

The Need to Abolish War



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January 2021

GLOBAL TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Due to travel restrictions, the United States will now be staging coups only in its own capital.

Worldwide services will resume shortly.

Exceptionally Rogue

Since World War II, during a supposed golden age of peace, the United States military has killed or helped kill some 20 million people, overthrown at least 36 governments, interfered in at least 85 foreign elections, attempted to assassinate over 50 foreign leaders, and dropped bombs on people in over 30 countries. The United States is responsible for the deaths of 5 million people in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and over 1 million just since 2003 in Iraq.

On the day of the Capitol Hill coup attempt, Joe Biden named Victoria Nuland as possible nominee for Undersecretary of State – a key planner of the Ukraine coup and advocate for one in Russia.

Some 95% of foreign military bases are U.S. foreign military bases.

Some 50% of military spending is U.S. military spending.

The top dealer of weapons to the world, rich countries, poor countries, dictatorships, so-called democracies, the Middle East, etc., is the United States.

Most war-torn regions manufacture no weapons. Most wars have U.S. weapons on both sides.

POP QUIZ

- ❖ The U.S. sells or gives weapons to, or trains, or funds the military of this % of the most oppressive governments on earth:
 - 12%
 - 52%
 - 96%

Don't cheer for anti-coup militarism

The building could have been locked.

The police could have kept crowds away.

The police could have refrained from firing bullets.

Trump could have been kept off television.

Trump could have been impeached and removed and prosecuted when he was merely instigating violence against immigrants and blacks and Asians and women and media and leftists, but not yet Congress Members.

Cheering for more troops in the street is dangerous whether it's to let Trump pose in front of a church or to prevent a coup.

If Congress were to make good use of the rule of law, people would neither attack it nor imagine the best solution was more troops in the streets.

The Zoom Poll we just took . . .

you think war is never ever justified.

you think some wars are sometimes justified for some participants.



Now a Magic Trick

If you said that some wars are sometimes justified, think of the name of one such war and shout it out.



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Why WWII?

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1. What WWII has to do with military spending
2. WWII was not fought to save anyone from death camps
3. WWII did not have to happen
4. The United States did not have to develop and promote the dangerous bunk science of eugenics
5. The United States did not have to develop the practice of racist segregation
6. The United States did not have to develop practices of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and concentration of people on reservations
7. The United States did not have to fund and arm the Nazis
8. The United States did not have to prioritize opposing the Soviet Union
9. The United States did not have to develop the pledge of allegiance and the one-arm salute
10. The United States welcomed Nazis into the U.S. military



11. The United States did not have to engage in an arms race with Japan
12. WWII does not prove that violence is needed for defense
13. WWII was the worst thing humanity has done to itself and the earth in any short period of time
14. WWII in western culture is a dangerous set of myths
15. There was resistance to WWII in the United States
16. WWII created taxes
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The deadliest weapon



The problem with Just War Theory

Where it comes from. Anti-Defense.

What it does.

Its criteria:

Immeasurable: Right intention, just cause, proportionality

Impossible: Last resort, reasonable prospect of success, noncombatants free from attack, enemy soldiers respected, prisoners treated as noncombatants.

Amoral: Publicly declared, legitimate authority

Even if a miraculous war could immeasurably, impossibly, and amorally qualify as just, it couldn't do enough good to outweigh the harm of keeping the institution of war around plus all the unjust wars created while waiting for a just one.

We need \$2 trillion/year for other things
War threatens our environment
War erodes liberties
War promotes bigotry
War endangers us
War impoverishes us
War is immoral
**We need to abolish the
whole institution.**



\$35.1
BILLION

**ANNUAL COST FOR U.S.
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

OR



300,000
BEDS IN
INTENSIVE
CARE

+



35,000
VENTILATORS

+



150,000
NURSES

+



75,000
DOCTORS

Sources: see [icanw.org/healthcare_costs](https://www.icanw.org/healthcare_costs)



**\$2
trillion**

**Annual global
military spending**

OR



17,100,000

**BEDS IN
INTENSIVE
CARE**

+



1,995,000

VENTILATORS

+



8,550,000

NURSES

+



4,275,000

DOCTORS

One-Sided Slaughters of Men, Women, Children, Infants

What percentage of deaths in U.S. war on Iraq since 2003 were U.S. troops? (no more than 0.5%)

If 2.2 million die of coronavirus in the United States that will be 0.6% of people.

