

FIGHTING FOR PEACE. The Nazi aggression in WWII is often cited as an argument against pacifism. If these forces had not been challenged and defeated militarily - the argument goes - many more people would have died under the Nazis' oppressive rule. A frequently used quote is: 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.' **P**acifists point out that the 'something good men must do' ought not to be violent - they put forward the case that 'Fighting for Peace' is not likely to bring long-lasting peace. **A**n example is the United States' entry into World War I in 1917. The Americans broke the deadlock in the trench warfare on the Western Front, where the German army together with British and French forces were hopelessly bogged down. The US intervention ensured an overwhelming allied victory, rather than a possible negotiated settlement and peace deal. Subsequently Germany was bankrupted with war reparations. This resulted in enormous economic hardship and political instability - which in turn brought Hitler and the Nazis to power. **T**hus it can be argued that Nazi rule and WWII were the result - indirectly and inadvertently - of 'good men doing something', when they entered WWI in order to 'Fight for Peace.'

*This is the point pacifists wish to make:
One war is likely to lead to the next.*

*Winning a war will not invariably bring
peace - but preventing the next war will.*

Here is an - admittedly quite radical - continuation of the hypothesis as to how different our world would be if America had not intervened and 'Fought for Peace': Had the Second World War not happened, probably neither would have the Holocaust.

Without the Holocaust it is doubtful Israel would have been established, the Palestinians would not have been dispossessed and in all likelihood, the world would not be blighted with the Islamic terrorism that so defines our age. Fanciful speculation - yes, I agree.

*Actions have consequences.
One never knows what consequences Fighting for Peace will have;
quite possibly, though, not peace.*