

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OUR FUTURE: WHAT LESSONS SHOULD WE LEARN FROM THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE?

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“When two bulls fight, it is the grass that suffers” – A Swahili Proverb

Nuclear. War. Armament. Three different words that spells danger, famine and death. Three despicable words that cause mass destruction. Three cursed words that leaves resentments in hearts, minds and souls.

For too long, the world superpowers have been involved in a clandestine chest game of arms race with decades of deceit, fuelled by threats of nuclear war. There seems to be no *checkmate* whatsoever, just escalating military expenditures.

It is pivotal to understand that, unfortunately, abolishing nuclear war will be difficult. However, war should always be looked at as the absolute last resort in confrontational situations amongst countries. And this is where the Russia-Ukraine war comes in.

It is clearly evident that Russia made an inappropriate response to Ukraine by choosing war. Could a reason for Russia taking such drastic and highly-deadly decision lay on the ideology of bringing back the former glory that once was? Well, it is not known. What is known, however, is that the Russia-Ukraine war has portrayed, now more than ever, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is a great concern on an international scale and this has only intensified the due need for **disarmament**

Disarmament in an Age of Insecurity

Disarmament, the *necessity* that is. The call for disarmament can be traced back decades before our present time. It is an act that is crucial against the nuclear arms race and the radioactivity released by such nuclear weapons. It is an act that protects the human, political, social, and psychological welfare.

Unfortunately, there has been no real disarmament accomplished, the pushing of disarmament has hardly brought forth anything tangible. The Russia-Ukraine war simply highlights just how the world superpowers have not taken the act of disarmament as seriously as it needs to be taken.

The effects of nuclear war have left scars permanently marked in the hearts and minds of innocent civilians, it has left deformations on their off springs, it has left people *hopeless, helpless* and *faithless*. It has been said before and I shall repeat it: *No one actually wins a war*. We are in a point in time wherein individuals' lives are unnecessary tested on the grounds of resiliency; people are getting shoved to a corner day by day, a corner none of us would ever want to be in. We are constantly on edge, constantly anxious, constantly hoping and praying that the day we wake up won't be our last peaceful day.

An immense amount of resources, which could be distributed towards the reduction of hunger, poverty, and disastrous diseases, are simply wasted in the ever-growing arms race. We are witnessing deadly weapons that are easier to handle, which shoots faster arms with much greater accuracy. It can absolutely come across that nations have no other choice but to adapt towards such new deadly weapons or be vulnerable towards becoming occupied nations.

A certain number of nations may view disarmament as surrendering an advantage. It can be argued by some that an issue with disarmament is that it makes it harder for nations to feel secure as they need an element of surprise. With that said, something that is failed to be recognised is that the

existence of nuclear weapons in any nation would make said nation a target for any plausible nuclear attacks.

Weapons of mass destruction are used to express the power and supremacy of nations while also being a medium used to raise/bring back other nations' former glory. This is making already dire situations become overwhelmingly tense which calls for the act of surrendering wants for the sake of what is needed. The need to have onsite inspections conducted (unplanned, of course), which will undoubtedly threaten any deadly nuclear secret work is growing paramount by the second.

War doesn't strictly affect the nations that are engaged in it, its effects crosses the borders it is confined in. With the Russia-Ukraine war, we can see that happening with: rise in inflation, shortage of food supplies, displaced individuals becoming illegal immigrants and much more. War has nonetheless left its mark on the mind-set of men. It doesn't simply stop until we not only say it is time to stop but when we also collectively decide that enough is enough and understand this has gotten way too far, way too quickly. Until then, we all will forever find ourselves within a *hamster wheel*: going round in circles until exhaustion creeps up upon us due to nothing feasible being done and then, finally, coming to a halt. The moment we come to a halt is the moment it really will be far too late, wherein all hope has ceased to exist, wherein our futures are far too bleak.

Takeaways

It is important to note that nuclear power is definitely not the problem here as it is needed to have valuable resources conserved. The problem here is the fact there seems to be an irresponsible, damaging misuse of such nuclear power simply in order to stroke various egos.

War has absolutely nothing to do with humanity, however it seems to be as much a human thing as breathing, which, in itself, is ever so unfortunate. Wars fought with nuclear weapons and increasingly delegated power could push already escalating conflicts to their tipping point.

As much as individuals and innocent civilians crave disarmament, at the end of the day, the people that can bring it into fruition are those with the power to do so.

We need resilient performers and purposeful collaborators that are aware of the difficulties at hand, strong-willed and proactive towards maximising outcomes. Such leaders are absolutely crucial towards strengthening the fight against armaments and if they fail to be resilient, strong-willed and purposeful, well, as the saying goes, *many who try to **conquer it**, end up being **seduced** by it and then become **a part of it**.*