Climate Change and Militarization: Making Change Through Rotary

Kathi Futornick, Environmental Professional, Peace Advocate, Rotary Club of Newberg, Oregon, USA

Alan Bazzaz, Peace Builder and Business Owner, Rotary Club of Lake Oswego Oregon, USA

Tom Baker, Positive Peace Activator, Rotary Club of Golden Colorado, USA

Healing in a Divided World PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

Istanbul, Türkiye 20-22 February 2025

AGENDA

"LIFE IS SHORT. MAKE IT COUNT BY DOING GOOD."- Paul Harris

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH INTERNATIONAL	COLLABORATION: ROTARY ACTION GROUPS (RAGS) + OTHERS
	IMPACT OF WAR & CLIMATE CHANGE ON OUR PLANET, PEOPLE & ECONOMY
	THE FACES OF WAR
IEP	GLOBAL PEACE INDEX, POSITIVE PEACE
	DISCUSSION: INCREASING ROTARY'S IMPACT

"THE SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS IS THAT WE NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP." Wilma Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation

WHY WE ARE HERE

People Fleeing Floods in Pakistan (UNHCR)



https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/pakistangetting-bogged-down

Los Angeles (Cal Matters)



The Palisades Fire jumps the Pacific Coast Highway and burns lifeguard towers near the highway in Los Angeles, on Jan. 7, 2025. Photo by Ted Soqui for CalMatters

The increasing loss of lives, people losing their homes & families, loss of infrastructure and biome; the destruction of the natural systems which sustain life on earth....

BEFORE WAR: Kharkiv region: Izyum Forest, July 28, 2021



AFTER: Kharkiv region: Izyum Forest, July 6, 2022.



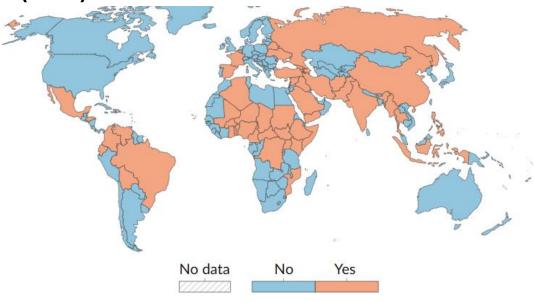
Source: Radio Free Europe: Ukrainian service of RFE/RL), images taken by Planet Labs satellites.

Ukrainian service of RFE/RL), images taken by Planet Labs satellites. https://www.ukrainer.net/war-affects-animals/

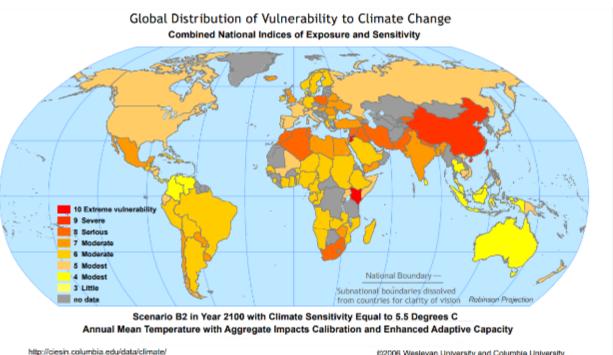
THE MAJORITY OF OUR PLANET IS IMPACTED BY WAR & CLIMATE CHANGE

Countries Where Wars Took Place (2023)

Included are conflicts that caused at least one death in that year. Source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program (2024; Natural Earth (2022)



Human Vulnerability to Climate Change



http://ciesin.columbia.edu/data/climate/ 62006 Wesleyan University and Columbia University file:///C:/Users/kmfut/OneDrive/Documents/Rotary/Istanbul%202025/NASA%20Vulnerabiliy%20MAP_

https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/locations-of-ongoing-armed-conflicts

JUNE 2024 WAS THE WARMEST JUNE ON RECORD FOR THE GLOBE IN NOAA'S 175-YEAR RECORD.

