

World peace is a choice of superpowers.

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Essay:

World peace is the ideal state of harmony, freedom and justice among all people and nations on earth. It is often associated with the absence of war, violence, oppression and conflict. However, achieving and maintaining world peace is not a simple or straightforward task, as it involves complex political, economic, social and cultural factors that shape the interactions and relations among different actors in the global arena. Among these actors, the superpowers play a crucial role, as they possess the most influence and power to shape the course of world affairs. The superpowers are the nations that have the highest economic, military, technological and diplomatic capabilities, and that can project their interests and values across the world. The term superpower was first used to describe the United States, the Soviet Union and the British Empire during and after World War II, as they emerged as the dominant forces in the global order. Since then, the number and identity of the superpowers have changed, as some have declined and others have risen, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of the international system. Currently, the United States is widely regarded as the sole superpower, while China is seen as an emerging or potential superpower, along with other countries such as Russia, India, Brazil and the European Union.

One of the main challenges and threats to world peace is the persistence and emergence of violent conflicts in different parts of the world. According to the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, there were 54 active armed conflicts in 2022, resulting in more than 77,000 deaths. Some of these conflicts are protracted and complex, involving multiple actors and issues, such as the civil wars in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia and South Sudan. Some of these conflicts are fueled by external interventions and proxy wars, such as the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, or the competition between the United States and Russia in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Some of these conflicts are driven by ethnic, religious, ideological or territorial disputes, such as the conflicts in Myanmar, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir. Some of these conflicts are exacerbated by environmental degradation, resource scarcity, population displacement and humanitarian crises, such as the conflicts in the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, the Horn of Africa and Central America.

Another major challenge and threat to world peace is the spread and use of terrorism and violent extremism by non-state actors, such as the Islamic State, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, the Taliban, Hezbollah. According to the Global Terrorism Index, there were 13,826 terrorist attacks in 2022, causing 26,445 deaths and 22,073 injuries. These attacks targeted civilians, security forces, government officials, religious minorities, journalists, aid workers and other groups. These attacks occurred in

various regions and countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Somalia, Pakistan, India, Yemen, Egypt, Turkey, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. These attacks were motivated by different ideologies and agendas, such as radical Islamism, nationalism, separatism, anarchism and neo-Nazism. These attacks were facilitated by the availability and accessibility of weapons, explosives, vehicles, drones and cyber tools.

A third significant challenge and threat to world peace is the proliferation and modernization of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by state and non-state actors. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, there were nine nuclear-armed states in 2022, possessing an estimated 13,865 nuclear warheads. These states are the United States, Russia, China, France, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. Some of these states are engaged in nuclear arms races and nuclear brinkmanship, such as the United States and Russia, India and Pakistan, and North Korea and its adversaries. Some of these states are pursuing nuclear weapons programs and capabilities, such as Iran and Saudi Arabia. Some of these states are facing the risk of nuclear accidents, theft, sabotage or terrorism, such as Pakistan and North Korea. In addition to nuclear weapons, some state and non-state actors are also developing and using chemical, biological and radiological weapons, such as Syria, Iraq, Russia, the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

A fourth important challenge and threat to world peace is the violation and abuse of human rights and fundamental freedoms by state and non-state actors, such as authoritarian regimes, armed groups, criminal organizations and corporations. According to the Human Rights Watch World Report 2022, there were numerous cases of human rights violations and abuses in 2022, such as arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, rape, sexual violence, human trafficking, slavery, child labor, forced labor, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honor killings, discrimination, persecution, repression, censorship, surveillance, harassment, intimidation, corruption, impunity and injustice. These cases affected millions of people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women, children, minorities, refugees, migrants, indigenous peoples, LGBT people, activists, journalists, lawyers, teachers, doctors, workers, farmers, artists and religious believers. These cases occurred in various countries and regions, such as China, Russia, Myanmar, Venezuela, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Belarus, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet, Kashmir, Palestine, Rohingya, Uyghurs, Kurds, Yazidis, Christians, Muslims, Jews and others.

