

Topic:

# Global peace is a choice of super-powers

## 1. Introduction

Thesis statement: Global peace may seem like a choice of super powers in most conflicts however this is not the case. Peace is the choice of individuals that make up the so-called superpowers and also inhabit other states. If people want peace, they can get it; as long as they are willing to work for it. **Unclear stance**

2. Is global peace a choice of super powers.

3. Global peace is not a choice of super powers but of individuals that make up states. (Thesis)

a) Peace is ensured by organizations made by individuals for this very purpose.

b) People can force their state (super powers) or other states to act in the interests of humanity

c) Globalization has made it difficult for superpowers to act for their selfish interests.

d) A state is by its people, so they can control their state

e) A state may not be a superpower by its own strength but rather because of weakness of others

4. A state is a superpower for a reason and so has the ultimate say in global affairs including peace (~~Anti~~thesis)

a) Organizations are ultimately funded and run by superpowers so ~~what they say goes~~

b) People are subjects of the state and a superpower has enough power ~~to dissuade others for sake of its sovereignty~~

c) Super powers control the economy so they can force others to accept their decisions ✓

d) A state can force people to bow down to its demands and condition them to accept its ~~supremacy and power~~

e) A superpower is named because of its power which is greater than most and so can control everyone and everything ✓

5. It is the citizens of a state ~~that empowers it to become a superpower and they can retract their support to weaken it~~ (synthesis)

a) Humans make decisions and <sup>if</sup> enough people stand up for peace they can ~~overpower a superpower's involvement through reforms~~

b) People can force their state to ~~cut off all kinds of relations with any state for the sake of peace~~

c) Interdependence of trade will effect even the superpower ~~if others isolate it~~ ✓

d) Protests and mobilization of people forces states, even superpowers to listen to the demands of the public. ✓

e) True power lies with individuals and ~~now~~, through their numbers, project it

They say, "with great power comes greater responsibility" so what should be thought of something label as a superpower? As the saying suggest, people assume that super powers should assume ultimate responsibility for all major affairs while failing to realise that true power rests with individuals. This makes every single individual responsible for whatever happens around them. Similarly, global peace may seem like a choice of super powers. in most conflicts however this is not the case. Peace is the choice of individuals that make up the so called superpowers and also inhabit other states. If people want peace, they can get it; as long as they are willing to work for it. Ensuring peace may seem like a daunting task, if placed at the doorstep of an individual but it can be accomplished by establishing organization forcing your state to act in the interest of humanity and if your state is not a super power then making sure your state stands against anyone blocking peace. A state is by its people and does not become a super power on its own. Most people argue that Super powers control these peace making organization, and their citizens, that they control other states by controlling the economy. However, most people tend to forget that it was these individuals that made super powers and without them to support the super powers, this status can easily be taken away.

Global peace, as of lately, seems to have been established and taken away by the hands of superpowers. USA, China and Russia are widely acknowledged as superpowers and have significant influence in global affairs but the extent is highly debatable. Now, peace is an abstract concept. Is it merely the absence of war or is it the contentment and productive life of individuals, a thriving society, a good life for all. Johan Galtung was the first person to use peace as a literary term. He defined and explained the concept of positive peace and negative peace. Negative peace is merely the absence of war, which we can say <sup>is</sup> ~~be~~ the choice of super powers but that too to an extent. Now, <sup>Positive</sup> ~~negative~~ peace is a different story, it is the more lasting peace built on social structures and economic developments that fosters peace. As mentioned earlier, super powers are responsible for the former kind of peace but the true peace is established when people want it to happen. Even in case of negative peace, individuals can sway their states to choose people. Hence it can be safe to say that global peace, in its true essence, is not a choice of super powers.

Individuals establish institutions to ensure peace as witnessed by the past and present. These institutions resolve conflicts, create better relations between states and work to improve the life of all humans. In 1945, after world war II, United Nations was established with the primary goal of maintaining global peace and it binds all states to its charter. Whenever an incident that threatens world peace occurs, the United Nations steps in to resolve the issue and <sup>this</sup> quality has dissolved many global conflicts. Hence these organizations play a vital role in ensuring peace of all kinds and mediating conflicts.

People can force their states to act in the interest of humanity. Peace is a basic right of all humans and they can force states to take actions accordingly by protests and civil disobedience. As Gandhi said, "Non violence is an intensely active force when properly understood and used". There have been many instances in the past which caused people to protest for sake of peace and led the governments to work for maintaining peace. Thus, people can sway government and ultimately states to make decisions for the survival of peaces

Globalization has made it difficult for superpowers to act for their selfish interests. The world has become so interconnected that if a state takes any measure that is against the welfare of people it will definitely face damage in one form or another. Social media has made the world a global village allowing everyone to get accurate facts about conflicts and people no longer rely on state media for news and updates. This makes it difficult for states to wage wars and violate human rights as people are now empowered to hold their states accountable for ruining peace. To sum it up, interconnected people prove to be a challenge for states if they want to go against peace.

A state is by its people, meaning that it is comprised of people that live in it and ultimately rule it. This makes a state at ~~the~~ mercy of its people. According to article 4 of Montevideo convention 1933, the essential elements of a state are; 1) a government, 2) A permanent population, 3) a definite territory and 4) capacity to enter into relations with other states. So a state basically cannot exist without its people as a permanent population is a basic requirement of a state. The state has to ultimately listen to its people to keep them happy. Hence people can ultimately control the actions of states.

