

World Wide Conflicts and Global Peace

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ABSTRACT: *The planet earth, small though it may be, is full of strifes almost everywhere across several countries and continents. The policy makers and statespersons must put sincere and concerted efforts to avoid skirmishes and wars by treating all pandemonia integrally and holistically. The people at the helm of affairs, particularly political leaders must act harmoniously to reach the state of Global Peace by and large. In this paper, the author has discussed succinctly some strifes and conflicts in the world and he has offered few steps to arrive at Global Peace. The paradigm of the discussion has been negative peace (stopping the shooting and bombing as also use of drones for destructive purposes) as well as positive peace which included economic well-being, human rights, environmental issues ensuring security of all sorts like food, energy, water resources, health, housing, environment, sustainable development, ecology etc. The paper ends with the conclusion that a feeling of universal brotherhood in the true sense of the term, man-making education and most importantly grooming a child from her/his childhood accordingly is the panacea for achieving the Global Peace. No cosmetic action can bring peace in the long run.*

KEYWORDS: *Conflicts, Security, Sustainable Development, Ecology, Skirmishes, Wars, Negative Peace, Positive Peace, Universal Brotherhood, Global Peace.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

At present, major peace research trends are “(1) Increasing efforts to combine a number of peace tools into comprehensive peace strategies, (2) Growing attention to the importance of pursuing multiple peace tracks simultaneously, (3) The growing tendency to take a long-term perspective, (4) Numerous recent works endeavoring to bridge theory building and practice, (5) Special attention given to efforts to cope with violent conflict between ethnic groups, (6) Growing literature on the need for what is often referred to as “post conflict strategies, so as to sustain peace settlements, and (7) Increased emphasis on long-term strategies for prevention of extremely disruptive and violent conflict. In this respect, recent advancements in knowledge are to be kept in mind”, [1]. Peace building is now a very complicated task and scattered research data is to have an accurate data bank. Government foreign offices, defense establishments, economic and social studies are equally important. Government officials and civil society members must work in tandem with each other. Peace roles in diverse societal domains, business, religion, education, media, ethnic communities, development assistance and local governments play a vital role and each must have compatibility with the others, making the challenge overwhelming. More options available to the peace builders make the task rather more difficult. Peace building needs peace education. Peace building requires an effective social network made out of complex possibilities. Many interdependent peace roles in scattered forms are to be assembled in a consolidated manner to arrive at long-term peace.

Peace research and peace studies deal with human needs and aspirations. Peace building is essentially a psychoanalysis and introspection process. In peace building process, the threat to the use of power and enforcement processes become irrelevant. It often deals with real issues not previously articulated. Substantive knowledge is needed for conflict analysis and peace building. Peace research is necessary for school children, parents, managers, policy makers, lawyers, police, intelligence agencies, defense strategists, and others who within contemporary adversarial institutions and structures.

During the Cold War period, the prevention of nuclear war attracted much attention. Even now, if not worse, the situation is really grave since China, India and Pakistan are strengthening their nuclear weapons capabilities. Violent ethnic conflicts in former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Somalia, Angola and almost all corners of the world have caused many deaths and distinction over the last two decades.

Abject poverty and economic disparities have been seriously undermining the well-being of the underprivileged majority of the global population. Children and women of some societies are becoming the victims of social oppression and economic exploitation. Environment has been worst affected by the emphasis on free trade and economic growth. Mitigating the sufferings of marginalized groups is much worse than before. Fundamental rethinking is required to develop an enlarged vision of peace. Peace touches upon many different

aspects of our life. Peace theories are less abstract and more pragmatic now than traditional international relations theories which heavily focus on foreign policy decision making behavior or the structure of an inter-state system. We would discuss the world wide strifes and see the ways in which the Global Peace may be attained.

II. MEANINGS, CONCEPTS AND DISCUSSION ON PEACE

Peace is just not prevention of war among states. It is to have justice within and between societies, a guarantee of basic individual and group rights and the non-use of violence to resolve conflict. Peace is not alien to our everyday life. Peace is achieved through a social process. The cessation of violence has to be accompanied by social and cultural transformations.

There are challenges for peace. Historical experiences show that, contrary to visions of peace, history of mankind is full of many examples of violent conflict and oppression along with the rise and fall of civilizations. The current transformation in a world order affected by globalization is merely one specific expression of a reconfiguration in social space and time. Peace is interpreted differently across cultures and social values with varying degrees of priority given to individual and communal well-being. In most industrial societies, providing fair political and legal procedures for competition is seen as an important condition for individual achievement, thus contributing to social progress.

