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## Paragraph 6

### HOW TO AVOID A WAR

Human foolishness is an important yet ignored factor in the past. Leaders of the world try to take calculated decisions, but the complexity of world sometimes goes beyond their understanding and they make some blunders. Countries should realise

that war is neither impossible, nor unavoidable. Right decisions of humans have helped them to avoid major conflicts in the past.

In order to avoid war, countries should adopt modest approach. Ethnic conflicts are worsen by considering one's own religion, culture and nation superior to other's (Nations). They should adopt a practical and humble



approach to realise their true  
place in the world.

(Total words: 3109)  
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the awful sum of human misery.

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### Paragraph 06

Human stupidity is one of the most important forces in history, yet we often discount it. Politicians, generals and scholars treat the world as a great chess game, where every move follows careful rational calculations. This is correct up to a point. Few leaders in history have been mad in the narrow sense of the word, moving pawns and knights at random. General Tojo, Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong-il had rational reasons for every move they played. The problem is that the world is far more complicated than a chessboard, and human rationality is not up to the task of really understanding it. Hence, even rational leaders frequently end up doing very stupid things.

So how much should we fear a world war? It is best to avoid two extremes. On the one hand, war is definitely not inevitable. The peaceful termination of the Cold War proves that when humans make the right decisions, even superpower conflicts can be

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resolved peacefully. Moreover, it is exceedingly dangerous to assume that a new world war is inevitable. That would be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once countries assume that war is inevitable, they beef up their armies, embark on spiralling arms races, refuse to compromise in any conflict, and suspect that goodwill gestures are just traps. That guarantees the eruption of war.

On the other hand, it would be naïve to assume that war is impossible. Even if war is catastrophic for everyone, no god and no law of nature protects us from human stupidity.

One potential remedy for human stupidity is a dose of humility. National, religious and cultural tensions are made worse by the grandiose feeling that my nation, my religion and my culture are the most important in the world – hence, my interests should come before the interests of anyone else, or of humankind as a whole. How can we make nations, religions and cultures a bit more realistic and modest about their true place in the world?<sup>iv</sup>

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