The Examination of War throughout History

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Prehistoric Times & Hunter - gatherer societies

- There is very little evidence of war in the hunter - gatherer societies, as their primary focus was on obtaining enough food to eat and survive.
- However, there was evidence that some hunter - gatherers came into conflict with each other, despite lacking any property and not settling down in one area (Wade, 2016).
- They were able to create weapons and tools such as bows and arrows in order to hunt larger prey (Rampersaud, 2020a).
- The invention of these weapons is especially significant, due to the fact that they were later used by agricultural societies to wage war against each other, for varied reasons.

Image 1: Tools used by hunter - gatherers

Tools used by hunter - gatherers in order to hunt and possibly for war. Image citation:

Maloy, R. W. (2020, November 8). *Hunter-Gatherer Societies of the Paleolithic Age*.
      Resourcesforhistoryteachers.http://resourcesforhistoryteachers.pbworks.com/w/page/124506235/
      unter-Gatherer%20Societies%20of%20the%20Paleolithic%20Age

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The Ancient World (3,000 BCE - 700 BCE) & The Classical World (700 BCE - 600 CE)

- As the hunter - gatherers began to settle down around 10,000 years ago, agriculture and domestication of wild animals became prevalent and key for human survival.
- The rise of empires took place following agriculture, in order to protect resources and livestock, which was the case with the Sumerian Empire (Parker, 54).
- War was a common tool used by different rulers to acquire new territory and expand their resources (Rampersaud, 2020b).
- The creation of civilization lead to the increase of wars as well as the reason for different empires to go to war.
- The Classical World saw the introduction of different ideologies and methods for governing empires.
- Areas such as Greece saw many conflicts arise between them and other kingdoms, such as with Persia, where the Greco-Persian war was the result of a rebellion led by Greeks against the Persians (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Greco-Persian Wars", 2020).
- This period also saw the development of democracy, mainly in Greece, which illustrates a different type of government dealing with war (Parker, 90).
- The introduction of religions, such as Buddhism in India also took place, providing another reason for kingdoms to go to war (Parker, 119).
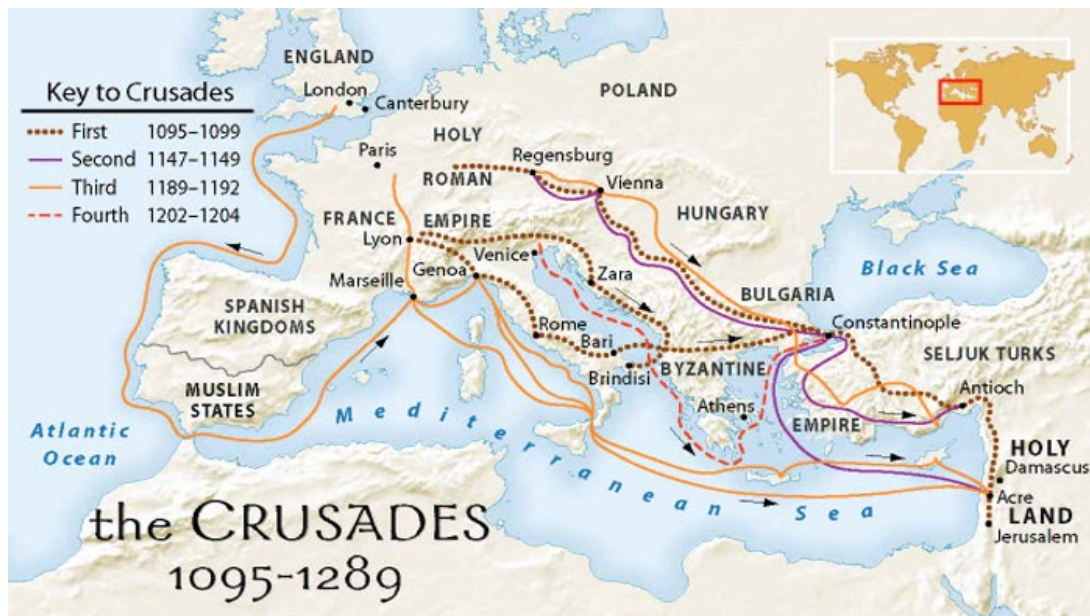
The Medieval World (600 CE - 1450 CE)

