza have been killed due to the Israel-Gaza war ~~and~~ ~~Israel~~ who ~~many~~ some Israeli officials have deemed as 'mowing the lawn' ~~the~~ (Al-Jazeera). Hence, ~~self-righteous~~ <sup>mounting</sup> self-righteousness has culminated into <sup>mounting</sup> casualties in global conflicts.

Eco-cide constitutes as another negative implication of global conflict due to self-righteousness which pushes the world towards climate catastrophe. self-righteous claims of justifying global conflicts have led to the destruction of tracts of land, increased pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases. For example, ~~see~~ the ~~bomb~~ nuclear bomb

dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki based on self-righteous claims of the west led to the destruction of a wide area of fertile land, contamination of water resources and radiation which disrupted the eco-system. Hence, Hiroshima is seen as a negative effect of self-righteous global conflicts.

Unfortunately, the world constitutes of global actors who ~~are~~ threaten its very existence through nuclear capabilities based on self-righteous claims. Nuclear power states hold their own notions of self-righteousness and which sometimes conflicts with each other and lead to global conflict. Many a time, nuclear power have stood eyeball to eyeball due to their self-righteous claims and have threatened ~~world~~ the annihilation of mankind. For example, Pakistan and India have ~~indulged in two wars~~ and have come close to using nuclear weapons due to self-righteous claims that could lead to a nuclear winter and ~~kill~~ eliminate ~~the~~ 90% of the world's population (Brian Toon, 'I've studied nuclear war for 35 years - you should be worried.' TEDtalks, 2018). Thus, self-righteousness have led to ~~the threat~~ global conflicts that threatened human ~~an~~ existence through nuclear annihilation.

An action-reaction chain unfolds with each ~~actor~~ adopting their own ideology of self-righteousness. Nations rarely adopt a passive approach when threatened or attacked which lead to a chain reaction and eventually



leads to a global conflict. When one nation claims to hold the true self-righteous belief, another nation counters which lead to them conflicting with each other. For instance, Nazi Germany held the claim that they needed to preserve the Aryan race and create a Third Reich due to their superiority whereas the <sup>Allied</sup> ~~west~~ powers claimed national sovereignty and human rights. This culminated into the profound ~~to~~ Second world war. Therefore, self-righteousness has led to action-reaction events and contributed to global conflicts.

~~Now~~ A latent manifestation of self-righteousness has been mass migrations that have increased manifold in recent years. Conflicts impact entire nations, particularly civilians who flee to greener pastures to start a new life which is seen as a threat. Migrants entering a country in large numbers, adds burden on the economy and limited resources. For instance, the ~~one~~ ~~new~~ International Organization for Migration reported an increase in migrant applications from Syria and Afghanistan due to the ongoing conflict. Hence, ~~the~~ mass migration is a negative impact of global conflicts brought by self-righteousness.

On the bright side, global conflicts in the global arena can be averted through the ~~by~~ upholding national sovereignty ~~as~~ over and above self-righteous claims. National sovereignty would entail the respect and protection of

national affairs and no foreign interference. This would be more credible as opposed to it being adopted by the global community at large as opposed to self-righteousness which is narrow in scope. To elaborate, the Treaty of Westphalia adopted (1648) adopted national sovereignty as one of the main constituents of the nation-state system which was accepted by all. All in all, global conflicts would be avoided through by upholding national sovereignty in the global arena instead of self-righteousness.

Another solution to remedy global conflict is the adoption of institutionalism over narrow national interests and self-righteousness. If the world community gives power to institutions, it would ensure that self-righteous claims are navigated carefully and a solution to attain world peace is formulated. The UN is one such institution that values world peace and stability over everything else. For instance, it has constantly called out to Israel to cease its genocide in Gaza, based ~~which is based~~ on peace and stability prevails over Israel's self-righteous notions of ~~it~~ <sup>creating</sup> peacefully a Jewish state. Another example includes the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which also <sup>seeks to</sup> ~~adopts~~ <sup>promote</sup> achieve peace and avoid world conflicts through a judicial process. This is why South Africa filed a case of genocide against Israel on 29th December 2023, to cease a global conflict based on self-righteous claims. Hence,

international institutionalism is a means to sustain <sup>narrow</sup> self-righteousness <sup>and</sup> adopt global self-righteousness which entails cession of world confides in the world arena.

