

My the kosovan-  
serbian war. the  
deep-seated,  
irreversible effects



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My captivation with International Relations stems from the accounts of my parents' refugee experiences in the Kosovan-Serbian war.

The deep-seated, irreversible effects of war on people's lives motivates me to learn more about how nations interact and the complex diplomacy governments face in the conquest to find resolution and peace. My interest led me to volunteer at an orphanage in Pristina, Kosovo, where I aided the workers in their tasks and interacted with the children. This allowed me to observe the effects conflict has on the development of children whose parents were killed during the war, and how they have had to adapt in a country that is still recovering. To my surprise, my observations unveiled that the children were oblivious to the happenings of the war and its consequences on their lives, which instilled in me a passion to study the effects of conflict on the current state of our lives, and understand the importance of how past international decisions affect our current circumstances. Mearsheimer's 'Tragedy of Great Power Politics' argues that super power rivalry is an intrinsic aspect of global politics. I agree that our international system is dominated by great powers who react aggressively in defense of their states, but the offensive realism that Mearsheimer's argument is based on has some unrealistic assumptions.

For example, the assumption that states are rational actors capable of creating sound strategies that maximises their prospects for survival falls apart when one considers the irrational and erratic behaviour of North Korea and its nuclear threats. The weakness in his theoretical standing incites my curiosity on whether there is a reliable way to gauge the true intention of a great power. The lack of care for reconciliation superpowers can show begs <https://assignbuster.com/my-the-kosovan-serbian-war-the-deep-seated-irreversible-effects/>

the question of what they deem more significant- peace or power?

International relations is a degree that will allow me to further my knowledge on how current affairs have reached their current position, whilst also deepening my understanding of where the future of global politics is headed.

Captivated by the relationship between peace and war, I listened to a podcast conducted by Dr Rob Johnson at the University of Oxford, regarding ‘The Changing Character of War’. He outlined the notion that the future is optimistic and war is becoming an decreasing trend in the world, with International institutions dissolving conflict through the use of peace treaties and talks. However, is the absence of war permanent? Johnson stressed that peace is not permanent and can revert to violence at any moment regardless of the countless efforts to abstain from it.

This makes me wonder as to why it is so easy for war to initiate at any time and how much effort are global constitutions actually placing. The thoughts triggered by Johnson’s podcast corroborates my aspiration to pursue international relations and enhance my inquisitive nature. Outside my academic studies I demonstrated my dedication through my extra curricular activities. I was successful in my campaign to be elected to the school council in year 12, which was a testament to my public speaking skills.

As the only female elected, I bore the extra responsibility to ensure female-specific issues were well rectified. I was also appointed to be House Captain, which required me to take responsibility for the students in my house as well providing peer support and be open minded for my peers to provide them with advice and motivation for their academics and personal issues. These

leadership experiences have made me excited to participate in a society such as the debating society alongside my studies at university, further enhancing my interpersonal sensitivity towards my peers. I await eagerly the opportunities to delve into my academic capability in further questioning the international complications in the world as well as making the most of university life.