

Book review: war! what is it good for?

Literature



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BUSTER**

Putting 100 years in perspective and compare the 100, 200 million people died from a population of 10 billion which makes a percentage of 1 to 2 who died violently. Those born in the 20th century are lucky as the average of violent death is 10 times less compared to those born in Stone Age. This text has one of the greatest paradoxes of human history as it states that war has made the world much safer now. War is considered as a massive murder and claiming that it has a positive consequence is not right, but the author argues to it as the philosopher Thomas Hobbes once concluded the same in the 1640s during the English Civil War.

Archeology has shown that people have been killing themselves for about 50,000 years and their population just increased by twice but during the Ice Age 10,000 BC where there were less wars, the plant and animal multiplied themselves at a very high rate. Before 10,000 BC all humans had been hunters and after 10,000 BC humans started farming. Later something unusual happened, the stronger started to include the weaker into larger societies. Slowly from Egypt to Peru many were adopting this method.

The stronger understood that to create larger societies they need to make a stronger government and this was done by suppressing violence among the subjects. Those who govern stop killing the well behaved as they are easier to govern and tax than those who are violent thus, this has resulted in a 90% decrease in violent death. It is true that not all government is good at delivering peace. Dictators like Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Saddam, tend to shoot, starve and gas a lot of people to make things done. Thus war has made states and states have made peace.

War may not be a pleasant way of making larger and useful societies but it was the only way that humans have found. The author argues that if conflicts could have been argued and resolved by discussion, humans could have greatly benefited from it. The author added that people use war as a way to make government. The larger and safer the societies, the richer the government. Peace can result in economical growth. So in a way war has enriched the world. The author concluded that somehow war has been beneficial as it has brought bigger societies, stronger government and brought peace and prosperity in the societies.

Nowadays, people live twice as long as those in 10,000 years before. War has not just brought peace and wealth but also made us good at fighting more efficiently, organized, and with bigger destructive weapons. Book Review: War! What Is It Good For? By perplex The atrocity of war cannot be overstated but, Ian Morris gives a different view about it. In 1945, mostly 100 million people died and the nuclear war began. Between the First World War and the civil war it is said to be the worst but also the best time of states that war has made the world much safer now.

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