A fifth major challenge and threat to world peace is the impact and consequences of climate change and environmental degradation on the planet and its inhabitants. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the global average temperature has risen by 1.1°C since

the pre-industrial period, and is projected to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052, and 2°C by the end of the century, if the current trends continue. This increase in temperature has caused and will cause various changes and effects, such as melting glaciers and ice caps, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, droughts, floods, heat waves, wildfires, storms, hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, landslides, avalanches, desertification, deforestation, biodiversity loss, species extinction, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, water scarcity, food insecurity, crop failure, famine, malnutrition, disease, displacement, migration, conflict and violence. These changes and effects have affected and will affect millions of people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable communities, such as small island states, coastal regions, low-lying areas, arid zones, tropical forests, mountain regions, indigenous peoples, farmers, fishers, pastoralists and women.

A sixth and final challenge and threat to world peace is the persistence and increase of global inequality and injustice among and within countries and regions. According to the World Bank, the global income inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, was 0.63 in 2022, indicating a high degree of disparity and concentration of wealth and income. This means that the richest 10% of the world's population owned 85% of the world's wealth, while the poorest 50% owned only 1%. This also means that the average income of the top 1% was 182 times higher than the average income of the bottom 50%. Moreover, the global poverty rate, measured by the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day, was 8.4% in 2022, meaning that 647 million people lived in extreme poverty. Furthermore, the global

human development index, measured by the indicators of life expectancy, education and standard of living, was 0.74 in 2022, indicating a moderate level of human development. However, this index varied significantly across regions and countries, ranging from 0.95 in Norway to 0.38 in Niger.

These indicators of global inequality and injustice reflect the uneven and unfair distribution and access of resources, opportunities, rights and services among and within countries and regions, such as health, education, water, sanitation, energy, infrastructure, technology, trade, finance, aid, governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The superpowers, as the most powerful and influential actors in the world, have a significant role and responsibility in addressing the challenges and threats to world peace, as well as in creating and sustaining the conditions and mechanisms for peace. However, the superpowers do not always use their power and influence in a positive and constructive way, as they often face challenges and trade-offs that affect their decisions and actions. The superpowers have different motivations, interests, strategies and actions in relation to world peace, depending on their historical, cultural, political, economic and social contexts, as well as their perceptions, values and goals. The superpowers also have different relations and interactions with each other, as well as with other actors in the international system, such as regional powers, middle powers, small powers, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and individuals. The superpowers can cooperate or compete, support or undermine, lead or follow, intervene or abstain, depending on the situation and the issue. The

superpowers can also change and adapt their role and behavior over time, as they respond to the changing circumstances and challenges in the world.

One of the main motivations and interests of the superpowers is to pursue their national interests and security, which are often defined in terms of economic growth, military strength, political stability, territorial integrity, ideological supremacy, cultural identity and global influence. The superpowers seek to protect and advance their national interests and security by using various means and instruments, such as diplomacy, trade, aid, investment, sanctions, military force, intelligence, propaganda, cyber warfare and covert operations. The superpowers also seek to balance and counter the national interests and security of other superpowers or potential rivals, by forming alliances, partnerships, coalitions, blocs, spheres of influence, buffer zones, proxy wars and containment strategies. The superpowers often prioritize their national interests and security over the common interests and security of the global community, especially when they perceive a threat or a challenge from another superpower or a group of actors. The superpowers also often disregard or violate the interests and security of other actors, especially the weaker and less influential ones, when they pursue their own interests and security.

Another main motivation and interest of the superpowers is to maintain or enhance their global leadership and legitimacy, which are often measured by their ability and willingness to provide public goods, uphold international norms, resolve global problems, promote global values, support global

institutions and represent global interests. The superpowers seek to maintain or enhance their global leadership and legitimacy by using various means and instruments, such as diplomacy, multilateralism, cooperation, dialogue, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, adjudication, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, humanitarian intervention, development assistance, human rights protection, democracy promotion, climate action and global governance.

The superpowers also seek to challenge or undermine the global leadership and legitimacy of other superpowers or potential rivals, by questioning their credentials, exposing their flaws, criticizing their actions, opposing their policies, blocking their initiatives, isolating their allies, supporting their enemies and creating alternative platforms. The superpowers often compete or cooperate for global leadership and legitimacy, depending on the issue and the context. The superpowers also often face a gap or a mismatch between their global leadership and legitimacy, as they may have more or less power and influence than what they deserve or what they claim.