That compares to 5% of people in Iraq killed by violence in excess of the already high death rate by the war launched in 2003.

And it compares to 0.3% of people in the U.S. killed in World War II.

POP QUIZ

- ❖ How many of the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council are among the top 6 weapons dealing nations on earth?
 - 0
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5

What about this one?

“Humans just can’t be rid of
war, whether or not it’s ever
justifiable.”



World Beyond War

**If war were inevitable,
would it need a billion
dollar marketing division?**

worldbeyondwar.org/inevitable

Things That Used to Be “Inevitable”

cannibalism, human sacrifice, trial by ordeal, blood feuds, dueling, polygamy, capital punishment, serfdom, plantation slavery, an all-male electorate, Jim Crow segregation, an all-male military, bans on homosexuality, the election of Hillary Clinton, safety in going outside your house, politicians at least bothering to lie about wars for oil or about caring about your life, attacking the U.S. Capitol being an impeachable offense,

War is not inevitable

Absent for most of human prehistory.

Sporadic since its creation.

Unknown to many societies.

Unlike its current form until virtually this moment.

Avoided by most who can.

Damaging to most who take part.

0

Number of recorded cases of post traumatic stress disorder, brain injury, moral injury, loss of limb, or suicidal tendencies as a result of war deprivation.

96%

Percent of humanity whose governments each spend a fraction of what the U.S. government does on war, and whose governments combined spend about what the U.S. government does on war.

**Human
Nature does
not exist.**

Even U.S. “Nature” is better than claimed and completely alterable

The U.S. government only represents U.S. public opinion occasionally and by coincidence. It's effectively an oligarchy. Polls have for decades found the public wanting to move money out of militarism (this week's Harvard poll notwithstanding). Last summer a poll on moving 10% out found strong majority support just prior to Congress voting overwhelmingly against that.

The U.S. corporate media only represents U.S. public opinion occasionally and by coincidence. It caters to advertisers and those in power.

The U.S. government puts some billion dollars a year into military advertising. It also quietly pays sports leagues to celebrate troops and flags, and quietly "consults" for Hollywood movie producers, and promotes insidious practices like thanking "the troops" at every opportunity, offering military discounts on every product, creating special military parking spaces, letting military onto airplanes first, etc.

Countries with no standing army

Costa Rica, Iceland, Mauritius, Monaco, Panama, Vanuatu, Andorra, Dominica, Grenada, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vatican City.



0

Number of nations with military spending closer to U.S. level than to Costa Rican level.

War can be ended with or without ending ...

Capitalism,

Racism,

Carnivorism,

Environmental destruction.

But we have a larger movement if we
take on multiple interlocking evils
together.



**If war were necessary,
couldn't it be launched
without lies?**

worldbeyondwar.org/necessary

Nonviolence Denial is as dangerous as climate denial

...

What happened in ... ?

Germany 1920, Germany 1923, Algeria 1961, Czechoslovakia 1968, Soviet Union 1991,

POP QUIZ

- ★ What tends to be present where wars are begun?
 - –resource scarcity,
 - –human rights violations in need of response,
 - –raw fossil fuels.

**If war is beneficial,
why are its victims
so ungrateful?**

worldbeyondwar.org/beneficial

A future without zombie ideas

Only the future matters.

Would anyone repeat the U.S. Civil War?

Raise your hand if you can imagine a justifiable war in the future.

WWTFH

**If war is a last resort,
why do we never hear about
any first resorts or second
or third or 5,678,995th resorts?**

worldbeyondwar.org/just

Peace has to be carefully avoided

It takes extreme efforts to create war.

Mexico

Spain

Vietnam

Iraq

Afghanistan

Iraq

Libya

Syria

Iran

Drones

Peace has to be constructed

Unless we change the systems and structures and culture we live in, people will go on making those extreme efforts and creating wars.