When tackling global issues such as peace, what matters is the relative strength. People can empower their individual states to go against the superpowers for the sake of peace. They can do this by forming coalition for humanitarian purposes. USA became a superpower because all the others gave up and acknowledge and basically gave it a ticket to control global affairs after world war 2. Had people not bowed down before it, it would be different world, such as Russia who does not subject itself to obey USA's commands can uphold peace if it so desired. Thus it ultimately depends on other perceivably weaker states to decide whether they actually want peace or not.

While institutions are established to uphold global peace, some argue that they prove to be useless when matter goes against the wishes of the superpowers. Most such organizations are funded and run by these very superpowers and so they use them to their own benefit. UNSC for example has five permanent members of which three are considered regional superpowers. In case of the ongoing Palestine conflict USA has vetoed 16 resolutions that went against its interest since this institution was established. This proves that the superpowers can essentially block peace when they choose to do so. Hence it is the choice of superpowers on whether they want such organizations to promote peace or not.

People can rally and protest for the prevalence of peace and even go against the wishes of their state but ultimately people are subjects of state. ~~and~~ A state can imprison individuals or even label them as rebels of state if they go against it to a greater extent. Many protestors get jailed and some even die in custody like <sup>Nargis Mohammadi</sup> ~~Mahsa Amini~~, who went against the wishes of Iranian government and protested for women rights. In this way states are able to repress protests and peace activism whenever they so decide. So state can control its citizens when they go against its wishes when the state deems necessary.

While globalization has made it difficult for super powers to let go of peace however since they control most of the global economy, they can make money flow at their will. They can pay or bribe leaders, influencers and even organizers to change narrative to project themselves as peace makers rather than the war mongers they are. Israel paid 84 million dollars to various companies and individuals to propage its narrative in this ongoing Israel palestine conflict. In this way they get to take back the narrative and spread their message. Hence globalization is at the mercy of those who control the economy.

While people are the essential components of a state, they too are dependent on their state. A state provides all rights to a citizen and if a person goes against a state a state can withhold rights and make individuals suffer. The Afghans who went against Taliban now have fled Afghanistan in fear of their lives now that Taliban is back in power and now live as refugees in other countries where they may not get full rights and are subject to expulsion anytime. This makes people at the mercy of their state and have to be in good terms with their state. Thus a state can force people to bow down to its demands and accept its power.

Even if others are weaker, superpowers become a superpower in its own right. It has greater power than most and so can control most other states. So a superpower can disrupt peace when it serves its interest because no one can stand up against it. The Iraq war was an incident that occurred because USA was certain no one can come and challenge it and other similar instances were witnessed by history. The other state in fear of their security do not challenge the superpower even when peace is at stake. In short superpowers, because of its global influence and power can ensure and disrupt peace when it desires.

The organizations maybe run by states but it is the humans that make decisions. They can change the organizational structure in a way to control the power of super powers when it comes to world peace. In case of UNSC reforms are deemed necessary and global powers have exploited the veto system which was made to ensure peace. This right which was given and now used as a tool to achieve selfish goals can be taken away if enough people want peace for them self and for the world. At the heart of every institution lies an individual that can voice his desire for lasting peace. Thus it is upto the individual on whether they want these organizations to ensure peace or cancel it.

The super powers control the economy as long as

A state needs its people to operate so it cannot afford to upset its citizens for a long period of time. Continuous uprising will force people who run the states to give in to the demands of the masses. The apartheid regime was overthrown in South Africa for a peaceful and inclusive society by mass movements even though global powers were against it. Similarly, people can force their state to cut off diplomatic relations with superpowers that violate peace and if it is done so in great numbers it can sway the decisions of superpowers.

The super powers control the economy as long as they are able to trade freely as they desire. In the present time the globalization of trade has created an interdependence of sorts that every single state is dependent on another for basic necessities. If enough states sanction a super power that takes law into its own hands they can force it to undo its actions. Russia, when selfishly waged a war against Ukraine, faced heavy sanctions by most states that disrupted its economy to an extent. However not if more

had stopped trading with Russia, they could ultimately force it to stop the invasion, just to save its economy. Thus states can influence the decisions of other states because of globalization in every sphere of life.

States may try to impose their will on individuals but world wide and nation wide protests can disrupt supply chains, threaten infrastructure and overall internal function of a state. It even projects the peoples power and what they want. The world currently witnesses protests in the favour of ~~israel~~ Palestine in the ongoing conflict which has led to changes in the narrative and support of many states. It is these individuals that ultimately elect the leaders and so their say matters. Hence it can be said that protests can force states to meet public demands of peace.

While Super powers may be named so because of its power, it must be noted that it is not, actually the power of the state that matters but it is the power of the people that make up a state that matters. People empower a state to become a super power and they can project this power. USA is a democracy so its people can elect their leaders based on what they want. If they want peace they

can elect leaders that work for peace. This gives people the ultimate power and say. They can fight back against policies and leaders that make a state take ~~to~~ actions against peace. Thus power lies in the hands of people and they can make even the super powers obey.

In conclusion, world peace is a responsibility of individuals not of super powers because even a super power is made up of people. It is up to the people and whether or not they decide to stand up for peace. While this is a difficult task but lasting peace can only be ensured by individual efforts. One must remember that these super powers became super by harnessing the power of the people because they don't have their own power. So it becomes the duty of individuals to recognize when their states are trying to disrupt peace and make them change their course by hard work and mass movements. If people want peace, no one can stand in their way. As it is mentioned in Surah Najm verse 39

"And that each person will only have what they endeavored towards."

Faulty understanding of the topic  
The term super powers has been used in the broader context.

It is not restricted to individual level approach rather the topic says that whether it is the choice of super powers to ensure peace or not  
So build your arguments accordingly