

Prevention of Wars. Yes or No? (Anti-War Appeal No. 1451941)

Wars have flooded the nearby world and the media. Ukraine, Gaza... Even Putin, in response to proposals for involving foreign troops in the fighting in Ukraine, is threatening nuclear war and the end of humanity. So, as a long-time chess player, I started thinking about the causes of current wars and how to prevent them. Even doctors say it's better to prevent diseases than to treat them. For economists: it's also much cheaper! Probably, the causes and prevention, apart from Mr. Joukl, should be addressed by all the governments of the world. Our country may not be a great power, but our government could at least try to introduce this as a topic in the EU or the UN. Luxembourg is heard even though it's much smaller (30x smaller).

But... why would governments actually do this? After all, they benefit from having various external and internal enemies. It's easier and simpler for them to rule because they can justify various unpopular measures with the existence of enemies. And since dictatorship is much quicker at decision-making than democracy, and quick decisions are necessary in wars, democracies can even transition into dictatorships.

Frequent disputes are also about state territories. There are still many disputed territories that the UN should address as a priority. The current list mentions around 150 of them. For example, recently (on March 5), there was a conflict between China and the Philippines over ships. Why isn't our government more active in this?

Wars are also fought over natural resources, even though the cause is often not immediately visible. How about considering the voluntary transfer of some newly discovered natural resources to the UN? For example, with the condition that the country where the resources are located receives a certain percentage of the profits from mining.

The number of foreigners (mainly from neighboring countries) living permanently in a country is also a risky factor for war. The claim that they are being harmed is often used by neighboring states as a reason to invade. Hitler used this as a pretext to invade Czechoslovakia and Poland, and Putin used it to invade Ukraine. (Though we also have Russians here, and Putin might try to "save" them.) I estimate (but it needs to be confirmed by experts) that the relatively safe limit for the proportion of foreigners in a country is 5 %. So, why do we have so many foreigners in the country? For example, because some of our citizens are unwilling to do lower-status jobs, so foreigners are hired for those jobs.

The UN could ensure peace in the world with its forces, for example, by forcing every warring aggressor to retreat to its borders. However, the countries in the UN Security Council have veto power. Therefore, when a state from the Security Council commits aggression, the UN is powerless. This should be changed, or else the UN remains "toothless." (In a democracy, there is no veto power.)

The economic opportunities of non-participating countries also play a role. After a war, many reconstruction contracts fall into their laps. And this is an opportunity for the growth of their GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

It's absurd, but wars in a way also suit the media, because it's a grateful topic that citizens are interested in. Therefore, I don't have high hopes that this article will be very popular among politicians and some media.

A few days ago, I received a message on Facebook: "As soon as humanity understands that the enemy is not the one we are forced to fight against, but the one who forces us to fight, wars will end!" And so I started writing.

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