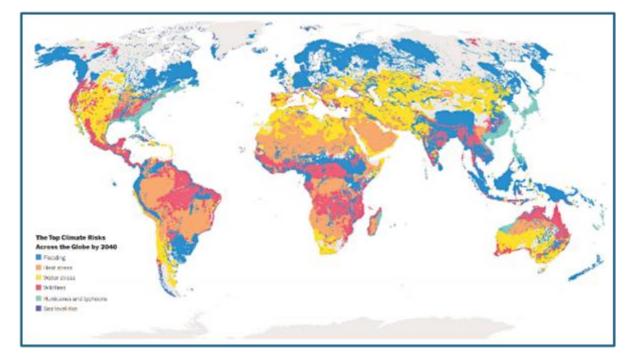
12_2.pdf

"TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO PEOPLE COULD BE EXCUSED FOR NOT KNOWING MUCH, OR DOING MUCH, ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE. TODAY WE H AVE NO EXCUSE." - *Desmond Tutu, Former Archbishop of Cape Town*

CLIMATE RISK PROJECTIONS

CLIMATE RISK PROJECTED: 2040

CLIMATE RISK PROJECTED: 2100



Source: Four Twenty Seven & The New York Times

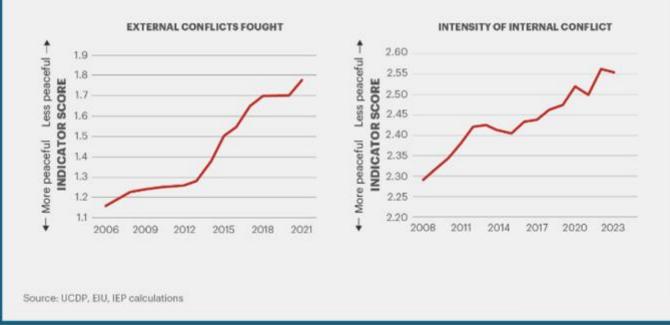
https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/25/learning/whats-going-on-in-this-graph-global-climate-risks.html

https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-releases-detailed-global-climate-change-projections/

"ALL WAR IS STUPID. AVOID IT AT ALL COSTS, AND YOU COME OUT AHEAD." WWII Veteran: 101-Year-Old Tuskegee Airman Shelton Ware:

NUMBER OF CONFLICTS INCREASING

Trends in key ongoing conflict indicators



https://www.visionofhumanity.org/conflict-trends-in-2023-a-growing-threat-to-global-peace/

GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN PEACE

\$6.20/Person

\$49.6 Billion

GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE

\$162/persor

\$1.3 Trillion

(Source: GPI/IEP)

http://www.publichealthnewswire.org/?p=climate-update-2021#:~:text=As%20the%20world's%20climate%20continues,in% 20Nature%20Climate%20Change%20finds GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN MILITARY

\$300/person

\$2.4 Trillion



https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/06/GPI-2024-web.pdf

(Source: GPI/IEP)

https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/worst-conflict-affected-countries-to-be-a-childhttps://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2024/02/.

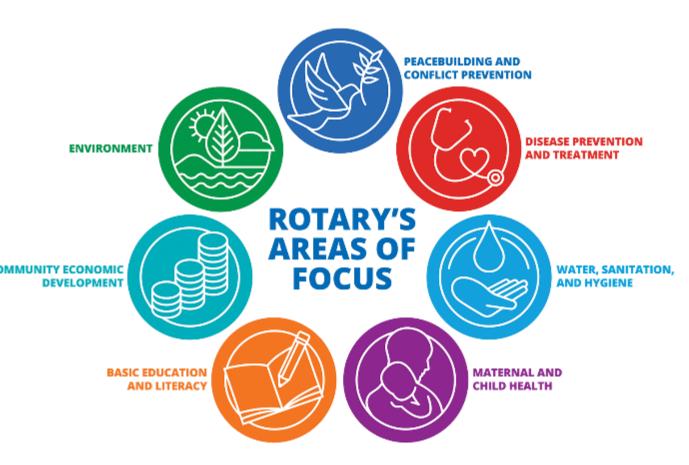
"DO YOUR LITTLE BIT OF GOOD WHERE YOU ARE; IT'S THOSE LITTLE BITS OF GOOD PUT TOGETHER THAT OVERWHELM THE WORLD" - *Desmond Tutu*

