

# WORLD PEACE IS A CHOICE OF SUPER- -POWERS.

Good

## Outline:

### 1- Introduction.

Thesis statement: When the world

faces conflict, it becomes the

responsibility of superpowers to

restore peace. But most of

the time, this responsibility is

the matter of choice for

superpowers. By influencing

this choice with humanitarian

concerns and not economic

gain, world peace won't be

a forlorn idea.

### 2- World Peace and Superpowers.

### 3- World Peace is a Choice of Superpowers.

a- Laid foundations of international

organizations with aim of global peace

b- Choose peace to secure <sup>their</sup> economic

interest.

c- Attempt to restore peace by storing their

... hegemonic aim.

d- Use peace treaties and pacts as a tool to bind enemies to peace.

e- ~~Use~~ flagship peace to promote ~~soft~~ Self soft image.

Superpowers are Bound to Observe and Maintain <sup>P</sup>peace

a- United Nations put a stop on confrontational wars

b- Humanitarian intervention at hefty costs to secure peace.

c- With leadership came the greater responsibility of peace.

d- Mutually consented treaties to reduce the impact of conflicts.

e- Public scrutiny made superpowers wary of their stance on peace

Despite responsibility, superpowers observe peace as a option to them.

a- Superpowers violate UN resolutions whenever they deem fit.

b. Pre-emptive strikes in guise of

humanitarian intervention in support of ~~new states~~

c- Peaceful aims do not mean securing

one's state. Phrase it clearly

d- Superpower violates and withdraw from treaties whenever they want.

e- Crucial information about peace and war ~~shared~~ is made public too late.

6- Conclusion.

ESSAY

'The price of greatness is responsibility.' Winston Churchill explained it

explained the cost of being a superpower

effectively in above quote. With greater

authority comes great responsibility,

responsibility to restore peace, order,

law and justice through out the world.

When the world is in conflict, it

restoring peace becomes the responsibility

of super power. But most of the time,

this responsibility is a matter of choice

for these nations. Upholding humanitarian

concerns rather than economic can influence

this choice in maintaining and keeping

peace. Super powers utilises the option of

peace to secure their interest and peace.

is an option to them rather than necessity. Their primary purpose to secure their leadership position, attain hegemonic aims, economic interest, showcase soft power and bind others enemies to not violate their proposition.

But sometimes because internal and public scrutiny, fear of global opinion and humanitarian intervention forced superpowers to promote peace at some cost to their economies. But observance of all these is conditional which makes peace just an option for superpower opted for own interest.

Human race has never been without conflict, be it tribal fights or wars. In one or another, conflicts and fights have been influencing the dynamics of peace in the world. In an attempt to restore peace after disastrous World War, organizations like League of Nations (after World War I) and United Nations (after World War II) came into being. History is replete with incidence of significant role played by superpowers in world affairs. According to criteria in Permanent - Five (P-5)

member of UN, United States of America (USA),  
 United Kingdom (UK), France, China and Russia  
 are major superpowers while Japan, Germany,  
 Brazil, India, Canada etc also influence  
 world politics. These countries are considered  
 the sole arbitrator in international  
 conflicts. Most of the global affairs  
 and decisions are direct or indirect influence  
 of their decisions. <sup>however,</sup> The idea of P-5 was  
 to inherit these nations with power restoring  
 and keeping peace, whenever they deemed  
 fit. They deploy their economic, military  
 and diplomatic means to achieve this  
 aim and, hence, have most influential  
 effect on World Peace.

However, peace seems to an  
 option to superpowers rather than a  
 need. Most superpowers opt peace just  
 when they need to serve their self-centric  
 aims. They create and violate institutions  
 which are guardian of peace, when according  
 to their national interest. For example, after

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deadly and disastrous war of 1914-18  
World War I. We saw the need to  
establish an organization to settle disputes.  
Some great nations behind establishing  
United Nations in 1945 after Second  
World War (1939-45). This shows the great  
powers spend time in war as much  
they needed to settle dispute and when  
they deemed it necessary to have an  
international surveillance tool for peace,  
they establish such organization with  
mutual consultation among members. So,  
peace is an option chosen when it  
is fitted to interests of superpower,  
otherwise they had a long history of  
settling disputes through war.

Like wise, sometimes the great  
powers use peace as an option for  
their economic interests. This the case  
when a superpower puts itself in a  
conflict with a country of some power  
or when a competition exist within

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superpower. Instead of devastatingly destroying each other, peace becomes their choice. As is the case with China and USA. Both countries have somewhat equal economic, military and global might and conflict of any type can have many repercussions, so both has attained economic cooperation.

Moreover, according of Department of Defence (USA), the top U.S. military contractors in 2022 accounted for \$297.88 billion in market capitalization in Ukraine war. Hence, superpower supports war or peace depending on what serves their interests best.

