UNIT 15: WAR AND ITS MORAL IMPLICATIONS

UNIT STRUCTURE

15.1 Learning Objectives

15.2 Introduction

15.3 Concept of War

15.4 Arguments in Favour of War

15.5 Arguments against War

15.6 Whether War is morally justified

15.7 Conclusion

15.8 Let us sum up

15.9 Further reading

15.10 Model questions

15.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this chapter, you will be able to :-

- Understand what is war,
- Analyse the justification of war,
- Analyse the negative effects of war,
- know whether war is morally right.

15.2 INTRODUCTION

War is a state of aggression between groups of people over territories, resources, culture or other matters. It involves a huge destruction. In this chapter, we shall discuss the concept of war, the grounds of justification of war, the negative effects of war and whether war is morally justified. War cannot be accepted and must be avoided as it creates a lot of destruction, a heavy loss of those who involve in war. But in some cases war cannot be avoided. In fact, in some cases, without war there would be social injustices, political relinquish dominations by other groups and many other negative impacts. In this chapter we shall discuss to what extent the war is justified and what are the negative impacts of war.

15.3 CONCEPT OF WAR

War is a stat of conflict which occurs due to disagreement between two or more persons or groups over resources, land, culture, religion or any other matters. It is an extreme form of violence that involves destruction, aggression and mortality. Most of the war leads to death, destruction of resources, equipments and infrastructure. It is a means to achieve a goal, a weapon used for good or bad purposes. Sometimes the purposes of war have been accepted as worthwhile ends such as obtaining ones rights, equality, justice and such other cases. But it is very harmful as it involves a lot of destruction. In the state of war, it involves competition, or hostility between different people or groups. It creates an undesirable situation. The effects of war, at most times, take a lot of time to get back to its normal position.

There are certain causes of war which can be discussed as follows:-

The main reason for the occurrence of war is “wealth”. War between countries or people takes place due to economy. Every country or every individual try to be economically powerful. It occurs due to valuable goods and natural resources. Every country tries to occupy the wealth of other nations.

Besides wealth, every state tries to increase their power by extending their land. Thus, war also takes place for territory. They want to expand their area of rule which leads to conflict between them. They might also need land for the purpose of living, agriculture and other such purposes.

War also takes place due to religious belief. Many people try to spread their religious practices regardless of the sentiments of other religious believers. They consider their religion to be superior and force other religious persons to adopt and follow their religion. It leads to a drastic condition and war takes place.

The most common reason of war is to take revenge. When something wrong has been done to a person or a group of persons or

a nation then that person, group or nation try to take revenge which leads to a continuous, never ending process of chain.

Again, war may also take place due to internal disagreement between a group or a nation. It occurs when they are not satisfied with their ruler, when they want to form a separate independent nation or group.

15.4 ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF WAR

As we have come across the concept of war, now let us see whether war is justified. We already know that war involves a lot of destruction and losses of innocent lives. The effects of war is horrible. It creates more loss than profit. But in some cases war is justified which can be discussed as follows:-

Support to underdeveloped and developing countries:- Sometimes, the developing countries in order to show their power and position and to increase their power fight with the underdeveloped and developing countries. It leads to a lot of destructions between both the countries. Destruction is more in case of weak, underdeveloped and developing countries. In such cases it would be justified to support the weak, underdeveloped and developing countries in its war.

Protection of one's Religion :- In many cases the religious dominations can be seen where one religion dominates others and tries to prove its religion as superior than that of others. In that case, war can be justified to protect one's own religion and protect and to protect the interest of the nation.

War against terrorist supporters :- War sometimes is also justified against a country that protects a terrorists group. A terrorist attack is harmful for the entire world. But if a country for its own benefits protects a terrorist group then war against that country can be justified.

Protection of territory :- The protection of one's own territory from the capture of other countries can also be considered as the condition where war is justified. It can be generally seen that war takes place

between countries when a country tries to occupy other country. Thus, in order to protect one's own territory from being captured by other countries, war is justified.

15.5 ARGUMENTS AGAINST WAR

Although war can be supported to some extent but it is not completely acceptable. Let us discuss the effects of war :-

Loss of lives :-

War leads to loss of lives of many innocents. It is basically the soldiers who lose their lives in order to protect their interest by fighting with their oppositions. They are bound for their duty's sake.

