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It can be clearly argued that a nation has got the full rights to decide whether it has to go or not to go to war. The question is why do wars occur? Wide range of answers can be given to this question but mainly it depends on what sort of conflicts a country is going through. Some countries undergo major conflicts while others may only deal with minor ones. There are a few circumstances that allow a nation to go to war immediately and at the same time some circumstances insists the country to make decision and not to go to war.   
There are mainly two prerequisites that help a country to decide in favor of or against war. The first prerequisite would be that as the cost of war is quite overwhelming therefore even if there is a very conflicting crisis situation a nation may decide not to go to war. Because once if the war is decided there is no backup. The second prerequisite is that instead of calculating or focusing on the costs associated with a certain war, the nation is more concerned about the anticipated gains that would be incurred. There benefits or gains may range from increment in resources. Increase in power, territory, glory, etc. Thus a nation has to weight gains against costs in order to establish whether it needs to go on a war or not.   
Similarly, there are some assumptions that decline the statement that nations are the ones who decide on war. It is argued that, it is the situation or current issues that lead to war. There are authorities that declare wars are caused due to current political climate and even if a country doesn’t want to, it is forced to participate in the war and if a nation denies for war then it has to bear some major consequences. Although this statement is right in its own way but usually, it is the nation that has the power to make the final decision. Because if war is forced upon a nation then it is most likely that the outcomes of such war would be extremely diminishing.   
Some of the additional circumstances that may lead a country to decide upon having or not having a war include a major reason that argues that if two nations or a group of nations are unable to reach a mutual decision or agreement with each other that is also beneficial for all of them, then there can be a situation of war but then again it depends on a single individual nation that what it decides to do.   
Some researchers argue that a country has to analyze all the related costs and benefits associated with war and if war occurs what would be the results. Another factor that allows a country to make its decision is the availability of resources, a country having unlimited resources is more likely to consider war as the best solution where as a nation comprising of limited resources has to think hard in order to make the final decision of going or not going on a war. Another factor determining war or no war is the political climate of a country. A country with unstable and poor political climate is most likely to withdraw from any type of war at all where as a country with strong political background doesn’t find it an issue to go to war anytime in order to fulfill its personal purposes.   
Arguments show that religion is another reason that causes war among nations. No two countries are the same they may differ in terms of size, population growth, literacy rate, ethnicity and religion. Devotedly religious nations may conflict with each other especially if there are huge differences in their religious values. Apart from religion, revenge, ethnic and ideological thinking may also influence a nation to go or not to go on a war.   
There are a few circumstances in which a nation may have to decide to go to war instantly. For example, if a nation is attacked by another nation, no one will sit back and relax, instead war against the other nation would be declared immediately. And in some cases, if a nation was unable to take any appropriate steps at the time of attack, it may decide to take revenge later sometime. Some nations go to war just to protect themselves from the evils of other nations. For instance, America declared war against Afghanistan just to protect its borders and inland security whereas Afghanistan is not even close by America but still this country has bothered American to such an extent that America decided to go on war with Afghanistan.