ROTARY'S 7 AREAS OF FOCUS & PARTNERSHIPS

ROTARY • ROTARACT • INTERACT CLUBS – THE HEARTBEAT OF ROTARY

JUST IMAGINE, ROTARIANS BUILDING A WORLD BEYOND WAR

JUST IMAGINE ROTARIANS SLOWING DOWN OUR CLIMATE CRISIS



"I HAVE SEEN THAT IN ANY GREAT UNDERTAKING IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR A MAN TO DEPEND SIMPLY UPON HIMSELF." Lone Man (Isna-la-wica) - Teton Sioux

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY - UNITING IN A COMMON CAUSE



- Peace Builder Clubs, partners
- Partnering with Community & Clubs Worldwide, e.g., peace pole project, peace gardens & trails, Peace Village, clean water is peace – debris tracker
- **Education,** e.g., Peace k-12 programs, **Peace Fellowships**, Peace Centers, partnerships
- Weekly Meetings, Podcasts
- Empowering Communities



- EcoClubs, partners, Project Drawdown
- Climate Change, e.g., ESRAG at COP29, Climate Action Network
- Pollution Worldwide Partnerships, i.e., Plastics Solution Task Force, recycling lithium battery recycling (Faso Recycling), clean water
- Education, Training
- Renewable Energy, e.g., roof top solar, Navajo Solar Project,
- Weekly Seminars, Podcasts
- Empowering Communities

"Politics is war without bloodshed while war is politics with bloodshed" - *Mao Tse-Tung* **"War is the point at which politics turns into murder**" - *Michel Serres, (Le Contrat naturel, 1990)*

"THE MOST VIRTUOUS WAR IS THE WAR AGAINST WAR." Paul Harris

WHAT IS WAR?

PREWAR



https://www.visualcapitalist.c om/the-top-25-defensecompanies-by-revenue/





https://worldbeyondwar.org/military-empires/

Unplanned Explosions At Military Sites (**UEMS**)

https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2011/06/01/dangerous-stockpiles-unplanned-explosions-high-costs/index.html

DURING WAR



minehttps://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135252



Source: Radio Free Europe: Ukrainian service of RFE/RL), images taken by Planet Labs satellites.

AFTER WAR





https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135252

"THE MOST VIRTUOUS WAR IS THE WAR AGAINST WAR." Paul Harris

WHAT IS WAR?

PREWAR



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AFTER WAR

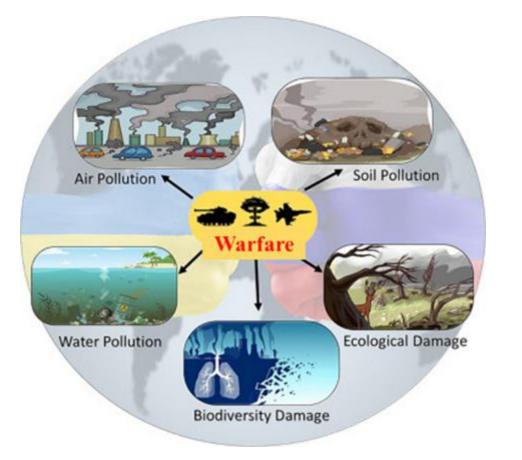


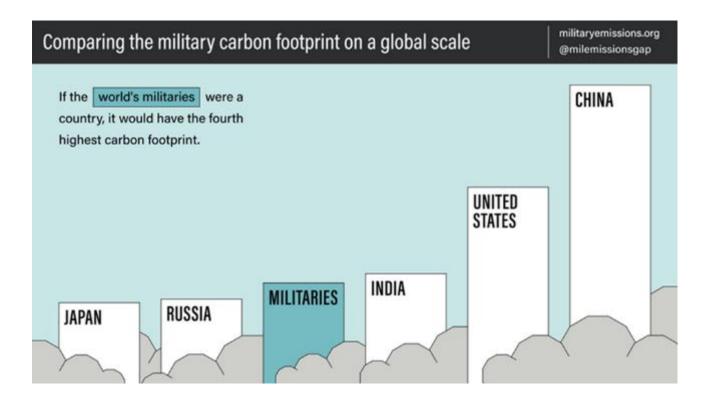


https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135252

"IN OUR EVERY DELIBERATION, WE MUST CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF OUR DECISIONS ON THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS." *Iroquois Proverb*

