

Q

52/125

1. If we don't end war, war will end us.

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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3rd Century B.C.E. The gory battle of Kalinga comes to an end. And what remained at the end of the war was not peace, rather it was pieces of shattered bodies, disrupted lives and ruined dreams. As Ashoka passed through the battle field, witnessing the massacre of millions, he comes to a realisation and gives up war. Ashoka goes from Chanda Ashoka to Dhamma Ashoka.

Well, one gory battle changed Ashoka's mind and he gave up war. But humanity as a whole has witnessed

hundreds of wars and a much greater blood shed, yet why have we not given up war? Why haven't we ended war?

Here, the question is not whether or not we want to end war. Undoubtedly every diplomatic conference & global forums are filled with voices against war. ~~There~~ The real issue here is whether it's in our ability to end war! Can we end war? Or, is war inevitable?

In order to find our answer, we first need to understand the dynamics of war, its causes, consequences and the history of war.

To
many
questions
Need a
strong
thesis
statement

claim over Jerusalem. Yet others happen for ideological reasons such as the Cold War between Capitalism and Communism.

But the only war that ^{can} be justified is the one that arises as a retaliation to suppression by alien forces, as in the case of the First War of Independence of India in 1857.

In all these cases what we can understand is, the underlying reason behind most wars is a selfish and oversized ego of human beings who are blinded by economic, religious or ideological ~~etc~~ interests.

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War - Reasons →

Better Sub-headings

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Wars have occurred across space and time and with for a multitude of reasons. More often we see war as a result of the desire of territorial expansion.

As seen in the case of China attacking India in 1962, and many times thereafter.

In some cases, it's due to economic ambitions as in the case of Anglo-French wars for trade monopoly in India. The World Wars were just an extension of Industrial Wars and Imperialistic Wars in Europe.

Some wars happen for cultural or religious reasons like Israel & Palestine

Having seen the causes of war, we now need to explore the consequences of war to figure out if we can end war before it ends us.

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War - Consequences

"War doesn't determine who's right, only who's left," said Bertrand Russell. Such is the destruction and devastation caused by war.

It leads to loss of life and property, huge wastage of resources, famine and diseases, economic unrests, etc. ~~as seen in~~ ^{The} ~~the~~ post World War I scenarios followed by the Great Depression of 1929 showed us that even winners are losers in a war.

But there have also been some positive outcomes ^{because of} ~~of~~ war. Most of our communication technology and encryption techniques today evolved in the war rooms ~~of~~ of the World Wars. The nuclear energy that powers the world today is the outcome of the Atom bomb that destroyed millions of lives for generations. Wars were also triggers for agricultural and medical innovations to avoid famines & pandemics.

Of course, technological advancement is no reason to pursue war! So, now it's time for us to explore the real question —

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War - is it avoidable

From Ancient times we've had wars. And the earliest one we've heard of is the ^{Kuruksheetra} war of Mahabharata. Even then, knowledgeable elders like Bheeshma, Vidura and even the Pandavas tried to evade war, but to no avail.

As seen earlier, Ashoka gave up war, after the Kalinge war. ^{But,} had he not witnessed such bloodshed until then? Or did he just give up war once his territorial ambitions were fulfilled? We'll never know. But what we do know is, that, it was the end of war - only for Ashoka and not his successors or for the rest of the world.

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During modern times, post World War I, Britain & France resorting to the policy of appeasement couldn't stop Hitler & Mussolini from starting World War II; ~~After~~ Honorable ex-Prime Minister Nehru's Panchsheel couldn't prevent China's unilateral attack on us.

But it's also true that US & Russia prevented Cuban Missile Crisis from ~~pa~~ becoming a full fledged war. And the UNS has thus far prevented World War III. Although ~~the~~ we are yet to find out where the Russia & Ukraine war leads us.

Therefore, the inference we can draw from this is, we can at most reduce the number of wars by

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preventing some and postponing some,
but we can't eliminate it altogether.
Therefore, we can understand that
war is ~~not avoidable~~ ~~the~~ ~~address~~
inevitable!

So then, if war is inevitable
and war & humans have a history
of millions of having survived
together, what are we fearful of?

War - will end us!

The fear looming across the
globe now, is, the level of
technological innovation that we
previously talked about.

Today, we have weapons
capable of decimating all life ~~as we~~
~~known~~ ~~as~~ on earth in a matter of

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minutes. And what's more fearful is, not death, but the ^{irreversible} damage to life that can be caused as seen in the Vietnam War - the usage of Napalm and Agent orange on civilians & areas.

Hence, what we actually fear is not just war, but the deterioration of ethical and moral values in humans who are waging wars on soldiers and civilians alike. War has transcended beyond the arena of air, water, land and has entered space and cyber space, threatening every aspect of life.

But, ~~there~~ ^{there} is all hope is not lost! We still have a way out of this dark tunnel.

