

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 children. 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 very expensive. The cost of the Iraq war to the US alone was \$1,000,000,000,000.

The Afghan war costs \$100,000,000,000 per year, \$2,000,000,000 per week, \$300,000,000 per day.

It is estimated the health costs for veterans will add about \$2,000,000,000,000 over the years.

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.**

We subject mothers, fathers, wives and children of slain soldiers to piteously painful suffering.

Why do we inflict such privations on ourselves? To defend our positions? To protect our interests?

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.

**A CBS News report by Armen Keteyian found in 2005 alone, the suicide rate among 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.*

*Going sour on taste of war
Julia Baird, The Sun-Herald, 15 Jan 2012*

Update: Children of Vietnam vets are three times as likely to kill themselves as the rest of the population. War does not end when the soldiers come home. J.B.