



# Harmony in a discordant world: Exploring pathways to peace.

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**Abstract:-** Human civilization has been a witness to several instances of trauma, resulting from war, natural calamities, poverty, and many other heart wrenching episodes of human suffering. Political instability, inter-faith skirmishes, and state sponsored attacks by dictators are a few to mention, that made the society to drive its progress backwards and made the mankind suffer a lot, since ever. Apart from the human lead disasters, nature has also had its say on this, resulting in even extinction of some of the most powerful species of flora and fauna from the universe. Floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, droughts, meteorite strikes, and flash-floods are a few to be blamed for causing a lot of trauma and suffering. It is, however possible for mankind to reconcile the trauma caused by the natural disasters, but a man-made disaster now, in the form of a nuclear war, would prove non-negotiable for human survival, and would be a potential catastrophe. Economic, political, religious, and corporate fronts at the global level could pave way to potential physical, as well as mental trauma, that could spread to every nook and corner of the globe, if not contained beforehand.

**Keywords:-** *Nukes, catastrophe, existence, holocaust, ethnic cleansing.*

**Introduction:** The ordeal of mankind brought about by natural phenomenon and human actions has since ages affected the life on the planet. Be it the 'Jebel Sahaba,' or the 'World wars,' history bears witness to everything and calls for action at an earliest once and always. The process of globalization and the progress of nations has met several barricades and has gone through several phases, with every bit of it donning the throb of immaturity, chaos, servility, and atrocities, and on every such occasion, humanity had to suffer [1]. Ever since the beginning, those in power and their supporters have trenched the weak, adding to their miseries, resulting in further tribulations. Some support their atrocious and impish actions by ignominiously outbursting on their opponent by proclaiming that they have every right to defend their territory, while as others do so by the canards that they cannot compromise on the safety of their citizens. Defending a territory and safeguarding the lives, property, and rights of your citizens must be a priority, but not on the blood of your enemy; not at the cost of lives of babies, women, weak, destitute, and other innocent lives; not at the cost of property, crop, resources, and state; not at the cost of healthcare facilities, schools, houses, roads, and infrastructure; and not at the cost of your emotions, heart breaks, and cries[2]. The holocaust, the ethnic

cleansing, the nuking of twin cities, the terrorist attacks on twin towers, and the attacks on Churches, Mosques, and religious gatherings anywhere in the world are some of the episodes which should have never taken place on this planet. Similarly, snatching someone's land and ostracizing their rights, limiting their resources to the extent that does not even meet their demands, raping minor, and elderly women, killing voracious kids and doing that effervescently, would just create adroit and gamut militia, and stubborn reprobates, who would never intimidate your armies, rather perilously ostracize you of what you seek, demand, ask, and snuggle with.

Contemptuous and remiss leaders have since times immemorial, wrecked the states, snatched the rights of people, and made them scapegoats in order to make a scintillating state of their own, in order to meet their tantrums. From one of the first ever recorded such instances known as 'Jebel Sahaba' dating back to 16550 BC, took place between the social groups of the Nile Valley, resulting in the deaths of about 41 people, for crop possession (*crop failure being the reason*), to the Israel-Palestine (2023), and Ukraine-Russia (2022-23) conflicts, resulting in thousands of deaths, millions wounded and displaced, losses of property and infrastructure worth billions and counting; these are all the instances that have brought sadness on the faces of global peace lovers and the disturbing portraits have made every heart cry [3]. Use of the weapons of mass destruction, as well as those banned by the UN, are believed to be used by nations against their opponents. Religious leaders across the world, as well as the religious bodies are pleading for peace in the congregations and sermons, citing various religious texts, which say not to harm a living being, be it an insect, a tree, an animal, or a human being, but to no avail. After the World War-II, our planet is facing higher risks of a war than ever, and if anything like that happens, it would be a catastrophe, whereafter hardly a prosperous state could be found on the globe. The world faces the challenges of a nuclear war, and nuking a country is always an option on table for a nuclear-powered state.

According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 1.6 million people fall victims to violence globally, every year, with a larger number of injuries, resulting from physical violence, sexual violence, and violence against women, children, and other weaker sections of the society, resulting in mental health problems to the victims, their families, and colleagues [4]. Children, in the most impressionable years of their life are subjected to corporal punishment and bullying at school, while as women are subjected to sexual encounters at school and work places. Corporal punishment was once considered by many as good for the children, as it would help them in doing their homework and help them solve problems. But it was later found that any sort of punishment would make the kid mentally weak and could lead to a bad state of affairs. Violence in all its forms is a huge burden on humans, as it blocks every road to success and prosperity. What adds salt to the wounds of peace lovers is that the world spends more on the production and sale of arms, ammunition, and other military equipment than it does on food and medicine, annually. Arms trade needs to be stopped and campaigns against arms trade should be launched by the UN and its sister organizations to make this planet a habitable place once more. The developed nations in general earn most of their riches through the sale of arms and military equipment and machinery. The two most powerful nations, USA & Russia develop and export most of the equipment and arms in the world, to their respective allies. When in the arms of outlaws and terrorists, these arms can prove ruthless weapons of mass destruction.

The whole world is progressing at a faster rate and the developments can be seen in all the walks of life. Science and technology has been growing at a never before seen pace, while as the bio-medical industry and education has also been doing wonders for the past few decades. Our planet is on verge of going completely free of some of the most chronic diseases, that used to kill thousands of people in the past. The advancement in the agriculture and horticulture industry has made it possible for a nation to feed its population almost entirely, besides exporting much of its produce to help in the economic development. Every sector of life, be it technology, transport, medicine, software, commerce, and agriculture, etc., we find ourselves on the right path that could lead us to success and achieve more greatness than ever. Electronic, social, and print media have also contributed a lot in these developments and have been integrally contributing to the global peace and prosperity, by helping us share our content with the rest of the world.