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Uni-dimensional

Explore the following

- Trade war
- Climate war.
- Proxy war
- war within a mind!

percepts of war such as total inhibition from form of attack on the civilians. ~~and~~ This can be done by updating the Geneva Convention to ~~include~~ include new provisions that address new challenges that have emerged today.

No one really ~~is~~ wins at the end of a war, ^{in this world} be it a Dharma Yudhalha like the war of Kurukshetra or a materialistic one like the World War. The only war we can ever win and the only war that is needed, is the one within ourselves. We need to fight against our own vices and malices to emerge victorious. This internal war is the only way to prevent any external wars.

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Hope -

Light at the end of the tunnel

While it is true that war is inevitable and the current technological level of weapons and ethical level of humans can destroy the world, ~~we~~ ~~can't~~ ~~afford~~ to ~~keep~~ ~~our~~ ~~weapons~~ and ~~we~~ we still have a way out.

Although war is inevitable, the mass destruction is not certainly avoidable. It's the morality of some men that has deteriorated and not that of all humanity.

Hence, we need to engage vigorously in diplomatic talks and obtain global consensus on the ethical

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2. Social Arson in digital age.

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Let's see how it would be to conduct a survey on what people feel about their social life and digital life.

Surveyor - "Hi! What's your digital life like?"

Anonymous - "Amazing! 100s of contacts on whatsapp, 1000s of friends on facebook, millions of followers on Insta and twitter!"

Surveyor - "What's your social life like?"

Anonymous - "Sad, depressing and it feels all lonely!"

Surveyor - "Reminds me of a quote by a sailor on the sea - "Water water everywhere, 10 but not a single drop to drink!"

This is the sad reality of our digital age! It has given us a whole new world of friends, but not a single one to connect to! ~~It~~ ~~has~~ ~~con~~ The world population is ever rising, yet, ^{ironically,} humans are sinking into the depths of loneliness and depression.

Not that the digital age is the new Satan or something. It has its positives too, it's connected us to ~~so~~ our loved ones who live far away, it's made communication faster than ever. But like Buy 1 Get 1 offers during a sale, digital age comes with a pro and a con packed together in one unit.

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It has helped us connect
to those who are far away,
but distanced us from those ones
right next to us; It has
empowered us to voice out our
problems but, It has also made us
more vulnerable to new set of
problems; It has enabled us to
express ourselves to the ^{whole} world,
yet it has prevented us from
opening up to ourselves!

Social Media in a digital
age is thus a double edged
sword while one can cut of the
shackles tying him/her down, one
might also end up ~~injuring~~ ^{injuring} themselves
in the process.

Let's now see, how this sword ~~plays~~ ~~as~~ ~~is~~ affects different types of people and different relations.

Women

It has enabled them to reach out and seek help in cases of domestic violence, sexual abuse (#MeToo movement), etc. This way digital age has certainly strengthened her social life.

On the other hand, morphing of images, and circulating them on social media, ^{online} auctioning of women, body shaming, etc. inhibits her from even confidently stepping out of her room and interact with people.

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Senior Citizens

Digital age has helped them stay connected to their children and grand children who might live in a far off country. To some, it's ever given an opportunity to connect to long lost friends.

But to most ~~people~~ old aged persons, ~~operating~~ especially men beyond 65-70, operating a smart phone has become rocket science and the thought of using it, scares them.

In addition to it, it's made them lonely in their own houses, surrounded by children and grand children who are busy with their digital gadgets.

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Children

While children benefit from getting the exposure of connecting to different people ~~via~~ ~~of~~ from varied social backgrounds via gaming channels or social media, they are still the most vulnerable group as seen in the case of the Blue Whale Challenge.

Adults

To adults, digital world is not just their social world, but also their professional world, entertainment world, etc.

People post pictures of their ~~for~~ times online and seek approval

of others via likes and comments.
As though as a like could make
the experience itself more happier
or a negative comment itself makes
the experience any less beautiful.

I do agree that humans
are social conformists and naturally
seek societal approval for their
actions. But in the modern
world, this is not just societal
acceptance, rather ~~the~~ the process
of self discovery is being
technologically outsourced.

In a concluding note,
I would like to tell that,
the digital age has placed

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all of us on a wheel like
rats and ~~our~~ social reason is
the cheese placed at the ~~center~~^{center}
~~center~~ of this wheels. We are
running day and night on the
wheel ~~keeping~~ ~~without~~ ~~stopping~~ thinking
we are moving towards the
cheese. And if we continue to
mindlessly run on this wheel,
we'll never reach the cheese.

It's time for us to
step out of this loop, and
connect to the people around us
in real life; in a real way, rather
than in a virtual way ~~in~~ a virtual
world. Only then, ^{will} our social life
and societal relations truly strengthen.

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Not topic has
understood!