

WAR. Our wars are just. War solves problems. War is patriotic. War sometimes is necessary. War creates empires. War unites. War defends our values. War protects our interests. War wins elections. War is easy - diplomacy is hard. War clarifies indecision - war gets on with it. War is a good career choice. War turns boys into men. War brings out the best in people - war creates heroes. War is God-sanctioned. War fascinates. War is a fact of life. War is good for industry and science - war makes money and spurs on innovation. **War** is murder. War is mutilation. War kills innocents. War is devilish. War is unconscionable. War is irresponsible. War is shortsighted. War is monstrous. War is insane. War is rape. War destroys - war is wasteful. War brings out the worst in people. War is stupid, elitist and discriminatory. War is unnecessary and counterproductive - war is ignorant. War corrupts. War is evil. War is depraved. War is criminal. War slaughters civilians - war devastates families and communities. War is vile. War is unethical. War is inhuman. War is hopeless.

And war is fiendishly expensive. The cost of the Iraq war to just the US was \$1,000,000,000,000. The Afghan war cost \$100,000,000,000 per year, \$2,000,000,000 per week, \$275,000,000 per day. It is estimated the health costs for veterans will add about \$2,000,000,000,000 over the years.

There must be better ways - I am convinced that the crushing costs of war outweigh the gains. War is a crime against humanity, against nature. No rationalisation will ever render any war just. We subject mothers, fathers, wives and children of slain soldiers to piteously painful suffering. Why do we inflict such privations on ourselves?

We train our soldiers to become killers and to endure and commit unspeakable horrors. We send many of our sons into the unfathomable abyss of depression, mental illness and suicide. A CBS News report by Armen Keteyian found that in 2005 alone, the suicide rate among US veterans was 120 each week:

“More US military personnel killed themselves in 2009, than were killed in either of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in that year. Children of Vietnam vets are three times as likely to kill themselves as the rest of the population. War doesn’t end when the soldiers come home.”

Julia Baird, The Sun-Herald, 15 Jan 2012

In his book Peace With Honour, A.A. Milne challenges his readers to look at war for what it is: Wrong. The book was written in 1934, a time with a shaky peace between the European countries. Milne cries out to the leaders of the European nations for true action toward peace. He reiterates the only way for peace to occur is for people to put aside their notions of conventional war and to look at war for what it truly is: An abomination. It must be renounced for the continuance of civilization.

“Gone are the days where war is fought on some distant battle field with hand to hand combat by professional soldiers. Now not only do soldiers pay the ultimate price - death - but so do innocent women and children. Now war is something unspeakable, where we conceive of bigger and better ways to obliterate our enemies ... with the push of a button. ‘We need to renounce war; war is of man’s own fostering, and if all mankind renounces it, then it is no longer there’.” www.goodreads.com

It must be noted that Milne later wrote War With Honour, where he viewed the war against Nazism as just.

Here is a terrific idea (after A.A. Milne): In the future leaders who propose war shall have their first-born sons killed immediately after the declaration of war. If they don’t have sons, they themselves shall be the first persons killed. How many first-born sons or leaders would die? None ... because there never will be war again.