

**PACIFISTS.** 'Pacifists are unrealistic. Rejecting any form of war, defensive or aggressive, is lunacy - nobody in their right mind would not fight back and defend themselves when they are attacked.\*  
**B**ut how big is the difference between aggression and violent defence? Most wars are fought by both sides under the pretext of 'defence', where one side defends against aggression, while the other may defend against a subversion.\*\* For militarists attack is the best defence. **P**acifists insist that nonviolence must replace 'Fighting for Peace'. Instead of trying to win wars, we must abandon wars. We may plan to be peaceful after the next war - yet, we must learn to do so before it. **S**ince ancient times, when warfare was seen to be conducted honourably by heroic warriors, we have developed a culture of war, in which we celebrate past wars and instil the war spirit in young men. **W**e thus maintain a cycle of violence that will lead to future wars. This cycle of violence must be broken. In the meantime, as wars prevail, the position of pacifists remains difficult during an attack; but while acknowledging this difficulty, we must strive to overcome the prevailing 'culture of war'. If we ever achieve a world without war, it will not be because the 'right' nations keep winning their 'righteous' wars, but because a pacifist state of mind is embraced. **E**ven though I may be deemed unrealistic, I'm proud to be a pacifist.

*\*I have earlier said (in my Pacifist Manifesto), if under attack - when a gun is pointed at your family - you do what is required of you (there is a fist in pacifist!)*

*So, what you do when you're attacked has nothing to do with the principles of being a pacifist; in fact, the argument in the above quote is a spurious digression.*

*\*\* This was the situation with the second Iraq war: The Iraqis defended against the USA's aggression - whereas the coalition defended their 'way of life'.*

*\*\* In Viet Nam the invaders were defending their sovereignty, while the invaders defended their values - against the feared subversion of communism.*

*I once had an email exchange with the presenter of a tv forum on the issue of the 'just war'. I said it was unfortunate that - in a religious program - on the panel of six there wasn't a single person who argued that a war is never just. In her response she used the phrase: 'Wars at times are necessary and useful'.*

*It is a truism that rarely a war has been fought where both sides didn't believe they were in the right; peace will break out, once both sides agree war is wrong.*

pac·i·fist

- 1. one who believes that violence, war, and the taking of lives are unacceptable ways of resolving conflicts*
- 2. a person who refuses to take up arms or participate in a war because of moral and/or religious beliefs*