

Day: Are Modern wars not holy wars? Date: _____

① Introduction

② What are Holy wars?

③ What are modern wars?

④ How modern wars are not holy wars?

① Modern wars are waged for advancing political interests.

② Modern wars are fought for economic interests.

③ Contemporary combats are used to gain control over natural resources.

④ War on terror is not based on religious ground.

⑤ War of Modern era are used as a tool to propagate ideologies.

⑥ Proxy war is another form of modern war fought to weaken the rival state.

⑦ Cyber war fought for political and economic purposes.

⑧ War for right to self-determination is not based on religion.

⑨ Modern wars are fought for securing geo-strategic interests.

(b)

Day: _____

Date: _____

(5) How to avoid modern wars.

(a) To strengthening international law and internal court of justice.

(b) World leaders should play positive role

(6) CONCLUSION

Day: _____

Date: _____

①
The history of the world shows that most of the wars were fought on religious basis i.e. were Holy wars. With the passage of time, the exploration of new energy resources and advancement in technology changed the motives of a war. Modern wars are not holy wars as their motive is not religion but political and economic interests. To avoid all forms of war, certain steps are needed to be taken in true letter and spirit. Modern wars, like that between China and US, have purely economic motives. War in Iraq and Syria were fought for political purposes. World powers wage war to exert control over natural resources and establish their hegemony in the region. Similarly, some sections of the society such as the people of Kashmir are engaged in their battle against Indian regime to fight for their right to self-determination. Moving on, proxy wars and cyber wars are waged by states against their enemies to weaken them. Also, war against terrorism is fought to bring peace to the world. Contemporary combats are used to propagate various ideologies. In order to stop and prevent all forms of war, there is a dire need to strengthen

international law and internal organization like the UN to bring peace and security to the world. Also, making international economic system more fair and transparent can be proved helpful in this regard. Hence, wars can be stopped and prevented, and the world can be made a peaceful place to live in happily if the above mentioned steps are taken.

The essay will start off by giving a brief overview of Holy wars and modern wars. After that there will be a detailed discussion about how modern wars are not holy wars, i.e. not fought for religion. Eventually, the essay will be concluded by providing a holistic framework to eradicate all forms of warfare for the long term prosperity of the society.

Holy war is any form of warfare that has a religious dimension to it.

All Holy wars have some religious goals. They are fought purely to advance religious interest. Religious wars can be sanctioned by a religious leader having the legitimate power. Holy wars promise some spiritual rewards for those who take part in them. The best example of religious wars are the crusades - a series of warfare organised by western European Christians with the aim to stop the expansion of Muslim states.

and to reclaim territories that had been formerly Christian.

On the other hand, any war with causes other than religion can be termed as modern war. There can be various reasons for modern wars but political and economic interests have been the sole reasons for such wars. Conflicts over resources, trade disputes, bid of regional and global hegemony along with cyber warfare are the different facets of modern warfare.

Modern wars are waged by states to advance their political interest and are not fought for religious purposes. In a bid to gain dominance, world hegemons have sparked conflicts in many countries to topple the existing government and bring leaders of their choice. They use various pretext to invade the countries like fighting terrorism and protecting human rights. These wars are lethal for the socio-economic prosperity of the invaded society not only because wars cause casualties and destruction but also the elected leaders of their choice take decisions which only serve the interests of those who bring them to government and not the interests of the society. Back in 2003, the United States invaded Iraq and toppled Saddam Hussain's regime

on allegations of possessing weapons of mass destruction. But the main purpose was to preserve and extend U.S. hegemony, including the spreading of liberal democratic ideals. Hence, it is proved that modern wars have deep underlying political motive.

Similarly, many states are engaged in economic warfare in the form of trade wars which shows that these are not holy wars. In this age of geo-economic, countries are confronting each other on economic grounds. Economic liberalization in the form of free movement of goods and resources has been a major blessing for the society, but many giants have used it for gaining leverage over their rivals. This not only hurt single economy but disrupt the entire global supply chain. The trade war between the U.S. and China is a glaring example in this regard. They impose tariffs and counter tariffs on each other to neutralize their respective trade deficits. This has badly impacted global economy. According to IMF personnel, if this war continues unabated, the world might not be too away from another financial crisis. Thus, economic warfare in the form of trade wars has become quite pronounced in modern time and poses a grave threat to the world economy. Also, in the modern era, developed states fight with developing states

to gain control over their natural resources, which clearly depicts that these wars are not fought on religious grounds. With the exploration of new energy resources, competition has started to get maximum benefits from these resources. These natural resources help in boosting the economy of a country. Therefore, major powers try to strengthen their grip on such resources in order to become economically strong and hence build their influence over the world. China and the United States are contesting in Africa to control the region's natural resources for future use and economic value. As a result, the country which possesses these resources gets nothing but harm caused by the war. This clearly makes these modern wars differentiated from the holy wars which are fought for religion. In addition to this, war on terror is another modern war which has been waged against terrorists for disrupting the world's peace and not for religious interest. This war began in the aftermath of the attack on Twin Towers in New York on the 11th of September 2001. On this day, some Al-Qaeda steered planes downed the Twin Towers in New York, USA. This prompted the U.S. to declare a war on Terror. This war has badly impacted the world. Hundreds and thousands of deaths

and casualties have resulted from this war. Human rights have been violated. This war has been fought in various areas but major areas are Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa. This is not fought on religious grounds because it is murdering humanity. It makes no sense whether he/she is a muslim or a Christian. The affectees of a terrorist attacks happening at a place by a terrorist can be a muslim, a christian or a Hindu. Therefore, war on terror is not a holy war.

