

Name: Muhammad Uzair ul Islam

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The Unseen Consequences of War

Outline

1. Introduction

- 1.1 General Information (Types of Wars)
- 1.2 Thesis Statement

2. What are the unseen consequences of wars?

2.1 Global wars

- a) Economic Catastrophe for all countries
e.g. World War I and World War II
- b) New Territorial boundaries lead to new conflicts/disputes
e.g. East Germany and West Germany emergence lead to Cold War.
- c) Humiliated State becomes more prone to radicalization
e.g. Germany after WWI and the Rise of Hitler
- d) Ethnic and linguistic tensions emerge as a result of demographic changes
e.g. Central Europe tensions among different ethnic groups in 20th century.

2.2 Nuclear Wars

- a) Security Dilemma as US's nuclear bombing of Japan^{in 1945} made Russia fear for its own security.
- b) Generations get affected by with deadly diseases.
- c) Environmental damage due to high volume of radioactive material being released.
- d) Widens the gap between rich and poor countries
e.g Nuclear bombing of Japan took it decades to recover economically.

2.3 Guerilla Wars

- a) Depletion of National resources
- b) Brain Drain
- c) Mass Displacement that leads to refugee crises.
- d) No man's land so less economic opportunities thus leading to increased poverty.
- e) Case in point Afghanistan.

2.4 Civil Wars

- a) Divided country^{is} vulnerable to exploitation by foreign powers
- b) Polarization increases that leads to exacerbation of grievances
- c) Failure to establish a central governing authority leads to continued power struggle so no peace.
- d) Law and order destroyed

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3. What are the possible ways to prevent war?

3.1 Role of UN, IAEA, NPT, IMF and

~~4. Conclusion~~ other International organisations

4. Conclusion

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As far as the human history goes, people have used wars to achieve their objectives. The fear of being invaded by rivals has made people come together to protect themselves. Overtime, circumstances have changed. People have learned new tactics, ~~an~~ new techniques to strike their adversary as well as defend themselves against one. Similarly people have also come together to defend themselves against common adversaries. The history has taught that the stronger and mightier force has always tried to punish or keep the weaker forces subservient and weak. From clans and tribes to city states, empires and nation states, wars have been a constant event. What has changed throughout the evolution of ^{creating} ~~associating~~ alliances is the form and shape of it. People previously used to fight with swords and arrows. Then, they moved toward rifles and various types of guns and now it has reached to the point of nuclear bomb.

~~From~~ The invention of guns and the ^{creation of} nuclear bomb has made war a costly business. However, countries have still sought to use this medium to settle their scores. New forms of wars have come to shape the world. These includes Guerilla wars, Civil wars, Nuclear wars and Global wars. All of these have ^{led to} ~~caused~~ significant consequences for the targeted and nontargeted population.

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To begin with, the unseen consequences of global wars have been tremendous. Fought in the 20th century, World War I and World War II brought significant economic problems for the world. After World War I, European economies were significantly destroyed. Countries such as Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary experienced high levels of poverty, unemployment and social unrest. All of the ^{major} countries who were involved in this war exploited their colonies abroad to recover from the damage they experienced. These countries include the Great Britain who exploited ~~the~~ Indian subcontinent and France who exploited its African colonies. What such measures highlighted was that the unseen consequences of the global war was also experienced by those ~~poor~~ people who were living in other continents. Much similar happened in World War II, where the destruction of Germany and Italy lead to increase in social unrest and chaos in countries the two countries had controlled. People were devastated, no economic opportunities remain and unemployment peaked. Both of these major events remind us of the indirect impacts of the wars on other noninvolved regions. Apart from this, the Global wars also led to significant territorial changes which resulted in new conflicts. For example, the German Question in 

the aftermath of World War II was about how to divide Germany into ~~pieces~~ sections. Russia, who had communist ideology, and US, UK and France, who had a capitalist ideology tussled over it. This marked the first confrontation between the countries. It also led to the beginning of Cold war. US, UK, France and Russia had fought against Germany, Austria-Hungary together. However, differences had emerged between those 4 countries. The dispute over territorial division produced a new form of conflict i.e Cold war. This conflict was fought in a very nonconventional way. It was due to Cold war that Russia on one side and UK, US and France on other side built their separate military alliances. The 4 former allies stood against one another now over territorial disputes. Moreover, the Global wars also radicalized different states. Forexample Germany after World War I and the Treaty of Versailles felt humiliated. People felt betrayed and hopelessness prevailed. There was no economic relief in sight. All this conditions served as a breeding ground for Hitler who seized the opportunity in 1930s. What happened next further weakened Germany as it was divide into 2 parts in 1945. The Rise of Hitler highlights the unseen consequences of how wars lead to radical parties to emerge and cause more destruction. Furthermore, Global wars also raised

Significant ethnic and linguistic tensions in the region. Due to demographic changes in central Europe, different ethnic groups such as Germans, Slovaks, and Serbs fought to get hold of the territory. It overall impacted any efforts there were being made to restore peace.