- During the Medieval World, there were many developments and conflicts between different kingdoms.
- For example, the Crusades was one of the largest wars fought in history up to this point in time, due to the Christians' desire to control their Holy Land in the Middle East, which was under the control of a Turkish Muslim kingdom (Rampersaud, 2020c).
- The Mongol Empire also existed during this time period through numerous wars with kingdoms in China, India, etc., conquering much of Asia and the Middle East, establishing trade networks across all of Eurasia (China's "Golden Age": The Song, the Mongols, and the Ming Voyages).
- The concept of war fluctuated during this time in Eurasia, primarily due to religious differences and desire for trade, also seen in Africa during this time.

Image 2: A map of the Crusades

A map of the Crusades, depicting the Holy Land that war was waged over. Image citation:

Williamson, M. (2020, July 2). *The First Crusades*. Weapons and Warfare.

   https://weaponsandwarfare.com/2020/07/02/the-first-crusades/

Sub-Saharan Africa & the Americas during the Medieval World

- During this period of time, there were many different African empires that rose and fell, growing to extreme lengths and gaining vast amounts of wealth.
- For example, the Songhay took control of the trade routes involving gold and salt from the Mali Empire through war and battles, showing that control over certain commodities was a reason for going to war (Parker, 160).
- The notion that war is caused by the desire for more resources and trade routes shows the slight shift from the ancient world, where the motive behind war was to protect one's interests and property.
- In the Americas, different empires were formed, such as the Mayan and Incan empires in South America and Cahokia and Hohokam in North America, which saw their fair share of wars and conflicts (Rampersaud, 2020d).
- The Aztecs formed another empire in South America through the use of war and exploitation in order to expand their territory and tributaries (Parker, 182).
- War was not redefined during this time period in the Americas but it was used as a tool to acquire more territory and more subjects for empires such as the Aztec. This is seemingly different than the following time period, the World of Empires.
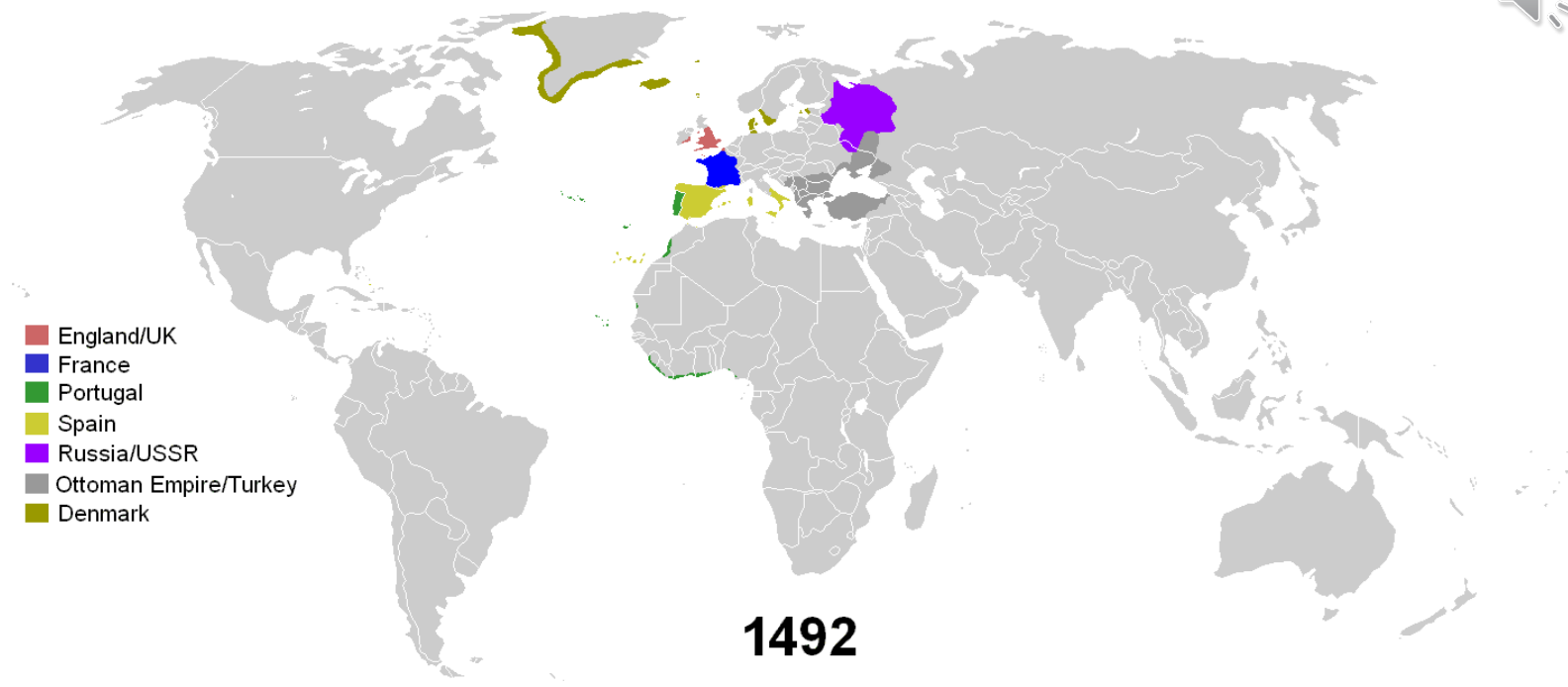
World of Empires (1500 - 1914)

