

WAR



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Introduction:

- War is an important instrument of FP.
- It is the most destructive hence used as a last resort or ultimate instrument.
- When all other peaceful methods fails this method can be used.
- War is rightly regarded as a great curse to humanity.
- It is said that war is the continuation of FP by other means.
- To wage war is a sovereign right of a state in protecting its national interest.

Definitions of War:

- “War is a hostile contention by means of armed forces carried on between nations, states or rulers or two parties in the same nation” – Oxford Dictionary
- “War is the use of organized force between two human groups pursuing contradictory policies, each group seeking to impose its policy upon the other.” Hoffmann Nickerson.

Meaning of War:

- The meaning of war can be summed up as follows –
 1. It is an armed conflict between two or more nations,
 2. War is waged when other peaceful means of negotiation fails.
 3. War may be declared or undeclared,
 4. It is an instrument of national policy to impose its will on other,
 5. War is the last resort to achieve national interest or goals of national policies.

Thus war is an hostile contention between nations through organized forces for the main purpose of conquering other nations and imposing its will on the vanquished one.



Causes of War:

- Story of the human race is the story of wars” says Churchill.
- Causes of war are many and complicated. Some of them are listed as follows –
 1. **Cultural and Ideological causes:** It is observed that the conflicting cultures and ideologies are main causes of war –e.g.- The Indo – Pak war of 1971.

2.Economic Causes:

- Wars are caused in the past for various economic factors and causes like –
 - a. The urge to live prosperously,
 - b. To capture markets,
 - c. To eliminate trade barriers in international trade,
 - d. Manufacturers of weapons makes war inevitable, etc.

3. Political Causes:

- There are various political causes like –
 1. Territorial aggrandizement of nations,
 2. To consolidate the position of the political leaders,
 3. To divert the attention of the people from internal problems, etc



4. Social causes:

- Social factors also causes war like the following –
 1. Poverty, ill- health, illiteracy etc promotes social unrest and desperation.
 2. Unhappy people turns to unhealthy “isms” for example, the civil wars in Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia etc.





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5. Population explosion:

- Over population leads to the problem of securing land and to provide shelter and to grow more food for its millions.
- for example, Sino- Indian war of 1962 is one such type of war.
- Many nations follow the policy of aggression to secure additional territory.



6. The Nation-state System:

- The very existence of nation-state system is one of the permanent causes of war.
- The conflicting national interests among nations which may leads to dispute, tension and war.

7. Sovereignty & International law:

- Sovereignty of nations is also one of the cause of war.
- As every state finds the other nation turning to limit its sovereign power which leads to clash of interests.
- International law openly recognizes every nation's rights to wage war in defense of one's rights and interests.

8. Psychological Causes:

- War begins in the minds of the people.
- The feeling of insecurity is the chief cause of war.
- The psychological element and the tendency of taking revenge results in war.



9. Inadequate International system:

- The present international system has failed to check the explosive situations leading to war.
- Moreover, International law is also inadequate to resolve the conflict between the nations.
- It is said that war can be prevented only through the evolution of a new international order restricting national sovereignty.

10. Secret Alliances:

- Writers like Sydney B. Fay regard the secret alliances as the cause of war due to the fear and insecurity which they create among nations.
- One of the major cause for the outbreak of the I & II world wars was the conclusion of secret treaties between nations.

Functions/Utility/Effects of War:

- War serves certain useful purposes like the following –
 1. **Creation of New States:** Birth of many nations like USA, Britain, Russia, China, Japan, Bangladesh owes to wars.
- Likewise, the unification of Germany, Italy, India owes to war.

2. Rectification of injustice:

- Rectification of wrongs and enforcement of rights is another major function of war.
- It is a means of remedying unjust situation , of settling disputes and rectifying the wrongs.
- For example, it was through the Indo-Pak war of 1971 that the people of East Pakistan i.e. Bangladesh gained independence.

3. Safeguards Sovereignty:

- War is also essential for safeguarding the sovereignty of a nation.
- If a nation is attacked by any other country, it has to wage war to safeguard its territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- For example, the restoration of the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait was achieved through “Operation Desert” executed by the UN in 1990.

4. Instrument of Political Changes:

- ◉ War has redrawn the map of the world several times.
- ◉ It has put an end to imperialism, colonialism, etc.
- ◉ It also gave rise to nation-states, etc.
- ◉ Hegel has justified war by saying “War is to national life what winds are to the sea.”

