



## Need for disarmament

Kamaljit Singh, Dr. Jagpal Singh

Department of Pol. Science, Guru Kashi Univeristy, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab, India

### Abstract

The nature of wars and conflicts has changed in the recent times. Now wars have become more destructive and dangerous. The weapons of more destructive power and weapons of mass destruction have been come into use. The world public opinion is now in favor of disarmament and arms control. The disarmament is needed for the world peace and security and this is also the main purpose of United Nations. A lot of money is being spent on armaments and through disarmament this money can be saved and used for welfare functions and economic development. Morality is also in favor of the disarmament. Disarmament is also needed to restrict the terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The environment is also badly affected by the use of armaments. So disarmament is needed not only to reduce the danger of war but to prevent the waste of human and material resources and to strengthen the world peace and security.

**Keywords:** disarmament, cold war, armaments, peace, security, third world, economic development, morality, terrorism, environment

### 1. Introduction

The nature of conflicts, fighting wars and weapons have changed drastically in the last century. In the previous times those killed and wounded in a war were active participants and the soldiers only. The wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century have become more destructive and devastative and these have influenced the entire societies. The two world wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century have engulfed nearly the entire globe <sup>[1]</sup>. The First World War left an estimated 8.5 million soldiers dead and five to 10 million civilian casualties and in the Second World War, some 55 million died <sup>[2]</sup>.

As weapons with ever more indiscriminate destructive power came into use – long range artillery, the bomber, the intercontinental ballistic missile, chemical, biological and nuclear weapons – battle fields expanded till they quite lost their original meaning and the entire countries and regions were embattled <sup>[3]</sup>. Although most conflicts since the Second World War have been fought without heavy weaponry, their toll has been staggering. The wars of national liberation, the proxy wars of the cold war period and the current “Resource Wars” of Africa and Asia are estimated to have killed some 100 million people <sup>[4]</sup>.

The peace having people of the world, many non-governmental organizations and even the world public opinion is now in favour of disarmament and arms control, because it is the only way to save the world from the third world war. Disarmament is considered to be the most effective means of preventing war and guaranteeing peace. It is commonly believed that unless there is disarmament, war and destruction can not be checked <sup>[5]</sup>. The only direct cause of war according to disarmament approach is the existence of the armaments and the belief that arms cause war is fundamental to the theory of disarmament and by limiting armaments the nations would be deprived of the very means of fighting <sup>[6]</sup>.

### Disarmament for world peace and security

The main purpose of the United Nations is to maintain internal peace and security and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law <sup>[7]</sup>, The generally professed and most frequent actual motive for armaments is the feeling of insecurity among nations. So, what is needed is to make nations actually secure from attack. So long as the conditions of insecurity exist, arms race will continue <sup>[8]</sup>. So it is undeniably true that armaments create such a vicious atmosphere in which war becomes more probable and imminent. Essentially the question of disarmament is linked with the question of world peace and security <sup>[9]</sup>.

### Disarmament and Economic Development:

The economic argument for disarmament holds that the burden of armaments must be reduced so that the economic resources may be diverted to world economic development and international co-operation because it is believed that progress in disarmament is essential for peace and development <sup>[10]</sup>. With nearly a trillion dollars that is spent on arms we could dramatically reduce hunger, disease, poverty and illiteracy and this amount is more than half the national debts and twice the amount owed to the west by the Third World <sup>[11]</sup>. So the need of the time is to rechannel the military expenditures to economic and social areas. When the governments choose armaments over much needed social programmes – Such as access to clean water and sanitation, high quality education and healthcare – The human cost is often high and due to it the individuals and communities, and ultimately states, are less secure <sup>[12]</sup>. At the most basic level,

arms control and disarmament are about accounting for, controlling and eliminating weapons, but more broadly, efforts at arms control and disarmament are also about rethinking our sense of ourselves as nations in community with one another [13].

### **Disarmament and Morality**

The quakers, the pacifists and the followers of Mahatama Gandhi are opposed to armaments on the moral grounds because they believe that war is morally wrong [14]. The moralists favour unilateral disarmament because it is founded on religious and the ethical grounds. Bertrand Russell, Stephen King Hall and C. Wright Mills are opposed to thermonuclear war on pragmatic grounds [15]. While Lewis Mumford believes in the ethical foundation of the disarmament [16].

### **Disarmament and Terrorism**

The whole world is facing the challenge of terrorism these days. In this context disarmament becomes more important because the weapons of mass destruction can be achieved by these terrorist groups. If such a situation arises, it will be very dangerous for whole mankind. The terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda and the ISIS will become more dangerous if they succeed in achieving these weapons. The disarmament can restrict or eliminate this danger.

### **Disarmament and Environment**

The state of the global environment and the status of global disarmament efforts have each attracted considerable attention in the recent years. It is clear that using the scarce natural resources for the manufacture of weapons has its own impact on the environment and so also do the storage, deployment and retirement of weapons affect the health and eco systems of the human beings [17]. In this way the disarmament is needed for the protection of the environment of the earth.

The past decade has seen an uptick in the number of armed conflicts, people dying in conflict and refugee flows. The Global forced displacement hit a record high in 2015 with more than 65 million people displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution [18]. So disarmament today is important not only to reduce the risk of war and dismantle the dangerous legacy of the cold war, but to prevent the continued waste of human and material resources that are needed for much more productive and beneficial ends [19]. So disarmament is not only about eliminating weapons only, it is also about creating opportunities to think about security in new ways, to reprioritise our budgets, and to rethink our sense of ourselves as nations in community with one another.

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