Besides economic interest, superpowers have been using option of peace to support their hegemonic aims. Superpowers delve into treaties, pacts and intervention in name of restoring peace to fulfill their hegemonic aims. Preemptive peace has been used as an excuse to intervene into

foreign territories for the goal of peace.

It includes strategies like regime change, warmongering and monopoly along with

suppression. US invasion of Libya and Afghanistan (after 9/11) are the incidents

when peace was chosen to fulfill its hegemonic aims. For this purpose, it

invaded Libya and Afghanistan amidst

turmoil to 'restore' peace. Therefore, peace

becomes just an option to great powers

when it is incumbent to achieve their

hegemonic aims

Another argument given in

favor of 'peace is a choice of superpower'

is that these powers use peace in form

of ~~three~~ treaties, pacts and organisation to

suppress retaliation and bind others to

their interests. By doing they clearly

define the rules of conduct of affairs

in international arena and formulate

policies to further their aims. As the

great powers have been in the

favor of nuclear disarmament and  
 control regime through different pact  
 and treaties like Nuclear Non-Proliferation  
 Treaty (NPT), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty,  
 establishment of International Atomic Energy  
 Association etc. All these are aimed at  
 securing peace and put a stop to attainment  
 of nuclear power or proliferation, so  
 that global peace is not just a  
 dream. Through these treaties and organization  
 they ban any new country to attain nuclear  
 power but do little to de-nuclearization  
 of super power and their continuous  
 upgradation of nuclear arsenal. So, peace  
 is a way <sup>used to</sup> bind others to ~~their~~  
 terms of superpower as they will.

Despite having highly militarized  
 history, the superpower <sup>choose</sup> ~~use~~ peace to  
 promote their soft image to the world.  
 They promote their peaceful portation  
 after intervention, military operation and  
 destruction in countries of chaos to

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legitimize their ~~act~~. For example, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki explosions <sup>still</sup> have drastic impact on future generation but the USA justified its such heinous attempt of mass destruction as it was the only way to restore global ~~peace~~. Moreover, by supporting peace pacts, treat treaties and newly establish democracies, it tried to convince other states and its public of its peaceful aims. So, peace has always been a choice of superpower, given by they wanted to utilize that option based on their motives and interests.

However, sometime peace is not an option but a responsibility for superpowers. Assuming leadership role, they laid foundation of United Nations in 1945 to resolve international conflict and stop conflict to become war. Later on, United Nations served in purpose of peaceful coexistence and prohibited

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super powers to indulge in war. Best example of this is cold war era. Though there were many skirmishes between USA and USSR in form of economic blockade, competition for nuclear power and block politics till from 1945 to 1979, there was not a single war happened between them on military lines. Both were aware of consequence of war and violation of United Nation rules. So, the fear of penalty and destruction led to a relative peace despite highest tensions bet among USA and USSR.

Moreover, post world war era saw spurring of nation-states. Many new states were rising on the global map and new elements like globalisation and terrorism were affecting the international system. States like Libya and other MF states were chaotic and no sign of peace was there. USA as a

global leader, had to restore peace in those high conflict zones at its own expenses. Recent example of such humanitarian intervention is Afghanistan.

In order to purge the state of terrorism, United States of America ~~also here~~ spent \$ 2-26 trillion dollars in

Afghanistan, since 2001. (Costs of War Project, Brown University; 2001). Hence,

to restore peace in high conflict states at such hefty economic expense shows peace is a responsibility of superpowers rather than mere a choice.

In the same way, superpowers are inherently aware of their responsibility towards global peace. being leaders of the world. With leadership comes great responsibility so all states look unto global leadership whenever struck by crisis. The meeting convening of Security Council and

General Assembly of the United Nations is a proof of awareness of great power of their obligations. Resolutions are passed and conflicts are resolved through consensus of all states especially superpowers. For example, when Yugoslavian conflict arose in 1990s, violent extremism, violent conflicts, ethnic rebellions and civil unrest were curbed and deposed great responsibility on world powers. The Sporadic armed conflicts ended with peace deal which envisaged a political agreement on power sharing, disarmament of militia and deployment of a NATO monitoring force. All of this was possible because of superpowers' responsibility of restoring and maintaining peace.

~~With~~ With advent of nuclear age, there an intense competition was initiated to have an upper hand in this race. But the innovations and spread posed a great threat of

nuclear conflict i.e. use of weapons of mass destruction ~~was~~ had the capacity to wipe out whole humanity from this planet. So, soon realizing the importance of people, great powers urged their colleagues and other nations to sign treaties and become part of <sup>Nuclear</sup> Non-Proliferation regime. Therefore, futuristic viewpoint of superpowers led them to sign treaties like NPT, CTBT etc with the aim to secure global peace.

