

WAR. Our wars are just. War solves problems. War is patriotic. Wars sometimes are necessary. War creates empires. War unites. War defends our values. War protects our interests. War turns boys into men. War wins elections. War is easy - diplomacy is hard. War is a good career choice. War clarifies indecision - war gets on with it. War sorts out recalcitrants. War is God-sanctioned. War fascinates. War creates heroes. War is a fact of life. War is good for commerce, industry and science - war makes money and spurs on innovation. **War** is murder. War is rape. War is mutilation. War kills children. War is shocking. War is devilish. War destroys. War is wasteful. War is insane. War brings out the worst in people. War is shortsighted. War is unconscionable. War is monstrous. War is stupid, elitist and discriminatory. War is unnecessary and counterproductive. War is ignorant. War corrupts. War is evil. War is depraved. War is criminal. War slaughters civilians. War devastates families and communities. War is irresponsible. War is ugly. War is unethical. War is hopeless.

And war is very expensive. The cost of the Iraq war was \$1,000,000,000,000 to the US alone.

It is estimated the health costs for veterans will add about \$2,000.000.000.000 over the years.

We train our soldiers to become killers and to endure and commit unspeakable horrors.

We send many of our sons into the unfathomable abyss of mental illness, depression and suicide.

We subject mothers, fathers, wives and children of slain soldiers to piteously painful suffering.

Why do we inflict such privations on ourselves? To defend our positions? To protect our interests?

There must be better ways - I am convinced that the crushing costs of war outweigh the gains.

War is a crime against humanity, against nature. No rationalization will ever render war just.