

War No More – The Case for Abolition
By David Swanson

Is war inevitable? Wasn't World War II necessary? What about a Hitler? Are not war and violence part of human nature? Isn't war a last resort to deal with evil in the world?

“Hunger is not inevitable.

Everyone knows that people will always starve, the way

Everyone knew that man would never fly.

At one time in human history, everyone knew that . . .

The world was flat,

The sun revolved around the earth,

Slavery was an economic necessity,

A four-minute mile was impossible,

Polio and smallpox would always be with us,

And no one would ever set foot on the moon.

Until courageous people challenged old beliefs and a new idea's time had come.

All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come.

I have always been fascinated with the subject of war and peace. Is nationalism a good thing? Why are war and the military so glorified here and in many other countries? Can I, should I, with a clear conscience pay taxes that support the war effort? Should the United Nations be strengthened so it could use war to stop wars? In past wars what other options were there?

Swanson stops me in my tracks. He answers these and many other questions I had not thought of. In just over 180 pages of concise, easy to read pages. “There never was a good war or a bad peace” or How to be against both Hitler and War, p. 108. Here is a brilliant section diagnosing WW II. This book is up to date; it even discusses the near bombing of Syria by Pres. Obama. The Military Industrial Complex (MIC) is examined. The “Danger of Obedience,” “We Can't End War if They Don't End War,” “War the Crime, not ‘War Crimes’,” are some sub-section titles.

The four units of the book are: I. War Can be Ended, II. War Should be Ended, III. War is Not Going to End on It's Own, and IV. We Have to End War.

Perhaps what impressed and surprised me most was positive, the progress already made toward abolishing war. Many examples including the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 (still on the books). Swanson is convincing. This book is a must read.

Other books by Swanson: *War Is A Lie*, (2010); *The Military Industrial Complex at 50*, (2011); *When The World Outlawed War*, (2011)

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