Modern wars cannot be termed as holy wars because they are fought to propagate various ideologies. Contemporary wars are the wars of ideologies. Different countries use war as a tool to spread their ideologies such as Capitalism, Communism and Socialism. For instance, Korean, Cuban and Vietnam wars, are glaring examples in this regard. By spreading their ideologies, these countries try to gain the support of maximum countries. This badly affects the world in the form of various blocs being formed.

Allies countries suffer from what they have not been done. USA and its allies support Capitalism, and on the other hand, Russia and China support Communism and Socialism respectively. Hence, these ideological wars can not be called

holy wars because it is based on ideologies and not religion.

Likewise, proxy war is also a modern war fought for weakening of the rival states irrespective of the religion. In this war, opposing powers do not fight against each other directly; instead they use their third party referred to as proxy to do their fighting for them. This is the result of development of international law which forbids war. Direct military intervention is difficult and has many negative impact for the country who does it. This war aims at weakening the rival states and pursue certain goals which are not related to religion.

The Syrian quagmire is an example of proxy war. It has both states and non-state actors. The United States, Russia, Turkiye and non-state actors like Hezbollah have transformed the situation in Syria to a huge proxy war. This war has badly affected the lives of Syrian people and people around. Main reason for this Syrian war is not religion but natural gas pipelines passing through Syria to European markets. Therefore, proxy wars are not holy wars.

Another form of modern war is cyber war which is waged against a state for various reasons and not religious concerns. This

has resulted from the technological advancement. It is increasingly becoming popular on accounts of its low cost and high impact. Over dependent on internet has made nations vulnerable to cyber attack. Through this war, states hack the information of enemy states and disrupt their normal day to day functioning. The biggest example in this regard is the alleged Russian meddling in the 2016th US presidential elections. Various reports released by the major think tanks in the US stipulated that Russian hackers hacked the emails of a major US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. The aim to support presidential campaign of Donald Trump and disparaging Hillary Clinton. Thus, it can be said that cyber war is not a holy war because states wage it for various political and economic interests.

In modern times, various sections of a society fight war for the right to self-determination. Major powers annex areas for various interests. The failure of the United Nations has greatly contributed to these annexions and then the fight for the right to self-determination of the people of the affected area. Affected people of such wars suffer a lot of trauma. Various hardships are inflicted

on them in order to keep them suppress and raise no voice for freedom. The best example in this regard is the Kashmiri struggle for their right to self-determination. They are dealt with by Indian forces in a barbaric manner. This war has caused countless casualties. The heinous murders of Baramulla women and the frequent use of rubber pellets on the Kashmiri protestors are some of many atrocities inflicted on the people of Kashmir in their fight for the right of their self-determination. Hence, war for the right to self-determination is not fought on religious grounds but certain other reasons.

Last but not the least, modern wars are fought for securing geo-strategic hegemony for various reasons like political, economic and social. This is the result of the paradigm shift from monopolar to multipolar world. So, for the containment of one power, the other establishes its influence in that area. For instance, the presence of United States in South China is to contain Chinese progress. Similarly, the Saudi's war in Yemen against Houthis is also to ^{gain} ~~give~~ geostrategic hegemony as Yemen is neighboring Saudi Arabia. Therefore, if situation in Yemen has not been controlled, it would have repercussions for Saudi Arabia too.

For this reason, Saudi Arabia is fighting Houthis in Yemen. Thus, these wars being fought for establishing geo-strategic hegemony are not holy wars.

In the above section, it has been discussed with great details that how modern wars are fought for reasons other than religion.

In the coming section, ways through which these wars can be prevented will be discussed.

To prevent these wars, there is a dire need to strengthen international law and international court of justice. This will help minimize chances of war by holding accountable the perpetrators of wars and giving harsh punishment. Similarly, the UN charter needs revision to incorporate the dispute resolution mechanism with regard to ~~these~~ ^{these} modern forms of warfare.

Also, UN membership to be extended to maximum states so that maximum states follow and respect UN charter. The role of International Court of Justice is also important in this regard. The way it ensured peace between Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary is appreciable. Such treaties are the need of the hour to ensure security and peace in the world. Hence, by strengthening international law wars can be minimized and prevented.

Also, world leaders need to demonstrate collectivism and move away from myopic and individual gains. This will ease tensions between major world powers on various issues.

They need to stop exploitation of the developing countries. They should focus on constructive engagements rather than being obsessed with weakening the enemy state with whatever means they have at their disposal. This will result in peace, security and prosperity of the poor countries being made a battle field for many years on various grounds. Thus, world leaders can play a positive role in preventing wars and making the world a prosperous and beautiful place to live in.

To conclude, it is evident that contemporary combats are no longer fought for sacred purposes but for various economic and political reasons. The growing intensity of these wars poses a great threat to the world peace. This warrants immediate attention on part of the entire international community. There is a dire need to do away with such conflicts. This might seem difficult to minimize and prevent such conflicts but is not impossible. Strengthening international law

Day: _____

(12)

Date: _____

and empowering the UN through
provision of new charter are the
key steps in this regard.
Doing this will minimize wars
and world will become a
peaceful place to live in.