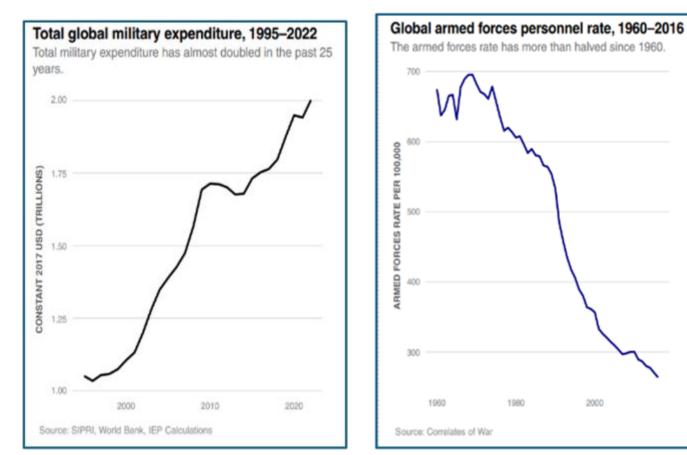
MILITARY OBJECTIVES TAKE PRECEDENCE - OVER EVERYTHING





"MUST THE BEST GENIUS OF MEN BE DEVOTED TO THE SCIENCE OF WAR AND NONE TO THE SCIENCE OF AVERTING IT?" PAUL HARRIS, 1940

DIVERSION OF RESOURCES INCREASED MILITARY EXPENDITURE AT A TIME OF CLIMATE COLLAPSE



Battles of the Future

- Focus on Highly Lethal Weapons
- Increase weaponry to go farther & with precision
- Protect against missiles, drone & satellite attacks.
- Protect communication systems i.e., EMP

https://www.tni.org/en/publication/climate-in-the-crosshairs, https://climatemilitarism.org/

VIOLENT CONFLICT

25%

¹⁄₄ of the world or
 2 billion people affected by violent conflict

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

80%

More than 80% of conflict & militarization occurs in sensitive ecological areas. Wars impact about 6% of the earth's surface.

CHILDREN

18%

468 MILLION CHILDREN AFFECTED BY VIOLENT CONFLICT

https://cdnsciencepub.com/doi/10.1139/er-2015-0039

https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/new-figures-millions-of-children-live in-conflict-

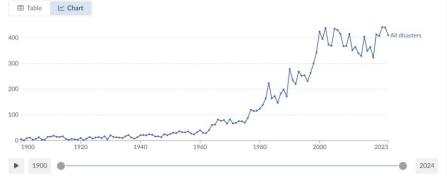
zones#:--:text=Children%20Affected%20by%20Armed%20Conflict%20report%3A&text=In%202022%2C% 20approximately%20468%20million,lived%20in%20a%20conflict%20zone.

https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/worst-conflict-affected-countries-to-be-a-childhttps://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2024/02/.

CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT WE SEE

Our World in Data





https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-natural-disaster-events



https://www.climatecentre.org/14986/california-fires-hundreds-ofamerican-red-cross-workers-deployed-to-a<u>ssist-affected-residents/</u>





https://www.climate.gov/newsfeatures/blogs/beyond-data/2018sbillion-dollar-disasters-context





https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals /article/140721-animals-wildlife-wildfiresnation-forests-science; EPA Photo



https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-after

UN News Media

CLIMATE CHANGE – WHAT WE DON'T SEE







https://worldoceanreview.com/en/wor-6/climatechange-impacts-in-the-polar-regions/retreatingice/catastrophic-fires-in-the-tundra/





The Kutuk River in Alaska's Gates of the Arctic National Park is one of 75 orange-stained rivers found in the region. KEN HILL / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



https://www.unilad.com/news/world-news/siberian-gatewayto-hell-growing-027900-20240606

NASA

UNDERESTIMATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE & CONFLICT

WEATHER DISASTERS INCREASE RISK FACTORS FOR ARMED CONFLICT

- Severe drought can create political instability
- Crop failure and ensuing high food prices can fuel conflict