Superpowers were bound to adhere to their stance of peace because of overwhelming public opinion. Democratic states strictly follow peace because of scrutiny posed by public opinion. One of the super power i.e. USA faced intense criticism by its public on his Iraq and Vietnam war as unjustified military intervention. Same way, it adhering facing intense criticism because its stance on Gaza war. According to Seins College pollings.

(2023) published in <sup>The</sup> New York Times, the approval rating of Joe Biden (President of USA) declined to 36 percent given by his government stance on Israel-Gaza war. Also, there were numerous reports on antigovernment protests in Russia after it invaded Ukraine. Hence, public opinion and scrutiny does work as a bridle to keep check on its states' stance on peace and superpower tend to pay more importance to peace than hegemonic goal.

~~Having said that,~~

However, United Nations mostly observe peaceful resolution of conflict and the UN General Assembly and Security Council passes resolution for this purpose. The resolutions are mostly advisory in nature and not binding, which makes it easy for superpowers to evade their obligations. Great powers only abide by these resolutions when they deem fit and

avoid when it clashes with their interests. For example, after Russian-Ukraine war in 2022, UNGA called its session and asked for immediate reversal of Russian advances in foreign territory of Ukraine but it declined to follow stating its own reasons. Moreover, in current case of Gaza war, many a times UN members have called out for permanent ceasefire among Israel and Palestine but US always vetoed it as it doesn't fit its economic interest. So, though UN is present to observe and restore peace in globe, the superpowers only abide by its resolution when they want.

Like wise, peace is conditional for superpowers when they desire it. These powers take the responsibility in restoring global peace on humanitarian grounds and attempt to do attempt. First, it's not

not acceptable to attack a state based on a rough guess. second, no one can compromise their sovereignty whatever the cause of intervention be. But superpowers have used pre-emptive strike to gain an advantage in global arena, in which US has a history. US has used the excuse of pre-emptive defence while invading Iraq, Libya and other Middle Eastern countries. But turned out, instead of restoring peace, the situation of these states worsened and converted them into high conflict zones. Therefore, intervening and destroying the sovereignty of a state in name of peace shows it was used as an option to ~~get~~ gain own interests.

Also, the concept of peace is so self-centric for superpowers. Peace for them is when there won't be any threat to their security. So, instead of resolving conflict, they respond to threats

that are disproportionate to the damages caused to them. Like, US responded to 9/11 incident with a 21 years war in Afghanistan, responding to a terror threat posed to it. Same way, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 for its attempt to get accession into North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Hence, superpowers have linked concept of global peace with their own security and defence. ~~and~~

So, they fluctuate between war and peace to attain that and chooses whatever option suits them best.

Though to observe and maintain peace, superpowers had taken some political steps and laid down foundation of many treaties. Treaties like NPT, CTBT etc aimed to secure peace by non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. But the states are in continuous competition to gain superiority in nuclear arsenal and are further

upgrading their nuclear systems. This is polarizing the world and possibility of conflicts are rising day by day. Moreover, these treaties are voluntary in nature and any state can withdraw from it any time. For example, in November, 2023, Russia withdrew from ratification of Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, also known as CTBT which has escalated the tensions between US and Russia over Ukraine conflict. Hence, such withdrawals further escalates chances of face offs and conflicts. So, though treaties are made to restore peace but voluntary admission and withdrawal further affects the peaceful global environment.

Furthermore, public opinion and scrutiny has been the major concern of superpower while facing a conflict. Sometimes, public pressure proves fruitful in securing peace and revision of stance by superpower but the information crucial to one attempt of a country

in a global issues a bring forth date.  
like, US invaded Iraq in 2003 but  
the public got to know about the <sup>dangerous</sup> ~~risks~~  
steps of state. Ostep in 2007-2008.

Likewise, After 3 month conflict in Gaza,  
the public and congress now get to  
know about secret provision of  
warheads to Israel by United States  
of America. So, public pressure do  
criticize acts of its state but due  
to late realizing is unable to play  
significant role in decision and policy  
making of its state. Therefore, peace has  
always been an option for superpowers  
whenever it served their interests.

In conclusion, global  
peace is a lobby for superpowers  
on which they can jump and ride  
whenever they want. Be it US, Russia,  
China, France or United Kingdom, all have  
in one way or another used peace  
as a bait to gain diplomatic,

military or economic interests. Though there are instances which show great concern of world powers in restoration of peace but even those 'genuine thoughts' were manifestation of their own national interests. They propagate war or peace as per their state's interest and the result is failed states like Syria, war-torn countries like Iraq and Afghanistan and still the menace of war and foreign invasion has not ended i.e. Russian Invasion 2022, and Gaza conflict 2023.

Numerous human and civilian casualties have been reported (i.e. 100,000 in Ukraine, 21,000 in Gaza) still peace is an option superpowers will use when it will fit their interest. Superpowers need to realise that peace is not an option but a responsibility!

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