5. Protection of National Interests:

- Every nation tends to resort to war as the last instrument of FP when all other means of pacific settlement of disputes prove futile.
- For example, the Kargil war of 1998 was waged by India in order to protect its territorial integrity.

6. Enhancement of moral and spiritual Values:

- War situations makes people more patriotic.
- War maintains the dedication and sacrificing qualities of individuals.
- For example, in India the people supported the governments during the time of war with China and Pakistan.
- War gives chance to people to express their solidarity against the enemy leading to greater unity of the nation.

7. Encourages New Inventions:

- War led to the invention of new things so as to win the wars.
- For example, gun powder, aero planes, submarines, tanks, missiles, etc were invented during the time of war.
- Many sophisticated arms and ammunitions have also been invented.

8. To overthrow the Capitalists:

- The communists regard war as an instrument for overthrowing the capitalistic order and to establish a socialistic society.
- In the words of Mao Tse Tung “Political power emerges only from guns the whole world must be recreated with guns”

9. Maintains Political Institutions:

- ◉ War tries to maintain a relative continuity and stability of institutions like diplomacy, international law, system of alliances, balance of power, League of Nations, UNO and so on.

10. Helps Modernisation:

- War helps modernisation as there will be economic development, greater agricultural productions and industrialization, etc.
- Greater the ability of a nation to make war the greater is the success of its FP.
- Foreign invasions brings peace at home and integrates the nation.

Remedies of War:

- The highly destructive nature of war has given rise to the efforts towards peace.
- Today much of the resources of the earth is spent for the production of the arms which otherwise can be spent for the well being of the masses.
- Following are the measures suggested as the cures of war -

1. Education on the horrors of war:

- Educating the people about the dangers of war is essential to rouse the conscience of mankind against war.
- People should be properly educated about the dangerous effects of war.
- People must be made to realize that war does not pay.
- People should be convinced that modern war is not beneficial either to the victor or to the vanquished & global war means total destruction of civilization.
- War is futile and does not solve any problems instead it create many new problems.

2. International law:

- The development of a perfect system of international law can avoid conflicts between nations and finally wars can be averted by encouraging pacific settlement of disputes.
- It is the law that governs the general conduct of nations in their mutual dealings.
- If all nations of the world strictly adhere to these rules, there will be no wars in this world.

3. Disarmaments:

- It means the deprivation of the very means of fighting.
- If the armaments are reduced to the minimum possible that can reduce evil effects war and ultimately the war itself.
- The countries of the world should not supply or sell any fighting material to each other.
- Thus disarmament may reduce war to a great extent.

4. International Organizations:

- One of the most effective remedy for the elimination of war is to develop international organization.
- Such an organization will enable a number of sovereign states to come together and discuss common problems.
- Such an organization will help nations to iron- out the mutual differences.
- The League of Nations and the UNO are examples of such organization to prevent war.

5. World government:

- It is suggested that the establishment of a world government and an effective system of enforcement of world law can go a long way in limiting and preventing war.
- It is believed that there could be no permanent peace in the world as long as the nation-state system exists.

6. Non-recognition of the fruits of Aggression:

- Another solution suggested to achieve world peace is that the gains of a nation by the use of force should not be recognize by other nations.
- Though it is an attractive suggestion it has its inherent limitations.
- It can influence only the weaker power and not major powers.



7. Renunciation of War:

- Renunciation of war through international agreements may also be suggested as an alternative to war.
- Renunciation of war by all peace loving nations of the world has a better chance for peace.
- By the pact of Paris (Kellogg-Briand pact) of 1928 about 60 nations joined hands and renounced war in this way.

8. Removal of Differences:

- Many nations of the world are suffering from distances and differences among them.
- They may be political, economic, ideological, religious, cultural, social, etc.
- These differences and gaps must be narrowed down to create a peaceful atmosphere which promotes peaceful settlement of disputes.

9. Deterrent theory:

- It is based on the principle that the more frightful the war becomes, the less likelihood of a war being fought.
- War can be avoided if every state possess sufficient armament so as to inflict crippling damage on an enemy.
- But the belief that the mutual threats in the long run prevent a war appears unrealistic.



Conclusion:

- Since modern war is a nuclear war which is highly destructive in nature.
- Such a war will certainly put an end to mankind itself.
- In the words of John F. Kennedy “mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind”
- But it goes without saying that wars cannot be completely eliminated.
- Therefore, efforts should be made to have fewer wars and smaller wars.



AYER MONUMENT

BAN ALL
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PEACE = JUSTICE