The Ethnic and linguistic tensions served as a chain reaction type event where attempt by each side was met with increasingly more hostile response. Therefore, it can be that the unseen consequences were significant of the Global wars that led to further disputes and conflicts among the forces involved.

The second type of war is nuclear war.

Nuclear war or even the threat of it is detrimental for the targeted country and world peace. No country is capable of withstanding the damage this type of war can bring. If we reflect to mid 20th Century, there appeared a significant security threat for Russia from US after it had bombed ~~the~~ Japan. Since it was the beginning of cold war era, the insecurity was of paramount importance. Russia had to secure itself no matter what. By 1949, Russia also tested the nuclear weapon.

This meant that there were now 2 powers on earth who possessed the most dangerous manmade weapon. However, their rivalry also meant that whatever

happened in Japan could now happen anywhere, given any party ~~to~~ decides to challenge the other. The most close World had been to nuclear war was in 1962 Cuban missile crises. Europe and Americas was on the brink of a nuclear war that would have potentially erased a quite ^{significant} proportion of ~~man~~ earth's population. The nuclear weapon threat is a serious threat is the most deadly ^{among} ~~of~~ the other forms of weapons. When it comes to the impact of this weapon,

Japan can be used to understand. In 1945, US dropped atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Japanese Empire surrendered immediately. In few hours, hundreds and thousands of the people had vanished from the face of the earth. Homes were destroyed and the land become so inhabitable that it took the Japanese government decades stand back on its feet. Many generations were killed, some suffer even to this day. Different types of diseases have come out due to the bombing. Cancerous disease is the prominent of them. The city of Nagasaki and Hiroshima still borne the effect of the bomb. Had US restraint, hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been avoided. Not just that, but the unseen consequences that have lasted since the bombing would've not been there. Similar to the impact nuclear bombing

has on population, the environment too gets affected incredibly. The release of radioactive material in atmosphere in high volume pollutes the environment. Not only that but it also damages the ozone layer and contributes towards climate change. As a result, the world experiences the unseen consequences of it in the form of uneven weather patterns, landslides, monsoons, flash clouds and other. All of it brings further chaos to the human population and impacts their lives. Furthermore, as I mentioned previously the destruction of Japan due to nuclear bombing. It was, for a long time, considered to be a developing nation. The economic situation had so worsened that it could not maintain its economic standing. This serves to explain that nuclear wars widen the gap between rich and poor countries or developed and developing countries significantly. As the gap widens, unemployment and poverty increases and people appear more eager to migrate in search of jobs. All of these appear as unintended and unseen consequences of the ~~war~~ Nuclear war.

The third type of wars are Guerilla wars. Its consequences are vast, ^{unexpected} ~~unpredictable~~ and often longlasting. If we take the example of Afghanistan, the Soviet invasion in 1979

presented a significant challenge for the Afghan people. Not only were they removed from governing their own country, but their economy was also destroyed in the process. National resources were used to fuel the war. Dollars in Afghan banks were utilised by the Soviet-backed government to pay for the salaries of Russian soldiers. This sort of exploitation left nothing behind for Afghan people once the Soviets withdrew in 1991. It led to a significant increase in poverty and unemployment. The Mujahideen who fought against Soviet also used the national resources as much as they could. Thereby, it appeared the country's resources were being mishandled from both sides and to no one's surprise, Afghanistan neared default when Soviet left. Similarly the 20 year battle between Afghan Taliban and US-led NATO forces ~~proved~~ proved more detrimental for the country. This time the challenge for the country (Afghanistan) was bigger and so did it have enormous unseen consequences. One of the significant one was Brain Drain. Numerous Afghan ~~Intellectual~~ Intellectuals fled the country as the war continued. People also moved out in search of jobs. Similarly Moreover, since the fighting ~~didn't~~ didn't restrict to any region or place, people who lived where the two sides collided had to