- The World of Empires demarcates the period of time when European empires colonized the majority of the world, following the rediscovery of the Americas in 1492 (Rampersaud, 2020e).
- Through the use of war, the European empires were able to capture places such as Africa, in the noted "Scramble for Africa," where the Europeans divided up Africa and heavily fortified their land, warding off other Europeans (Michalopoulos & Papaioannou, 2016).
- In the case of colonization, war was used in order to control and subjugate different groups of people while simultaneously stealing their natural resources and valuables as well as their land, ultimately leading to World War I.

Image 3: Map of the World of Empires

Legend:
- England/UK
- France
- Portugal
- Spain
- Russia/USSR
- Ottoman Empire/Turkey
- Denmark

1492

A map of the colonial empires throughout the world of empires and beyond. Image citation: Beauchamp, Z. (2015, January 16). *500 years of European colonialism, in one animated map*. Vox. https://www.vox.com/2014/5/8/5691954/colonialism-collapse-gif-imperialism

World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939 - 1945)

- World War I occurred due to the political tensions in Europe, culminating in the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, involving several countries in Europe. World War II was the result of residual political tensions, focused on stopping the German empire (Rampersaud, 2020f).
- The tactics used during these wars changed significantly, with chlorine gas being used in World War I (Parker, 293), and aerial bombing being used in World War II (Parker, 317).
- The reason for going to war became more about political and ideological differences, rather than a desire for land or resources, as seen in the past, fueled by the new techniques developed during this time, which lead to the Cold War.

Image 4: Picture of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

A picture of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whose assasination sparked World War I in 1914. Image citation: Biography.com editors. (2014, April 2). *Franz Ferdinand Biography*. The Biography.com website. https://www.biography.com/political-figure/franz-ferdinand

The Cold War & The Americas and Africa Post - World War II (1945 - 1989)