In most of the latter half of the twentieth century, identities of groups and countries in their struggle for independence were defined in terms of the ideological and political links to either Moscow or Washington, during Cold War. The end of the Cold War, brought about by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the transition of Eastern Europe toward capitalism, generated certain Euphoria. More countries have been pressed to adopt Western style democratic political systems since the late 1980s. There are civilization clashes between Western thoughts and Muslim or Confucian values.

There are zones of instability in the world. The prosperity in the West is not affected by violent conflict limited to the peripheral zones of international power and economic structure. Genocide in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia is parallel to the atrocities committed against civilian populations during the World War II.

III. CONCEPTS, ANALYSIS, VIOLENCE AND PEACE RESEARCH

Peace may be a lack of conflict of any serious kind. The peace making is associated with conflict resolution without the use of violence. Individual rights are guaranteed by the absence of racism and sexism. There are two types of violence, direct and structural. Both forms of violence are present in various social relations. Cultural violence is the source of other types of violence through its production of hatred, fear and suspicion. Negative peace focuses on the absence of direct violence such as war. It can be brought about by various approaches. The concept of positive peace, based on a broad understanding of social conditions, means the removal of structural violence beyond the absence of direct violence. There are certain priorities in both negative peace and positive peace. Positive peace and negative peace are to be integrated. Holistic conception of peace has to be nurtured.

Conflict analysis reveals the structure of a family, a community and an international system. Power differentials in conflict situations are based on the ability to mobilize both material and symbolic resources that are critical to determining the outcome of the conflict. Many lasting internal and international conflicts have their roots in structural injustice. Serious conflict is embedded in an inequitable social and economic system, reflecting prolonged exploitation supported by coercion. Structural conditions for the emergence of serious social conflict are related to unequal access to political power and cultural marginalization of certain groups. There is some inherent conflict in social order. This needs to be redressed. In the traditional management of conflict, a judicial system and public administration are mostly concerned with the preservation of the status quo and the maintenance of existing institutions. This tendency of maintaining status quo needs to be change by making some innovations. Dispute settlement can only make a conflict resolution.

New situations can be created in the dynamics of conflict with or without intervention of external influence. This may help peace building. Peace research traditions were a response to the challenge of achieving practical solutions to real world problems. While its policy orientation has normative underpinnings for improving human well-being, the method of peace research has been influenced by debate about the diverse epistemological foundations of modern social science. Peace and conflict studies are more directly connected to the activities of many ordinary people who want to change the world. Peace research mathematical models have evolved over the years. The nature of substantive themes of scientific peace research has provided lasting intellectual ties for a field that is still evolving. Different traditions for inquiry have influenced the directions of peace research. There is a growing recognition that interpretative understanding of social action is more helpful in analyzing intentions of actors and meanings of events. Epistemological foundations of peace research need to

be further strengthened. The policy orientation of peace research has to be such that the outcome should give credible suggestions as to how and which aspects of the world have to be changed. Peace research attempts to link the levels of analysis as well as to integrate different problem areas.

IV. WAR, CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT

Nature of major wars and skirmishes needs to be clearly understood after analyzing these in detail. This can only lead us to approach anywhere near to the Global Peace. War is an organized violence fought by Government initiative. War needs social, economic, political and ideological mobilization of society. Military-industrial complexes (MICs) use intricate social structures consisting of top-ranking military officers, industrialists, scientists, engineers, doctors and bureaucrats. War involves a colossal wastage of human resources. There are different types of war ranging from surgical strikes to a full-fledged war.

In the modern days, i.e. in the post-colonial context repression and foreign domination has changed to a new garb only. But, this is very much there. Sometimes self-defense takes an ugly look of a war and this is more often for a solution to international conflicts. Aggressive behavior is rooted in human instinct. This human nature and violence can only be eradicated by proper long-term education and training. On many occasions, it can be hypothesized that aggression manifests itself due to deep-rooted frustration.