Undoubtedly, self-righteousness stems from cultural and social ideologies and adoption of the Mandate of Heaven would mitigate world conflicts. Mandate of Heaven adopts the claim that world superpowers are bestowed with this power should seek to help the struggling nations which is adopted by China. This notion could lead to self-righteous being stumped in the face of global prosperity and mutual uplift in the world arena. For example, China has come to the rescue of Pakistan ~~with~~ and several other countries in its periphery with the Belt and Road Initiative which entails social and economic progress. ~~The~~ Ergo, ~~the~~ Mandate of Heaven ~~focuses~~ <sup>ergo, rather</sup> ~~rather~~ than focusing on influence through military conquest, economic prosperity commences through mandate of Heaven.

A push towards commercialism and globalisation would lead to ~~entertainment~~ <sup>narrow</sup> self-righteousness manifesting into global collaboration. Self-righteous nations would want to achieve economic progress ~~as~~ through economic ties. This can be seen with the case of BRICS that has recently allowed 6 nations into its fold, forging a path to peace and shunning conflict in the

global sphere (Aizat Ahmad Chaudhry, Expanding BRICS, 2023). BRICS ~~with~~ encompasses 40% of the global GDP which entails that global conflict would be avoided to avoid global economic meltdown. Thus, through adoption of the Kantian theory of commercialism, ~~the~~ self-righteousness could lead to the avoidance of global conflict in the global arena.

An obvious solution to eliminate ~~the~~ ~~increasing~~ conflicts in the global arena is ~~disarmament~~ <sup>disarmament</sup> and arms control. Self-righteousness only manifest into global conflict because nations have the means to do so. If ~~that~~ <sup>for</sup> the ability to conduct conflict is eliminated, conflict in the global arena would be reduced. ~~Some~~ Some countries have voluntarily given up their nuclear capabilities to ensure peace and reduce conflicts on the world. For example, South Africa voluntarily ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> dismantled its nuclear capabilities which has ensured that it has not been a part of any major conflicts globally. Ergo, ~~the~~ arms control and disarmament are solutions to eliminate conflicts in the global arena through self-righteousness.

The world was thrown into a frenzy with the advent of AI which has the capability to make rational and unbiased decisions to ~~avoid global war~~ analyse self-righteousness ~~claims~~ and avoid conflict.

AI has the capability to process scenarios and develop solutions like humans but without the presence of bias.\* The neural network technology of AI can process information at immense speed and deliver decisions in short spans of time. Moreover information fed could include self-righteous claims of both parties and AI could determine which claim holds water. Hence, AI emerges as a means to process self-righteousness unbiasedly and create solutions to avoid conflict in the global realm. \* (Henry Kissinger, The Age of AI and Our Human Future, 2021)

The power and influence of social media entails that conflicts in the global arena could be avoided by seeing the whole picture over self-righteousness and pressuring national governments. Social media has the means to influence and shape public opinion which could be utilized to ~~see~~ shun narrow self-righteous claims for the global good. Social media can enhance knowledge and even change opinions of global issues such as Palestine. For instance, Biden has faced harsh criticism and his overall ratings are hovering in the low 30% due to his dealings with Israel. This could culminate in him being replaced in the next elections with a better candidate who would bring peace over conflict. Therefore, social media has changed and shaped public opinion and is seen as a solution to curtail narrow self-righteous claims.

and avoid conflict in the global arena.

In conclusion, self-righteousness has frequently led to conflict in the global arena. States and non-state actors tend to adopt stances to further their interest. Moreover, they claim that their ideology, morals and way of life are superior than others which has led to justifications for imperialism, colonisation and general war. The reasons for this are the upholding and forceful push for democracy worldwide, the facade of responsibility to protect and national ~~pro~~ protection of national economies. This has severely detrimental impacts which include mounting casualties in conflicts, threat of nuclear annihilation and genocide. However, a few adoption of some solutions would curb conflict in the global arena through upholding national sovereignty; adoption of institutionalism and pushing towards commercialism in a globalised world. Ergo, conflicts in the global sphere have emerged through self-righteousness as the latter is usually a pre-cursor to the former.