- Following World War II, there were still remaining tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, which manifested as small skirmishes and was known as the Cold War (Rampersaud, 2020g).
- There were many different policies made by both parties to prevent the opposition's influence from spreading further, such as the Soviet opposition to the Marshall Plan in 1947 (Parker, 336).
- This example of war follows the examples set by World War I and World War II, in the sense that the cause was political, but different because little actual fighting took place, as opposed to what took place in Asia and the Middle East.
- During the Cold War period, there was lots of tensions between the U.S and the Soviet Union, where the U.S went to extreme lengths such as McCarthyism to try to root out Communism in America. The Cold War, as previously mentioned, was a war caused by differing policies and political ideas (Rampersaud, 2020h).
- The majority of countries in Africa were facing repercussions of the European "Scramble for Africa" in the early 20th century, resulting in severe conflict, such as the Hutu massacre of the Tutsis. The cause of this war was race, where Hutus resented Tutsis (Rampersaud, 2020j).
- The Cold War ended after the Soviet Union disbanded. The conflicts in Africa were also seen in Asia and the Middle East.

Asia and the Middle East (1945 - 1989)

- The period after World War II signified the decolonization of the European colonies all over the world, where countries in Asia and Africa were making strides to emancipate themselves from colonial rule and establish their own.
- There were massive protests and massacres in countries like India after they received their independence, such as the massacre of Hindus and Muslims on August 14-15, 1947 in India and Pakistan (Parker, 358 - 359).
- In the Middle East, there was political instability caused by foreign influence and wars between Arabs and Jewish, who sought to control areas in Israel and Palestine (Rampersaud, 2020i).
- This shows that the motives for war changed in both Asia and the Middle East to include race or religion, where Hindus and Muslims clashed in India and Jewish people and Arabs clashed in the Middle East, leading to problems in the modern era.

Image 5: Map of the Partitioning of India

A picture of the partitioning of India in 1947 into India and Pakistan, resulting in war and massacres between Hindus and Muslims. Image citation:

Keen, S., (1998). *Partition of India*. Postcolonial Studies at Emory.
https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/postcolonialstudies/2014/06/21/partition-of-india/

Current Issues in the Modern World (1989 - present)

- There are numerous issues in the Modern World, such as diseases that can ravage the planet, climate change, anti-globalist ideas and more (Rampersaud, 2020k).
- Diseases are especially prevalent, especially with the rise of the COVID - 19 pandemic, which has infected 67 million people and killed over 1.5 million people (The New York Times).
- Climate change has had a drastic impact on the Earth's environment, largely due to the increase in human activity such as factories and other activities that produce greenhouse gases. It has caused several species to go extinct and is melting the polar ice caps (Parker, 386 - 387).
- In addition, wars, which is the main focus of my presentation, have become more brutal, starting with the World Wars earlier in the 20th century (Peace, war & conflict).

Image 6: Picture of the results of Climate Change

A picture showing the damaging and catastrophic effects of climate change which include fires, droughts, hurricanes and more. Image citation:
The Effects of Climate Change. (2020, August 21). NASA. https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/

Post Independence War In India: Causes and Root in Colonialism

- The part of the world I will focus on is India and its tensions and wars, primarily focusing on the war between India and Pakistan directly after India was freed from British rule India in 1947. This also provides an example of war being an issue in the modern world.
- When the British took control over India, they sought to create a divide between the people in order to rule them easily. They created tensions between the Hindus and the Muslims (Britain's Shameful Colonization of India, asiancenturyinstitute.com).
- After World War II and all the European powers began to decolonize, England decided to partition India into two separate countries, India and Pakistan, where Muslims would ideally live in Pakistan and Hindus would live in India, resolving the tension between them (Parker, 358 - 359).
- However, the issues between the two groups of people were too great, resulting in the massacres and war in August 1947, where millions died moving to India or Pakistan after the partition. After the countries settled into their independence, there was still conflicts between them, resulting in several more wars in the past few decades.

Reasons for the Conflict between Hindus and Muslims in India and Pakistan

- During the British rule of India and Pakistan, the British divided the Hindus and Muslims, as previously mentioned, to make them easier to rule as well as for their personal reasons.
- The memory of the Crusades was still on the minds of the British, who made no qualms with oppressing the Muslims and allowing the Hindus slightly more freedom. In a way, this was done in order to spite the Muslims for the events that transpired during the Crusades (Kochhar, 2609).
- British historians also made the previous Muslim rule of India seem worse than it actually was, in order to make people believe that they were doing a good thing by replacing them. This sort of brainwashing was also used on the Hindus in India, who turned on the Muslims because of this (Qureshi, 48).
- Thus, one of the main causes for the wars between India and Pakistan were religious divisions, started by the British.