Aggression has also a psychoanalytic perspective. Relative deprivation may also take the shape of aggression. We must not forget that the satisfaction of basic needs is required for human development as well as the survival of human beings in both physical and social terms. Identity of every individual is needed and must be given the opportunity to form. Identity crisis causes serious wounds. There are polarization and violence in the conflict dynamics in the divided societies. Violence against women and children must be avoided at all costs. In many cases, gender identities also create conflicts. However, masculine and feminine values must be recognized in every society. Patriarchy is a concept that engulfs virtually all human enterprises while illustrating the historical and social dimensions of woman's exploitation and oppression. World order must not be lopsided to either feminism or masculinism. Women in military are present these days. Women and men must have shared goals of peace without any bias to any gender. Reconceptualization of security demands very thoughtful mode of governance.

Only a vibrant economy can establish long-lasting peace. Free market economy can only do justice to the class relations. International capitalism often causes war. Economic integration in the present days of globalization is very important. In the present day world, social transition has made many nations free and the end of colonization. Environmental concerns and lack of environmental security like Global Warming, Ozone Depletion, Loss of Biological Diversity, Deforestation, Soil Erosion, Water Pollution and Shortage, Population Growth, Tragedy of Commons, Resource Scarcity often cause conflict.

V. PEACE STRATEGIES: RESOLUTION, MANAGEMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS, SELF-DETERMINATION, DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, GLOBAL ORDER OF GOVERNANCE, NONVIOLENCE, INTEGRATION

The first thing that comes in peace strategies is control of military power realistically. There has to be balance and equilibrium so that one side does not have a decisive advantage over the other in military strength. International system characteristics must display well defined capabilities of nations within international system like traditional functioning. Operational principles must have good flexibility of alliances exhibiting proper balance of power. The policy must be drawn keeping recent past and historical examples and experiences in mind. Weaknesses and bottlenecks of the international system are to be removed at all costs. Collective security emphasizes that there has to be a guarantee of international security through military domination based on the axiomatic truth that peace can be preserved by a decisive preponderance of power.

International agreement must be goals and functions oriented which will deter aggression of one state against another. The origins, goals and applications of the roots of the concept of collective security are very old and existing for a long time. Past experiences demonstrate the unimpressive record of collective security. Major weaknesses and helplessnesses of the United Nations must be first acknowledged and then redressed. Economic sanctions by nature are very ephemeral measure. Peace keeping forces are also not very effective with a good sense of purpose in the long run. New practices must keep this mind. Peace keeping forces, peace enforcement, peacemaking and peace building must play expanded role with proper vision and this action must be evaluated critically and periodically. As such, the future directions must be able to accommodate inevitable challenges and humanitarian intervention with diplomatic initiative may be necessary.

Objectives and operating principles must fit into the rules for intervention. On many occasions, it is necessary to maintain safe havens to protect refugees with a modest number of ground forces and significant air support. Recent examples in Liberia in late 80s show us that such peace keeping forces are very fragile. Non-provocative defense, doctrinal principles, defense strategies, confidence building based on civil defense, disarmament cannot overcome its own obstacles. Nuclear arms control is the need of the hour. Global demilitarization is to be pursued through a fundamental restructuring of the economic sectors engaged in the

wholesale manufacturing of advanced weaponry. In this way peace can be achieved by the way of conversion. The goals and process of national policies must retrofit the economic conversion and labor unions.

Negotiation strategies (even if it is multilateral), all enquiries, the actions of good and power wielding offices, arbitration, judicial settlement, conciliation and reconciliation, mediation of all kinds with its all characteristics, problem solving workshops and all such processes, distributive and integrative bargaining, facilitation with features and principles, second track diplomacy, citizen diplomacy, preventive diplomacy and intervention must be single goal oriented for establishing long-term peace as much as possible. Post-conflict reconstruction is also necessarily an integral part of the peace building effort. Recent experiences must be taken into account to evaluate all peace building efforts. Regional and otherwise mechanisms must have early warning system.

Human rights abuses must be avoided. There has to be strict norms and principles for this. Human rights movements and conventions are very useful to make concrete changes. State sovereignty must not be violated in any manner. NGOs and the people struggling at the grassroots levels are experiencing problems of human rights violations at several regions.