Reverse arms race

International law and democracy

Aid, cooperation, diplomacy

Unarmed, civilian peacekeeping

A culture of peace

Replacing exceptionalism with humanism

What can we do?

- Reverse Arms Race
- Close Foreign Bases
- International law
- Aid, diplomacy
- Unarmed peacekeeping
- Culture of peace
- Cure exceptionalism
- Prevent and end particular wars
- Cease fire during coronavirus
- Divestment
- Conversion
- Education

Not Predictions, Not Optimism, Not Pessimism

**ACTIVISM! – World BEYOND War –
RootsAction – Education, Divestment,
Bases, Lobbying, Protesting, Coalition
Building, Chapter forming!**

U.S. Budget

This week Bernie Sanders became the soon-to-be chair of the Senate Budget Committee.

Congress Members Barbara Lee and Mark Pocan have said they will create a "Defense" Spending Reduction Caucus.

The Chair of the Progressive Caucus, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal says they will work to move money out of militarism. There are new members who speak about militarism in a way that used to be much less common. These include Ro Khanna, AOC, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Cori Bush, Jamal Bowman, Mondaire Jones, et alia. A small minority in Congress, but possibly enough if really committed.

In activist organizing there is similar slow progress. It's increasingly possible to sometimes get multi-issue coalitions to oppose militarism, while it remains the case that most environmental groups won't touch militarism, most civil liberties groups won't touch militarism, most immigrants' rights groups . . . , most anti-racism groups . . . , most anti-poverty groups . . . etc.

The Internationalized Green New Deal

demilitarization is best hope for a GND, and vice versa

activist campaigns organize and educate

Divestment Campaigns

World BEYOND War, like other groups, and working with our allies, is achieving divestment successes. In a couple of weeks the world will celebrate nuclear weapons becoming illegal in over 50 countries. Within a month it's possible the U.S. will end weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and UAE, and its role in the war on Yemen. But getting to a major conversion program and a ban on international sales and gifts is still a big struggle.

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/divest>

activist campaigns organize and educate

Demilitarizing Police Campaigns

- <https://worldbeyondwar.org/policing>



activist campaigns organize and educate

Nominations

- We helped stop Flournoy and Morell
- Now on to Blinken and Tanden and Nuland and Haines . . .

activist campaigns organize and educate

“War Powers”

In theory and centuries of practice up until the recent bill forbidding the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, presidents can end wars immediately without asking anyone.

Congress ended war on Yemen but Trump vetoed it. Take 2!

Things a Biden compelled to listen could do instantly

- End war on Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia.
- End weapons sales to particular or all countries.
- Rejoin Paris agreement and commit to including military climate damage in it.
- Make college public education.
- End sanctions on ICC officials.
- Rejoin the Iran agreement.
- Rejoin disarmament treaties with Russia.
- Drop the appeal in Assange case.
- Start closing foreign bases.
- Propose a budget that moves funds out of militarism and into conversion.

Things Biden could do with Congress

Ask Congress to ratify joining the ICC.

Ask Congress to end all sanctions on all countries: Iran, N. Korea, Cuba, Syria, Russia,

Ask Congress to repeal the selective service act.

Things We Can Do

- Support Rep. Omar's legislation
- Organize and educate online
- Build relationships across borders with Zoom
- Create a culture that thanks pandemic and essential workers providing an actual service for their service
- Celebrate peace holidays
- Use billboards
- Use online courses
- Pass local resolutions

We don't talk so good

- I didn't kill it
- You're not the bomb
- We're not fighting on the front lines
- These are not bullet points
- "We" is not the Pentagon
- "Patriot" is not a compliment
- Murder is not "defense"
- George W. Bush did not "live through" the war on Iraq
- etc.

The Declaration of Peace has been signed in almost every country: *I understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. I commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace.*



**Sign at worldbeyondwar.org/individual
worldbeyondwar.org/organization**

The Zoom Poll We're About to Do

You're more inclined to believe that we can / should / must end all war than you were when we started.

Or not.

Or you think that more time studying this material might move you.

Or you think others not on this call might be moved in the right direction with the right information.