The Repeated Pattern of Wars and Conflict in India

- There have been numerous conflicts and confrontations between India and Pakistan since their initial split in 1947. The most notable grievance is Pakistan's claim to the Kashmir region, resulting in several wars over the territory (Malik, 60 - 61).
- The fact that Pakistan continues to support anti-Indian movements in Kashmir resulted in several wars being fought over the years, such as the ones in 1965 and 1999 (Council on Foreign Relations).
- The causes for these wars is primarily the desire for territory as well as the difference between Hindus and Muslims in terms of religious views, which continue to affect the politics and actions taken by both countries.

Present Situation between India and Pakistan

- There is still a lot of tension between the people of India and the people of Pakistan, due to all of the reasons previously listed, which influence current events.
- Terrorism attacks in India supported by Pakistan has increased in the past decade, despite the U.S. campaign against global terrorism, which brings the two countries closer to war (Bajpai, 112).
- For example, there was an incident on July 2006, where Islamic terrorists who were reported to be backed by Pakistan bombed a train in Mumbai, killing almost 200 people (Rao, 2015).
- The most recent incident between the two nations was the attack of an Indian convoy in Kashmir, which was lead by a Pakistani militant, resulting in the death of approximately 40 soldiers in February 2019 (Council on Foreign Relations). This signifies that the tensions over Kashmir remain extremely volatile, which could result in another war.
- Therefore, the current situation between India and Pakistan is very close to war, with both sides possessing a significant amount of nuclear weapons.

Image 7: Map of Present day India and Pakistan

A map of India and Pakistan, showing their current boundaries. Image citation:

Swarbrick, N. (2005, February 8). *Indians - Indian communities*. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of

New Zealand. https://teara.govt.nz/en/map/1819/india-pakistan-and-bangladesh

My International Framework for the 21st century

- My "International Framework for the 21st century" should be an open global forum, where the nations of the world can express their grievances with other countries to a panel of members from countries all over the world and reach compromises (Rampersaud, 2020l). This should avoid any future wars and conflicts. The UN's success in peacekeeping as well as globalism can be used to create a panel that offers solutions or compromises (Hegre, Hultman & Nygård).
- In regards to the situation between India and Pakistan, my "International Framework for the 21st century" can help, as both the Indians and Pakistanis will be able to air their grievances and present them to a council of peers. This council, which would be made up of members from each country, would then offer a solution or a compromise that could ease tensions.
- This should be successful for ending wars and even stopping wars before they start, since all grievances can be presented in a diplomatic way and peace can be achieved, with the UN as a backup. Most of the major wars in history have started due to a lack of communication or miscommunication between countries. To avoid this in the future, open discussion is a necessary tool.

Conclusion

- The reasons behind war have varied since the introduction of agriculture into society and hunter-gatherers settling down approximately 10,000 years ago.
- In the early days of society, wars were used as tools to protect property and expand territory. Over the years, wars were fought because of a difference in religion or political ideologies, like with the Crusades and Cold War respectively. Wars also became common amongst different ethnic groups, like the Hutus and Tutsis, or religious groups, like between the Hindus and Muslims in India
- War is an issue for the modern world, especially with all of the tensions between different countries and the amount of destructive weapons in the world. India is a prime example of this, as there have been numerous wars and conflicts involving this country, mainly with Pakistan.
- Beginning with gaining their independence and the war in 1947, India and Pakistan have had numerous tensions and wars, largely over land and the difference between Hindus and Muslims in the area.
- My "International Framework for the 21st century" is a global mode of communication, where countries can have their issues presented and resolved, like with the UN's current peace brokering initiatives and with the interconnectedness of globalism.

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