CONFLICTS INCREASE VULNERABILITY WHEN WEATHER DISASTERS OCCUR

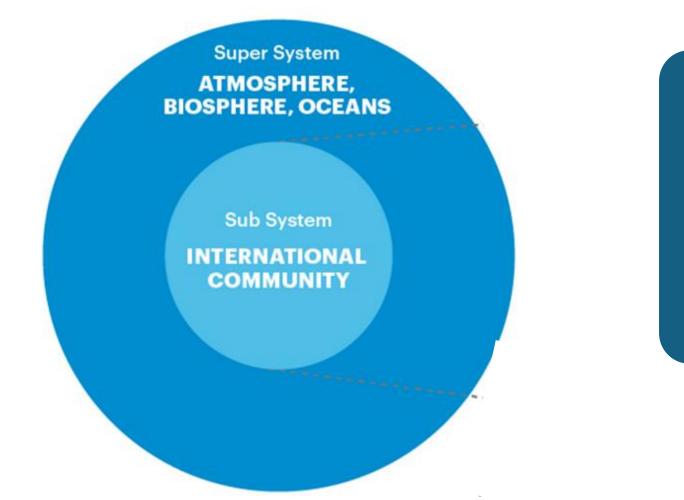
- Infrastructure destroyed
- Poverty increases
- 58% of deaths occurred in top 30 "fragile" countries

"Just as climate change adaptation and mitigation measures should not ignore conflict risks, peacebuilding efforts cannot and should not ignore the effects of climate change on key drivers of conflict."

WEATHERING RISK



UNDERESTIMATION OF OUR INTERDEPENDENCE ON BIODIVERSITY



BIODIVERSITY – OUR STRONGEST NATURAL DEFENSE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE "IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT IS DONE." Nelson Mandela

IF WE DO NOTHING TO SLOW DOWN CLIMATE CHANGE

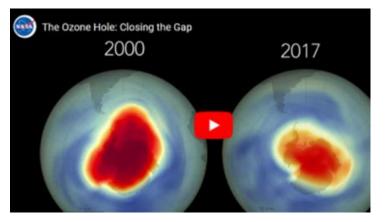
		SOLUTIONS - WHAT WE CAN DO
HEAT WAVES	TORNADOES, HURRICANES	 QUESTION rationale for war & "do nothing" approach to slow down climate crisis
		JOIN ESRAG & RAGFP, other RAGS
		 CHALLENGE build-up of military & continued use of fossil fuels
DROUGHTS	SEA LEVEL RISE	NON-VIOLENT conflict resolution
		INCREASE education on positive peace and climate change
		SUSTAIN natural resources
		PROTEST non-violently
FLOODING	INFLATION	EQUITY
		 ELIMINATE conditions which lead to climate crisis & discontent & terrorism
		 REFOCUS MILITARY to maintain peace, rescue operations, rebuilding

"NATIONS ARE CAPABLE OF UNDERTAKING COMPLICATED COOPERATIVE ACTIONS IN THE REAL WORLD OF AMBIGUITY AND IMPERFECT KNOWLEDGE" - Anonymous

WITH A LITTLE HELP....

RESILIENCE OF NATURE

OZONE LAYER (NASA)



DAM REMOVAL & RETURN OF FISH (100+ YEARS)





EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE

TOOLS YOU CAN USE

INTERACTIVE MAPS: DETERMINE YOUR RISK

Climate Risk • Conflict Risk • Vulnerability (Socioeconomic, demographic, political, environmental)

EMERGENCY GEAR: RADIOS + PLANS + READY BAG

CIVIL PROTECTION EMERGENCY AID EUROPE....

EUROPE – EC https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Map-Explorer; https://maps.eu-risk.eucentre.it/ MIDDLE EAST - https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-researchreports/report/an-energy-and-sustainability-road-map-for-the-middle-east/; https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/publication/middle-east-northafrica-climate-roadmap WORLD BANK - https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/countryprofiles

EXTINCTION THE 6th MASS EXTINCTION

50%

6 million different species will be extinct by 2050. Species are estimated to be going extinct at 1000X faster than the background rate of extinction

BIODIVERSITY

70%

Global populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles & amphibians declined by an average of 69% since 1970 . Biodiversity is one of our strongest defenses against climate change

CLIMATE CHANGE

80%

Of the earth's surface is impacted by climate change; 85% of the earth's population impacted by climate change.