Self-determination is a basic principle for realizing the freedom to control one's own life. It is the prerequisite for peace. The historical context to self-determination is quite interesting. There has to be a basic transparent claim for self-determination. Democratic ideals and states do have good forms of self-determination. Autonomy of minority groups and indigenous people is a real challenge. State and national boundaries must be well defined for effective governance. Failure of nation-state building is a serious problem. For a multi-ethnic state, this issue is a real challenge for any government. Well defined methods can only reduce intergroup tension. Territorial arrangement can be made through partition or integration with neighboring states. Federalism must honor regional autonomy. Power sharing and consociationalism, in some cases, solves the problems in a democracy by resolving political differences by techniques of consensus rather than majority rule. Distributive policies can change the ethnic balance with respect to economic rewards and political opportunities. Cultural plurality has to be recognized and respected. A growth oriented modern human centered endogenous development model should comply with dependency theories and the model necessarily needs to be without national, regional or international economic imbalance.

If necessary, there has to be self-reliance and import substituting industrialization, as much as possible. Development should look into the continuously evolving new international economic order and it should be amenable to the structural adjustment, when necessary. Grassroots strategies and empowerment are very important. There are urban informal sectors to which due attention must be given.

It is unfortunate that women in many cases are struggling for survival. Environmental politics must be centered to developing and building global consensus doing justice to the international policies. Global commons must be properly managed. Free trade and the environment are important and desirable as far as practicable. International organizations must have proper coordination among them. The problems and struggles of indigenous communities and of the NGOs merit due attention. Sustainable development and prospects for future cooperation can never be overemphasized. Global order and governance takes care of the origins of a sovereign state system, realism and neorealism, the actors and the process of transnational relations, international regimes with functionalism and neofunctionalism. Ideally, the world government, which will take care of all anarchism, is the futuristic global civil society. Nonviolence theory of power obeying moral and political principles in social life is a future possibility. There has to be a commitment and motivation in organizational bases and structure without politics. This makes peace movements successful.

A transformation at personal level makes the platform to meet challenges with a possible paradigm shift. Then only there can be an evolution to a perfectly designed peace system with necessary structural challenges with rewoven relations. The quest for peace is a never ending process. There is a perpetual scope for amelioration. Obstacles must be overcome with a zealous love for the world and peace.

VI. WORLD WIDE CONFLICTS AND VIOLENCE

In this section, we would consider conflicts and violence across the world.

Afghanistan, Turkey, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Gulf Countries, Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Somalia, Palestine and Israel, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, India, China, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nicaragua, Sudan, Morocco, Peru, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Europe (Germany, France, England, Scotland, Ireland), Canada, USA, Australia, Former USSR and now Russia and several other pockets of the world, almost everywhere flush human habitation.

Ethnicisation' and sectarianisation of economic and political relations is a major problem. Conflicts apparently related to tradition and identity have become more common and indeed point to more fundamental contradictions between the culturalist representation of society and the effects of a country's integration into the world capitalist economy, Islamic radicalization, ethnic polarization and tribal atavism are responsible for the social and political violence in many countries..

There is a heavy impact of oil and other scarce economic products on the war. It demonstrates that mineral wealth has not only financed war but has also intimately shaped the contours of the conflict. The duration and character of the conflict, and, to some extent, even the timing of military operations has to be noted very carefully. Resources curse has had a major impact on the make-up of a country's political economy and has been decisive in the erosion of state legitimacy, which in turn has had important consequences for the prospects for peace. Following references [1-115] give the necessary information.

VII. CONCLUSION

All disputes about territory are to be amicably resolved by diplomatic efforts, rather than using military powers, under the stewardship of United Nations. Thus all the skirmishes and full-fledged war can be averted. There has to be more and more transnational mass-scale visits by granting generous work and tourist Visas. There has to be more and more liberal trade and commerce policy, internationally. An inter-governmental panel on security of health, housing, energy, environment, sustainable development, food, water resources, etc. to cover the interests of every living individual would definitely be conducive to world peace. Also, ensuring value-adding affordable education to every individual under the Sun at various levels is an immediate priority. There has to be international concerted efforts to raise the individual's consciousness level to foster Universal Brotherhood and Global Peace. The stratification of individuals based on religion is disturbing and this must be avoided by all means, simply because we are all human beings having the same identity. There must be whole-hearted spirited international cooperation among the Nations in case of exigencies and large scale natural disasters and calamities without an iota of exploitation. United Nations must be allowed to act properly, without which the human spirit is spoilt brutally. It has to be realized that we, human beings irrespective of any particular characteristics, all have one and only one lineage and we all are the descendants of the One and Only One Source, The Truth. That is the only Identity Card of all of us, human beings. This is the panacea for Global Peace.

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