Despite these developments, the global powers cannot afford a war like situation, biologically, economically, or militarily, as our economic conditions do not allow us to take one. Our economy shall support our collective development, in the form of healthcare, infrastructure, and education. The whole planet bears witness to the episode, when even the mightiest economies of the world surrendered before the Covid-19 pandemic [5]. Millions of jobs were cut without a prior intimidation to the sacked people, developmental projects were stopped, local aid and supplies to refugees were put on hold during the pandemic. Globally, hardly did anyone talk about developmental projects and perspectives during that time. What the world has learnt from this episode of suffering is that it cannot afford a war or anything equivalent to that and that peace must prevail. Nobody wants to see human sufferings in the form of destruction and devastation of physical structure, a weakened social, economic, and political society, and the loss of human lives on a large scale [6]. “The first line of the United Nations Charter commits us to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,” were the opening remarks of the then UN General Assembly President **Miroslav Lajčák**, during a High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in April 2018. Referring to what the UNGA President said, **Secretary-General António Guterres** also made an emphasis on the need to strengthen partnerships around all efforts, and at every stage, from conflict prevention and resolution to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and long-term development. The leaders of responsible states have time and again presented their views on peace and peacebuilding at the global level. Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi has presented India’s credentials as ‘a messenger of peace, rather than of war or dissension.’ ‘Peace has no losers,’ the President of Turkey, **Mr Erdogan** said in the UN General Assembly, while referring to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, and vowing to step up efforts to end the war.

Towards the attainment of harmony in the society, a lot needs to be improved and many steps need to be taken at an earliest. We have a history of coming back to harmony after some serious episodes of humanitarian crisis and war, that took millions of lives and displaced millions[7]. One such step is to take up Gandhian non-violence, which he himself quoted as ‘non-violence is the rule of conduct for a society, if it is to live consistently with human dignity and make total progress towards the attainment of peace.’ Disarmament and demilitarization are amongst the leading factors that could help peace to prevail, but none has shown a sign to do so, rather every state is growing its nuclear as well as non-nuclear arsenal, as if there are preparations going on for another catastrophe. Promoting understanding between the states and their

leadership and military Generals, holding diplomatic talks and meetings, holding open dialogues between leaders, addressing economic inequalities, fostering education, and encouraging international cooperation, are some of the credentials that need to be followed by all in order to ensure peace and harmony in the world. For the purpose of achieving peace, promoting understanding between the nations holds a pivotal position, and the prevalence of peace without the promotion of understanding is not only difficult, but also impossible. It does so by encouraging tolerance and empathy, besides reducing misconceptions, and fostering respect for diverse perspectives. Understanding each other's viewpoints can help in decreasing hostilities, and increasing cooperation, thus contributing towards a peaceful world [8].

Fostering education plays a decisive role in the harmonious development of a nation, as it promotes critical thinking, tolerance, and cross-cultural understanding. It also authorizes individuals to engage in productive discussion, lessens ignorance, and helps in addressing the root causes of conflict, thereby contributing to a more informed and peaceful society. In the similar way, cross-cultural cooperation can also pave way to harmonious world, as it also can help in fostering understanding and reducing misconceptions and misunderstandings, thereby building trust among the diverse groups/states. It does so by the promotion of communication, empathy, and bringing to fore the shared goals, which can help in conflict resolution. Diplomatic talks can also help in peacekeeping, by providing a chance and a platform to the parties involved in a conflict to negotiate, discuss grievances, and in finding a mutually acceptable solution. If the diplomacy is used in an effective manner, it can help in addressing the root causes of a conflict and therefore help in peacekeeping more than anything else in the world. Unlike these policies and steps, religion has also its role in peacekeeping, however, it can have an impact on it also. If the beliefs are not shared between the two parties and their religions, it can worsen the situation more, and can contribute to further rise in tensions. However, religion can have a positive impact too, by fostering interfaith dialogue, promoting shared values, and providing a foundation for ethical considerations [9]. Trade and business can also play a very significant role in peacekeeping by fostering economic interdependence between the nations, as it creates mutual interests, promotes development, reduces poverty, and creates employment opportunities, which collectively adds to the economic development of both the nations, virtually helping in the harmonious development and peacekeeping. There are more options for nations to choose opulence over destruction and devastation, more chances of freedom and development than war and suffering, and every step that we take towards peace and development, guarantees us of a peaceful, secure, and harmonious relations with the rest of the world.

**Conclusion:-** We live in a world, where we have to face a number of chaotic situations, where frustration, confusion, and erosion of humanistic values is so common that nobody, whether in cradle or inside of a fort feels safe. The situation is getting from bad to worse with every passing day and this deteriorating situation calls for an immediate action on part of every individual dwelling this planet. Being part of a glorious world would surely have a different meaning than what it means to be in a materialistic world, and this calls for an immediate solution to all the existing threats to humanity, in the form of nuclear weapons, biological, and chemical warfare. In addition to this, we have gross economic, food, water, and soil related issues, that need immediate attention. However, there are so many organizations that are working for the collective welfare of the humanity; for those who need food, shelter, education, mental health attention and treatment, schooling,

education, and treatment, like UNICEF and WHO, and we need more people to work either in coordination with these organizations or work voluntarily to ensure poor, destitute, and needy people are given necessary attention and love.

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