Carbon Sink: 2023 near complete collapse

https://source.washu.edu/2023/04/climate-change-biodiversity-loss/.

https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-are-climate-change-and-biodiversity-loss-linked.html

"THE WAY TO WAR IS A WELL-PAVED HIGHWAY AND THE WAY TO PEACE IS STILL A WILDERNESS." PAUL HARRIS

THE MYTH - WAR IS GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

WARS

- Increase public debt, inflation, tax rates
- **Decrease** investment, consumption, economic growth
- Displacement industry, education, infrastructure, trade

https://warpreventioninitiative.org/peace-science-digest/effects-military-spending-economicgrowth/#:~:text=%5B1%5D%20Key%20findings%20of%20the,affect%20long%2Dterm%20economic%20growth

GDP per capita growth by level of peacefulness, 1960–2022

Countries with very high levels of peace achieved on average over four times higher per capita GDP growth compared to the least peaceful countries.

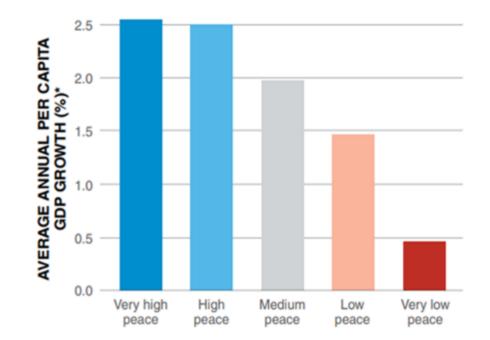




Photo by OSRSG CAAC/Paddy Dowling (Mosul Iraq)



https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/

IMPACTS OF WAR & CLIMATE ON GDP

GDP	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the measurement of the economic health of a country.
WAR	GDP on average falls 30% and inflation increases by 15%
CLIMATE CHANGE	2 degrees C rise before 2100 is projected to lead to a decline in GDP of between 30 and 50 %

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

August 2024, Bilal & Kanzig

"...by the end of the century **people may** well be 50% poorer than they would've been if it wasn't for climate change."



https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/06/nature-climate-news-global-warming-hurricanes/

ttps://www.harvardmagazine.com/2024/09/harvard-economic-impact-climatechange#:~:text=Bilal%20says%20he%20was%20surprised,%2C%20forever%2C%E2%80%9D%20he%20says



CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

UNSUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Public Domain, RAID ON VAAGSO, 27 DECEMBER 1941.

https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2024/07/how-much-will-climate-change-drag-down-the-economy/

"NO ONE LEAVES HOME UNLESS HOME IS THE MOUTH OF A SHARK." Warsan Shire, Somali British Writer & Poet

MASS MIGRATION: PEOPLE FLEEING THEIR HOMES

PHOTO FROM THE PULITZER COLLECTION



https://www.ipsnews.net/2020/07/great-migration-clash/

"More than 120 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations. We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record." UNHCR

https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/statistics/

"On average, 20 people were driven from their homes every minute last year, or one every three seconds – less than the time it takes to read this sentence." -UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi "THE TRUE MEASURE OF ANY SOCIETY CAN BE FOUND IN HOW IT TREATS ITS MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS." Mahatma Gandhi

THE FACES OF WAR

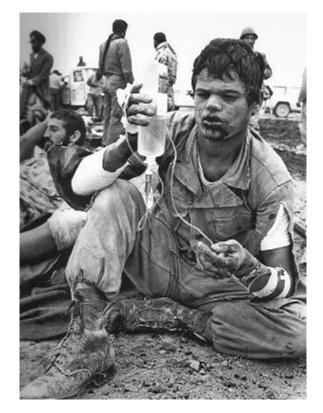
Chemical Weapons





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Omer_Khawar_an d_his_infant_by_Ahmad_Nateghi.jpg

Treating the Wounded



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Irania n_soldier_holding_IV_bag_during_Iran-Iraq_war.jpeg Prisoners of War Children





https://garystockbridge617.getarchive.net/media/ira n-iraq-war-photos-by-amir-ali-javadian-20-258240

DRAINING OF THE MESOPOTAMIA MARSHES (1991)

BEFORE, A Marsh Arab Village, 1974 Marsh Arabs lived for centuries, undisturbed



Sommayeh Amiri, Historians for the Future

AFTER,

Dams diverted waters away from marshes



Source: https://www.worldwateratlas.org/narratives/marsh/marshes-in-the-river-tigresand-euphrates-dried-up/#saddam-arab-marsh

Source: European Society for Environmental History, http://eseh.org/nextgate-blog-whatdoes-home-look-like-now-the-marshes-of-mesopotamia-and-sustainable-academia/