A third main motivation and interest of the superpowers is to project their power and influence across the world, which are often expressed by their ability and willingness to shape the outcomes, behaviors, preferences and perceptions of other actors, as well as the rules, norms, structures and processes of the international system. The superpowers seek to project their power and influence across the world by using various means and instruments, such as diplomacy, soft power, hard power, smart power, economic power, military power, technological power, cultural power,

ideological power and moral power.

The superpowers also seek to resist or limit the power and influence of other superpowers or potential rivals, by defending their sovereignty, autonomy, independence, identity, values and interests, as well as by supporting or empowering other actors that share or align with their views and goals. The superpowers often use their power and influence for different purposes and effects, depending on their intentions and capabilities. The superpowers also often face a dilemma or a trade-off between their power and influence, as they may have to sacrifice or compromise one for the other, or as they may face unintended or undesirable consequences or reactions from their actions.

The superpowers, as the most powerful and influential actors in the world, have the capacity and responsibility to choose world peace, as they can make a difference and a positive impact on the world. However, the superpowers do not always choose world peace, as they often face challenges and trade-offs that affect their decisions and actions. Therefore, the superpowers need to adopt and implement some principles and goals that can guide and motivate them to choose world peace, as well as to overcome the challenges and trade-offs that they face. The superpowers also need to learn from the best practices and lessons learned from the past and present experiences and examples of choosing world peace, as well as to anticipate and prepare for the future opportunities and challenges of choosing world peace. The following are some possible solutions and recommendations for the superpowers to choose world peace, based on the

principles and goals of respecting human dignity, ensuring justice and accountability, fostering dialogue and cooperation, strengthening the rule of law and human rights, reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, ensuring inclusive participation.

One of the possible solutions and recommendations for the superpowers to choose world peace is to respect human dignity, which is the inherent worth and value of every human being, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, nationality, status, condition or circumstance. The superpowers should respect human dignity by recognizing and acknowledging the diversity and plurality of the human family, as well as the commonality and universality of the human rights and freedoms. The superpowers should respect human dignity by protecting and promoting the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of every human being, as well as the dignity of life, death and afterlife. The superpowers should respect human dignity by preventing and ending the violation and abuse of human dignity, such as war, violence, oppression, exploitation, discrimination, persecution, torture, rape, murder, genocide, slavery, trafficking, poverty, hunger, disease, displacement, migration, exclusion, marginalization, alienation and dehumanization. The superpowers should respect human dignity by supporting and empowering the human potential and agency of every human being, as well as the dignity of work, education, culture, art, creativity, innovation, expression, communication, participation, contribution and achievement.

Another possible solution and recommendation for the superpowers to choose world peace is to ensure justice and accountability, which are the principles and processes of giving and receiving what is due and deserved, as well as of taking and bearing the responsibility and consequences of one's actions and inactions. The superpowers should ensure justice and accountability by establishing and enforcing the rule of law and human rights, as well as the standards and norms of the international community, such as the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute and the Responsibility to Protect. The superpowers should ensure justice and accountability by preventing and resolving the disputes and conflicts that arise from the violation and abuse of justice and accountability, such as aggression, occupation, annexation, intervention, secession, rebellion, terrorism, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression. The superpowers should ensure justice and accountability by providing and supporting the mechanisms and institutions that can deliver and uphold justice and accountability, such as the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the Human Rights Council, the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Special Rapporteurs, the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, the International Tribunals and the Regional Courts. The superpowers should ensure justice and accountability by accepting and fulfilling the obligations and duties that come with their power and influence, such as the duty to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, the duty to cooperate with the international community, the duty to

prevent and punish atrocities, the duty to assist and compensate the victims and the duty to reform and rehabilitate the perpetrators.