Financial loss:- Due to war, there arises financial crisis. The whole economy of the country drained out. A huge amount of money is flushed out in equipments, training of soldiers, infrastructure, etc. Destruction of capital leads to economic losses which in turn lead to inflation. Government raise taxes on even basic goods in order to fill up the financial loss. Displacement of people during war cannot lead them to restart their economic activities in the same place which leads to great economic loss.

Emotional breakdown: - In the post war period, the soldiers' families who lose their near and dear ones have an emotional breakdown. They take a lot of time to get back to their normal situation. In fact, the soldiers who donot loss their lives in battle pass through a traumatic conditions that require a lot of time to get back to their normal state.

Environmental Destruction :- During war, environment gets affected a lot. It capture environment gets affected a lot. It pollutes the air, destroys the living as well as the non-living organisms. Widespread deforestation, unchecked hunting, soil erosion and contamination of land and water by human waste occur when thousands of humans are forced to settle in a new area.

15.6 WHETHER WAR IS MORALLY JUSTIFIED

From the previous discussions it is clear that nothing is more appropriate than accepting war as morally wrong as it leads to a massive destruction. Every country wants peace, economic stability and political justice. But these wants would be destroyed by going for a war. War only leads to destruction. No country teaches its citizens to go for a war. But countries go for war when their ideologies do not match. They go for war for various reasons such as political control over territories, expansion of economic power, and such other causes. In that cases it can be said that war i not at all justified. But in certain other cases such as war for social justice, equality, protection of one's own nation, war is justified. But in nowhere it is justified to say that war has any ethical value. War is completely unethical as it creates nothing other than destruction. Thus, it would be more appropriate to disregard war as morally justified.

15.7 CONCLUSION

From this chapter we can conclude that war, on some conditions is justified and war also have many negative effects. It always leads to destructions. It creates a heavy loss of people, economy and environment. It creates fear among masses. The effects of war lead a lot of time to get basck to their original state. Sometimes, the effects of war cannot totally be recovered. Thus, war must be avoided. but we have also discussed that in some cases war is unavoidable such as in case of religious dominations by other groups, political control by other individuals, social injustice but we have also discussed that in some cases war is unavoidable such as in case of religious dominations by other groups, political control by other individuals, social injustice and such other cases. Thus, we must stress on reasons of war. We must see on what grounds the war takes place. If the reason is justified then in such cases the war is also justified. But in no cases it can be said that war has ethical values. War cannot be morally justified at any cost.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is a war?

Q 2: What are the reasons of war?

Q 3: Is war completely justified?

Q 4: Is war morally justified?



15.8 LET US SUM UP

- War is a state of conflict which occurs due to disagreement between two or more persons or groups over resources, land culture, religion or any other matters.
- War is a means to achieve a goal, a weapon used for good or bad purposes.
- The reasons for the occurrence of war are wealth, extension of land, religious belief, revenge, or internal disagreement between a group or a nation.
- War is justified in certain other cases in order to protect one's own territory, resist the dominations of one's own religion by other religion, fight against the countries which provide shelter to the terrorists support the underdeveloped and developing countries during their war with developed countries.
- War is not totally acceptable as it leads to loss of life, property, financial loss, emotional breakdown and environmental destruction.
- Every country wants peace, economic stability, social justice, equality and political justice.
- War leads to massive destruction.
- Although war is acceptable in some cases but it cannot be considered as morally right.



15.9 FURTHER READING

1) Ghai, K.K. International Relations. Kalyani Publishers.

2) Ghosh Peu. International Relations. PHI publishing.

Khanna V.N. International Relations. Vikash Publishing House.



ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1 : War is a state of conflict which occurs due to disagreement between two or more persons or groups over resources, land, culture, religion or any other matters.

Ans to Q No 2 : The reasons of war are – wealth, extension of land, religious beliefs, revenge or internal disagreement between a group or a nation.

Ans to Q No 3 : No.

Ans to Q No 4 : No.



15.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A. Very Short questions

Q 1: What is a war?

Q 2: What is the main reason for the occurrence of war?

Q 3: Is war justified?

Q 4: What are the negative effects of war?

B. Short questions (Answer in about 150 words)

Q 1: Discuss the concept of war.

Q 2: What are the reasons of the occurrence of war? Discuss briefly.

Q 3: Discuss briefly the conditions under which the war is justified.

C. Long Questions (Answer in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Is war morally justified?

Q 2: Analyse the justification of war.

Q 3: "War leads to massive destruction". Discuss.

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