Global Peace Index 2024



Global Peace Index

 Ranks163 independent states & territories according to their level of peacefulness

Positive Peace

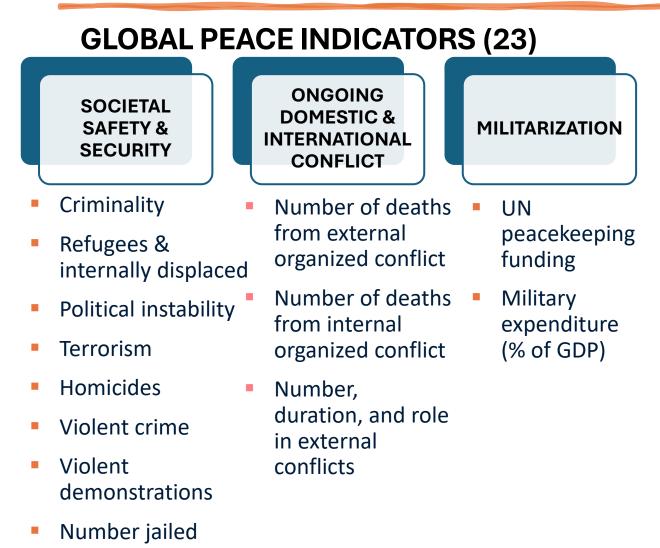
 The attitudes, institutions & structures which create & sustain peaceful societies Institute for Economics & Peace Analysing the factors that build, predict and sustain peace

POSITIVE PEACE REPORT 2024

Results
 Trends

Positive Peace & Societal Resilience "THE BEST WAY TO CHANGE THE WORLD, IS TO START WITH YOURSELF." Paul Harris

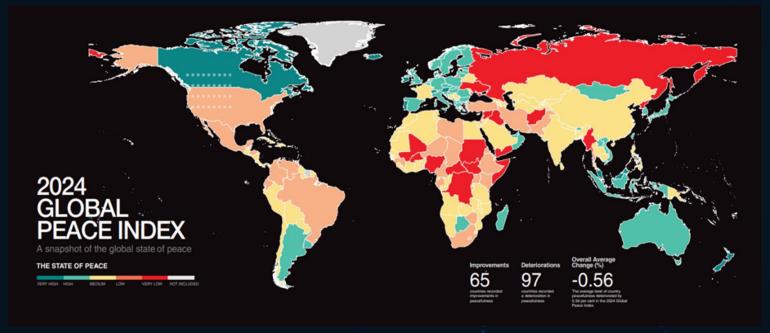
INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS & PEACE

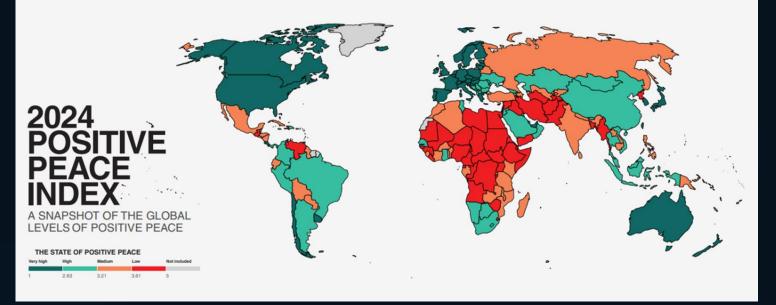


POSITIVE PEACE INDICATORS



"PEACE CANNOT BE KEPT BY FORCE; IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY UNDERSTANDING." — Albert Einstein





"WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS." Paul Harris

23 COUNTRIES WITH NO STANDING ARMIES

ATTRIBUTES

- No perceived enemy
- Military too costly
- Maintain neutrality
- Protective umbrella
- Regional security
- Strong police & security
- Peacekeeping force
- NATO alliance

INVESTMENTS IN

- Stable government
- Education
- Health
- Environment
- Development
- Equity
- Strong GDP

COUNTRIES WITH

















WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE, AND YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF DIFFERENCE YOU WANT TO MAKE." Dr. Jane Goodall, Scientist & Activist

KEY TAKEAWAYS



"BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD." Mahatma Gandhi



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

TAKING ACTION FOR CHANGE DISCUSSION INCREASING ROTARY'S IMPACT

We are at a defining moment in Rotary's history. We're implementing our Action Plan, a strategic road map that will help us better connect with each other, grow as an organization, and more effectively share our stories of how we are making a difference in communities. At every level of Rotary, we have embraced opportunities to work together to achieve our goals. Over the coming four issues, you'll hear from Rotary members around the world who will offer their inspiration, encouragement, and guidance as we carry out the four priorities of the Action Plan.

