

WHAT IS PEACE: -

In general terms, Peace means absence of war. It implies a condition in which people live with harmony and co-operate with each other. In international domain it promotes all the countries to respect the liberty and existence of each other based on mutual co-operation. This principle is known as 'live and let live'. Peace is established through the art of co-existence and mutual activities among nations.

The history of mankind is full of violence and humanity learn the value of peace after paying price for it. The world history is full of events of war and Peace. French Revolution, American Revolution, world wars and partition of India caused a great loss for humanity. Millions of people lost their lives in twentieth century. Dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki alone killed more than one lakh people. The cold war or post world war era also saw humanitarian crises a number of times and even too it is continued in many parts of the world.

Global terrorism is a new form of violence. Besides war, massacre, murder, physical attack etc also come within ambit of violence. Social inequalities on the bases of religion and caste also give birth to conflict and clash in form of racism, colonialism, class disparity etc.

So to maintain a strong Peace Policy, world nations should follow the following principles.

- i. Mutual respect for each other's integrity.
- ii. Policy of non-aggression.
- iii. Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- iv. Focus on equality and mutual benefits.
- v. Faith in co-existence.

DOES PEACE ALWAYS REQUIRE NON-VOLENCE: -

Several political thinkers are of opinion that peace requires violence, while others do not accept this argument. They claim that peace can be possible only through the weapon of non-violence. Both arguments are as under.

A) VIOLENCE IS NEEDED TO PROMOTE PEACE: -

International law has given each country the right to self protection against aggression of other country. According to it, each state is always ready to protect itself against armed attack, and to put a check on armed attack each, whether weak or strong, has to resort to violence. In practice, there is no limit of violence in respect of self protection. Violence can sometime be necessary to prevent the step and activities of the oppressors. It is also justified at time of liberation struggles. Thinkers also glorify war for growth of civilization. Friedrich

Nietzsche of Germany was one of them who condemned non-violence and glorified violence and heroism as a vehicle of individual heroism.

B) VIOLENCE IS NOT NEEDED TO PROMOTE PEACE: -

The supporters of this view give the following arguments:

- i. **Fear of Armament and Anarchy:** - Violence will never promote peace and may lead to strife competition for weapons among the countries and harm world peace. It may create anarchy in nations and result in crises of law and order situation.
- ii. **New forms of Weapons:** - Everything that man has built in the course of the last centuries his culture, artifacts and civilisational achievements may disappear in the wink of an eye if a nuclear holocaust is unleashed. It has taken ages to build human civilization, but the same may get obliterated within minutes of a nuclear detonation.
- iii. **UNO Urges for Peace:** - One of the purposes of the United Nation Organisation as have been expressed in the Article 1, of its charter is to maintain peace and security and develop friendly relations among nation. It urges for international co-operation in solving problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character. The organization is based on the principle of sovereign equality of members. Thus, we can say that there is no need of violence for the establishment of peace. It can be ensured without violence, and disputes can be solved through negotiation.

UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS IS WAR JUSTIFIED: -

A war like situation appears when a dispute is not solved properly. A war is the ultimate instrument for solving international disputes. A war is a violent struggle through the use of armed forces. Under what conditions an attack or war is justified, this question is as important today as it was earlier. But the struggle for democracy and human rights is closely associated with the safeguarding of peace. The UN character in its provision justifies, to some extent, the use of violence for the establishment of peace.

- i. **Self-Defence:** -The use of force in self-defence has already been approved by conventional international law. For the protection and defence of life, liberty and property, the right to self-defence is based on natural pattern. Thus, states have full right to fight war for self-defence.
- ii. **Enemy of the Signatories of the Charter:** - Under Article 10, of UN Charter, war members will not be elegant.
- iii. **Domestic Jurisdiction:** - If the Security Council, which is an important organ, takes decision, the state on logic of internal discord or dissension can start equal action.

There are also some other circumstances, such as self-determination, region won by enemies, state region occupied by enemies, and against non-members of UN, when a war can be fought.

CAN ARMAMENT PROMOTE GLOBAL PEACE: -

The world has amassed so much weapons of mass destructions that despite evident futility of violence, the ideals of universal peaceful life remains a distant dream. It is therefore, not enough to realize and recognize the futility of violence, but to work for the realization of a non-violent society, based on inherent non-violent, way of life.

The armament race operating at the top level percolates down and generates tensions, conflicts and wars by proxy. Undue importance attached to armaments generates an atmosphere conducive to the building of narrow vested interest, top-heavy elitist, administration and a violence prone society none of which helps in the furtherance of peace and development.

Disarmament is obviously the condition precedent for any appreciable change in the existing global structure in the interests of the majority that live in the developing countries. Their peace and development are contingent upon the release of resources from armament and their more constructive utilization in the best interest of the poor nations.

Throughout human history there has always been an interest in and striving for peace. Growing fears of nuclear war have undoubtedly precipitated peace imperative.

To the affluent society peace means more directly the absence of a nuclear war and armament, the maintenance of higher standard of living, and the protection of individual freedom. To people in the developing countries, on the other hand, peace means, first of all escape from misery, poverty, hunger and absence of social justice.

Peace and development are almost synonymous, and no development is possible without peace, and peace in the real sense is social justice and harmony. The world must be saved from any further recourse to wars and violence. Peace is a positive force of bonding of the people. War, which is destroying and divisive force can never contribute to the establishment of peace.

The human society is in quest of a new society of self-reliant micro communities for our sustainable future. As war begins in the minds of men, so does peace begin in the minds of men. As human kind is responsible for the 20th century's culture of violence, war and environmental degradation, so can we create a culture of peace, social and economic justice based on healthy and sustainable environment for the 21st century and beyond.
