

Peace is Not the Absence of War

Outline

I Introduction

Thesis statement: Peace is not merely the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, equality, good governance, social cohesion, and economic prosperity.

II Understand the word "Peace"

- i) UN's definition of Peace
- ii) Negative Peace
- iii) Positive peace

III Manifestation proving Peace

is not only the absence of war

A- Violation of fundamental rights despite peace
(case in point: Afghanistan post-Taliban takeover)

B- Suppressing of political freedoms
(case in point: Authoritarian regime in North Korea)

C- Rise in ethnic violence and civil strife
(case in point: Syria after fall of Assad's regime)

D- Widening economic inequalities
(case in point: Global North vs Global South)

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E- Marginalization of religious minorities
(case in point: Persecution of Muslims in India)

F- Poor governance and social unrest
(case in point: Regime of Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh)

IV Obstacles in the path to attaining Peace

A- Weak democratic institutions
(case in point: Leading to Arab Spring in Middle East)

B- Escalating geopolitical rivalries
(case in point: Iran vs Israel)

C- Power struggle for global supremacy
(case in point: China Vs US)

D- Ineffectiveness of global peacekeeping institutions

(case in point: failure of UN to stop Israel invasion of Gaza)

E- Underrepresentation of women in peace processes

(case in point: contrast to the role of women in Liberia's civil war in 2003)

(V) Pragmatic measures to Attain True Peace

A- Strengthening multilateral organizations

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- B- Addressing economic inequalities
- C- Guaranteeing political and social rights
- D- Involving women in policymaking and Leadership roles
- E- Cultivating a culture of cooperation instead of competition

V Conclusion

"Peace is not an absence of war; it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice." said the great philosopher Baruch Spinoza. Since the dawn of human civilization, humans have always strived for peace. To achieve long-lasting peace, civilizations went to wars, formed alliances and counter-alliances, and established large armies to deter their enemies from possible attacks. For most ancient civilizations, absence of wars was perceived as mere honeymoon period of peace. However, modern people hold a distinct perception of peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, equality,

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good governance, social cohesion, and economic prosperity. The violation of fundamental rights and suppressing of political opponents are explicit examples of absence of peace. Moreover, ethnic violence, widening economic inequalities and bad governance prove the existence of unrest in society. Furthermore, the obstacles on the paths towards achieving peace are manifold, including weak democratic institutions, rising geopolitical rivalries and failure of international organizations to prevent conflicts. However, ensuring global peace is challenging, with determination and effective policymaking—such as strengthening international organizations like the UN, ensuring political rights, and involving women in leadership roles—global peace is achievable.