

WEAPONRY. Most agree that killing is horrible. So why do we fight wars? We invented weapons. Those weapons want to be tested and improved - so they need to be used. For many companies and nations they're a much counted-on source of income. **C**onflicts must be acknowledged - no sooner humans were equipped with mind, the existence of conflicts was assured. **B**ut the presence of weaponry determines the methods conflicts are dealt with. Since guns are available, we consider their use the best means to solve conflicts. Yet, were we to abolish weapons, we would still have conflict - but we would not have war. **M**any regimes rely on strong military for survival, and most governments manipulate their citizenry into believing that 'defence' - and its obscene costs - are an overwhelming necessity. **T**hus the ruling forces - often under pressure from big business - resist a cutback of weaponry, for political and economic reasons. **B**ut once the world's colossal military spending is channelled into infrastructure and debt relief, the world has a chance for peace. **T**o eliminate weaponry is in humankind's interest; to fight and kill will not lead to peace - rather to yet more fighting and killing.

The American singer and peace activist Jackson Browne said: "When they go to war in the USA, business elites are doing business - they are going to work."