AD

IMPACT

We want to put our resources

REACH

We're committed to exemplifying and embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion

ENGAGE

We're tearing down the walls between "us" and "them" and focusing on participants

asking people how they w

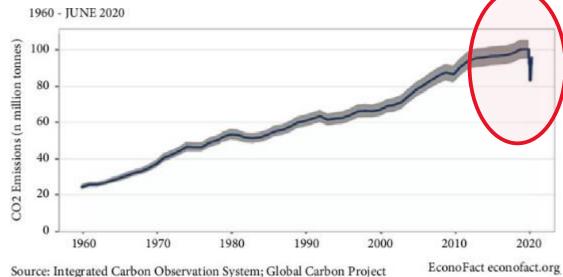
"A VERY GREAT VISION IS NEEDED, AND THE 'PERSON' WHO HAS IT MUST FOLLOW IT AS THE EAGLE SEEKS THE DEEPEST BLUE OF THE SKY." *Crazy Horse, Sioux Chief*

DISCUSSION Q1: WHAT CAN ROTARY DO TO SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE?

EDUCATE

- Greatest Impact: women & children
- Remove Fossil Fuel Subsidies: \$20
 Billion/yr. US; \$1 Trillion in 2022 global
- Change Transportation: largest GHG source
- Jobs: clean energy (35 million jobs); fossil fuel (12 million jobs)
- Protect Forests, Habitat, & Oceans: improve hunting, fishing, carbon sink
- Protect Agriculture: reduce drought, brush fires
- Public Health: fossil fuels are toxic
 https://forcesfornature.com/podcast/eleanorlecain/

The one positive of our COVID-19 experience, CO₂ emissions in the Ten Countries with the Highest Carbon Dioxide Emissions dramatically declined



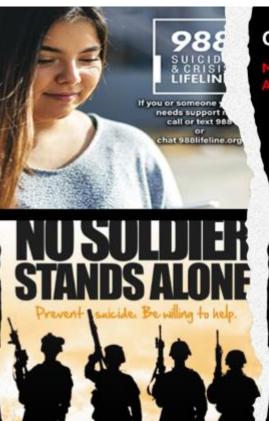
https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10281825/

"DO NOT JUDGE ME BY MY SUCCESSES, JUDGE ME BY HOW MANY TIMES I FELL DOWN AND GOT BACK UP AGAIN." *Nelson Mandela*

DISCUSSION Q2: HOW DO WE BUILD RESILIENCE INTO PEACE BUILDING?

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Determine Level of Risk In Communities You Serve
- Support Victim Assistance
- Assist With Rebuilding of
 - Homes, Schools. Hospitals
 - Roads, Water Supply....
- Advocate For Funding Of Local Search & Rescue Operations
- Train With Community-Based Search & Rescue Operations



GLOBAL IMPACTS ON HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS IN THE MILITARY, VICTIMS OF CONFLICT, AND AFTER A CATACLYSMIC WEATHER EVENT

- Increased rate of suicide
- Increased stress & disorientation
- Increased acute & chronic physical ills
- Increased worrying, anger, anxiety
- Depression
- PTSD
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- Homelessness

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10693336

"WHEN YOU EDUCATE ONE PERSON YOU CHANGE A LIFE, WHEN YOU EDUCATE MANY YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD." Shai Reshef, Founder, University of the People

DISCUSSION Q3: HOW DO YOU THINK ROTARY CAN INCREASE ITS IMPACT?

PEACE EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS

ENDING WAR 101

Making Peace Possible – A Call to Action

- Can War Be Ended?
- Is a "Just War" Even Possible?
- What Does War Cost Us? Our Environment?
- What Can We DO?



We are more powerful than we think.

Rotary 🛞 🔰 relation group for peace group for peace group for peace group to for peace group to a global movement to end









