

War: A Chisel for Carving Out Peace?

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The great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once wrote, "Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows." Wars have many consequences. People lose their lives, billions of dollars are wasted, and each side blames the other.

The worst consequence of war is that many lives are lost and families are destroyed. Wives

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lose their husbands, children lose their parents, and parents lose their children.

Many people experience the emotional trauma of losing a loved one. Soldiers

experience the trauma of losing limbs or of losing their fellow soldiers. They experience the nightmare of killing others.

In addition to all this death and destruction, wars are expensive. The United States spends billions of dollars each year on weapons and technology for fighting wars. Meanwhile, our country goes further into debt and our domestic programs are cut. And what about the countries we are bombing? Who will pay for them to rebuild?

Lastly, there is the blame game. One country blames the other for broken promises. Our own citizens blame the president or Congress for not bringing peace. The Democrats and the Republicans blame one another for taking the country down the wrong path. Some people become so disgruntled and frustrated that they even blame the Good Lord Himself. With everyone pointing the finger at someone else, no one takes responsibility for their role. Wars push us into corners and make it harder for us to resolve our differences.

"War, what is it good for?" asked the singer Edwin Starr in his 1969 song. And then he answered: "Absolutely nothing." Wars do not chisel peaceful tomorrows, but instead, they wreak havoc and mayhem. Loved ones die, billions of dollars are spent on destruction, and each side blames the other for the lack of peace. When what we are looking for is peaceful tomorrows, wars only remind us of our painful yesterdays.



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War: What is it Good For?

by Edwin Starr

War, I despise
Cause it means destruction of innocent lives
War means tears in thousands of mothers' eyes
When their sons go out to fight
And lose their lives

War ain't nothing but a heartbreaker
Friend only to the undertaker ...

They say we must fight to keep our freedom
But Lord, there's just got to be a better way ...

Using Metaphor

Try writing your own version of the quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. Replace "poor" with a positive word (such as "good" or "effective"). Replace "Wars" with a (singular) word of your choice:

"_____ is a(n) _____
chisel for carving out peaceful tomorrows."



A chisel is a tool used by woodworkers.