A third possible solution and recommendation for the superpowers to choose world peace is to foster dialogue and cooperation, which are the methods and modes of communication and interaction that can enhance the understanding, trust, confidence, respect, tolerance, acceptance, appreciation and friendship among different actors, as well as the coordination, collaboration, partnership, alliance, integration and solidarity among different actors. The superpowers should foster dialogue and cooperation by engaging and participating in the multilateral and regional frameworks and platforms that can facilitate and promote dialogue and cooperation, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of American States, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the G7, the G20, the BRICS, the NAM and the OPEC. The superpowers should foster dialogue and cooperation by supporting and initiating the processes and initiatives that can advance and deepen dialogue and cooperation, such as the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the Paris climate agreement, the sustainable development goals, the global compact on migration, the global health security agenda, the global counter-terrorism strategy, the global partnership for education, the global network for cultural diversity and the global citizenship education. The superpowers should foster dialogue and cooperation by addressing and overcoming the barriers and obstacles that

can hinder and hamper dialogue and cooperation, such as the lack of political will, the lack of mutual trust, the lack of common vision, the lack of shared values, the lack of inclusive participation, the lack of effective coordination, the lack of adequate resources, the lack of transparency and accountability and the lack of feedback and evaluation.

A fourth possible solution and recommendation for the superpowers to choose world peace is to strengthen the rule of law and human rights, which are the principles and practices that can ensure the equality, fairness, impartiality, independence, accountability and accessibility of the legal and judicial systems, as well as the recognition, protection, promotion and fulfillment of the inherent and inalienable rights and freedoms of every human being. The superpowers should strengthen the rule of law and human rights by developing and implementing the national and international laws and regulations that can safeguard and enforce the rule of law and human rights, such as the constitutions, the legislations, the treaties, the conventions, the protocols, the declarations, the resolutions, the recommendations and the guidelines. The superpowers should strengthen the rule of law and human rights by establishing and supporting the national and international courts and tribunals that can adjudicate and uphold the rule of law and human rights, such as the constitutional courts, the supreme courts, the high courts, the appellate courts, the district courts, the special courts, the international court of justice, the international criminal court, the regional human rights courts and the hybrid courts. The superpowers should strengthen the rule of law

and human rights by creating and empowering the national and international agencies and organizations that can monitor and report on the rule of law and human rights, such as the ministries of justice, the attorney generals, the ombudsmen, the national human rights institutions, the human rights defenders, the human rights NGOs, the human rights watch, the amnesty international, the international commission of jurists and the international federation for human rights.

A fifth possible solution and recommendation for the superpowers to choose world peace is to reduce the flow of illicit arms, which are the weapons and ammunition that are produced, transferred, acquired, possessed, used or disposed of in violation of the national and international laws and norms, as well as the ethical and humanitarian principles. The superpowers should reduce the flow of illicit arms by ratifying and implementing the international instruments and mechanisms that can regulate and control the production, transfer, acquisition, possession, use and disposal of arms, such as the arms trade treaty, the convention on cluster munitions, the convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction, the convention on certain conventional weapons, the chemical weapons convention, the biological weapons convention, the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. The superpowers should reduce the flow of illicit arms by supporting and conducting the national and international programs and initiatives that can prevent and combat the proliferation and diversion of

arms, such as the UN program of action on small arms and light weapons, the UN register of conventional arms, the UN tracing instrument, the UN disarmament commission, the UN office for disarmament affairs, the UN regional centers for peace and disarmament, the UN peacekeeping operations, the UN disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, the UN sanctions regimes, the UN arms embargoes and the UN group of governmental experts. The superpowers should reduce the flow of illicit arms by cooperating and collaborating with the national and international actors and stakeholders that can contribute and assist in the reduction of the flow of illicit arms, such as the governments, the parliaments, the judiciaries, the law enforcement agencies, the customs authorities, the border guards, the military forces, the security sector reform, the civil society groups, the media, the academia, the private sector, the arms manufacturers, the arms dealers, the arms brokers, the arms transporters, the arms collectors, the arms users and the arms victims.

In conclusion, the world peace is a noble goal that every human being should aspire to. However, it is constantly threatened by various factors, such as violent conflicts, terrorism, nuclear weapons, human rights violations, climate change, and global inequality. Superpowers, as the most influential actors in the world, have a great responsibility to promote and maintain the world peace, but they often act in ways that disrupt or endanger it. They pursue their national interests, global leadership, power projection, and rivalry with other superpowers, sometimes at the expense of the common good of humanity. This is not only immoral, but also