flee. Most of them moved to other countries such as Pakistan and Iran. This created refugee crises. The countries who hosted these people did not themselves have the capability and capacity to do so. It led to a humanitarian crises. People got involved in various illegal activities to feed themselves, bringing up the crime rates. Afghanistan's major areas were either controlled by Afghan Taliban or the US-led NATO forces. The areas which were buffer zones became No man's land. People moved out of those people gradually. Economic opportunities and social activities were reduced, and poverty rose exponentially as these people did not have any other source of income. All of this guerilla warfare waged against American invasion by Afghan Taliban serves to indicate the unseen consequences wars could have. From refugee crises to depletion of national resources, brain drain and increased poverty, wars become a source of socioeconomic instability.

The fourth type of war is the civil war. It is one of the most dangerous wars not just in its magnitude but the fact that rival sides exist within the same country. In such cases, it becomes difficult to distinguish between who is with us and

who is against us. The country becomes divided where one group begins to dominate and capture ~~and~~ certain areas as its strongholds and fights with the other group in areas where they wish to have control. This division of areas among groups fighting within the same country divides the country and leaves it ~~very~~ vulnerable for foreign invasion. This situation was seen to happen in Iraq and in Syria. The two groups came to be backed by foreign powers. They supported these fighting groups with ammunition as well as money. The whole country turns into a battleground. The ~~tension~~ ^{tensions} that fuels due to the civil war cause significant changes to the political culture of the country. Polarization increases among the society and the resentment and hatred towards the other no longer remains confined to the battleground. People dissociate with cultural and traditional aspects of the other party. The grievances ~~exacerbate~~ ^{exacerbate} over time until they ~~remain~~ become unresolvable. The country has lost itself in the midst of fighting between two or more groups within itself. Moreover, as each side pushes to attain dominance in the whole country. They bring about more groups who stand ~~at~~ against them. These new groups are not previously a part of the ongoing civil war. In such circumstances, the dream of any group to

achieve power over the other is lost. There are no central authority to run the country. The parts of the country are ruled by their respective groups who hold the authority there. No law and order is present in the whole country and continuous fighting goes on in a vicious cycle, draining the overall capability of the country to stand back on its feet as one. Whilst the political situation deteriorates in the country, the economic figures dwindle and witness a precipitous fall. There's also a threat of any group to declare independence from the country. No authority could stop it from happening as there exists none on ground and everybody is too concerned to consolidate their power and override other groups. Therefore, the unseen consequences of the war become not just the loss of life but also ~~perhaps~~ the disintegration of the state, one that ~~is possibly~~ absolutely turns the state upside down and lose its ~~territorial~~ territories. make it.

However, numerous international institutions can be of use here to prevent such wars and their subsequent consequences from happening. Organisations

Such as United Nations could provide a platform for dialogue among the sides. This could help both sides to understand each others concern and come to an agreement one way or the other. It would ensure that matters resolved would not pave way for any other issue to arise. Both the sides would have an understanding framework to come to an agreement. Similarly, organisations like International Atomic Energy Agency could help ~~more~~ ^{with} prevent more countries from acquiring weapons. This would help prevent the nuclear war threat to some extent. The agency could also sign binding treaties with the nuclear regimes around the world by addressing their major ^{security} concerns and providing guarantee of safety and security. This would allow them to reduce their nuclear stockpile, hence the threat of nuclear war could be dealt with peacefully. Apart from these organisations the international financial institutions could help countries that were affected by the guerilla or civil war and provide them with concessional loans and aid to help them uplift their economy. This would also reduce the threat of radical groups from emerging and taking ~~rise~~ on the power corridor, as public would be satisfied. Overall, to prevent war, the role of international organisations provides an opportunity to attain peace and progress and avoid war and chaos.

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In conclusion, It is important for the world to realise the unseen consequences of waging war. From refugee crises to destruction of generations and from political polarization to Brain drain, war presents unspeakable horrors for the world once it begins. In this globalized ^{world}, no other country can remain away from the repercussions of war. The world has become so connected that it has turned into a 'Global village'. Therefore, it becomes imperative for countries to properly gauge the consequences of the world. The role of international organisations would prove to be vital in this scenario that presents a ray of hope against the horrors of war.