

Essay

There never was a good war
or a bad peace

"How badly did they torture you?"
asked the Journalist

"The torture was quite bad. There
was a point where you think
'death is simpler', but fortunately,
for me, the last part i.e. the
third degree part, did not start."

This was the first interaction of
Group Captain K Nochiketa with the
world on how he was tortured
post his capture during Kargil war
of 1999.

As we remember fallen heroes
on the 25th anniversary of the Operation
Vijay where India won a decisive

and a crucial war protecting its territory. One cannot help but think

"The peaks have been captured
The land restored,
yet the heart remains empty"

It shows the reality of wars. Where
the tangibles are restored to the
victor yet the intangible souls of
the countless heroes are lost.

The concept of war is not new,
historically speaking, war can be
traced back to ancient ages. When
the wars were fought for land
territories or cattle. Be it
the attack by Alexander to
be the world conqueror to the
blitzkrieg of Hitler, wars have
existed since time immemorial.

what has been the constant feature throughout, is that there have always been reasons to justify the war. To classify some of them as good wars.

Good wars can be said to be the ones where the end goal is a justified one. At least justified for one party involved. But however good or bad the motive may be, war and peace cannot stand on the same pedestal.

Similarly, the bad peace concept is one where peace leads to some negative outcome. For instance, accepting oppression by the mighty as a way of life is antithetical to the literal meaning of peace.

Good war and bad peace: an oxymoron

On close observation and analysis of the issue, one may decipher that indeed there was never a good war or a bad peace.

This is because from an ethical perspective, means do not justify ends. No matter how good or positive the end goal may be, the path should also be a legitimate one. For instance, post world war 2 began, the allies tried to defend their actions as of those bringing peace to Europe. Yet, it was their own actions post Treaty of Versailles that led to war.

Thus, their justification of intervention in the war does not hold ground in face of massive human life crisis and destruction.

Secondly, it can be rightfully said that there are no winners in the war. Eventually it is the humanity which loses in the longer run. While it can be said that the allies won world war 2. Yet, modern day reality of Europe casts a shadow on the slogan of never war again.

Thirdly, any war — no matter the reason, impinges on the human progress made so far. At the talks of peace in middle east, Abraham Accords and the statement

of Jake Sullivan, National Security
Advisor of President of USA render
themselves mute at the current state
of affairs.

66 The middle East Region
is quieter today than it has
been in the two decades "

This was Sullivan's statement a
week before October 7 attacks on
Israel. Fast forward ten months,
and we are still fighting for
a humanitarian aid and a ceasefire.

War also impacts the
psychology of people who are a
constant spectator of misery,
destruction and mockery of human
life. It impacts the children
disproportionately as they have a

breaks future ahead in a war torn country.

Not only the social aspects of displacement and refugee crisis, a war also exacerbates the economic turmoil where it takes decades to reconstruct a country ravaged by war. The recent coups in countries like Kenya, Gabon speaks volume of the poverty and inequality stricken societies.

Similarly, ^{bad}~~good~~ peace also remains a myth. This is because peace is relatively much better than any war as it brings a sense of semblance and development in societies.

Yet it is often undermined by war hungry humans since there are no victors in the peace.

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Even though peace may not be ideal in outcomes, yet it does bring contacts closer and creates a sense of fraternity and brethren. The reason as to

why Truth and Reconciliation Committee was formed in South Africa post the end of apartheid regime by Nelson Mandela.

Furthermore, peace in form a temporary truce should also not be considered bad since it ~~is~~ gives time to think over the solutions. when M.G. Ramachandran

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had breaks while meeting the Chief Minister of Karnataka who offered him water, he said -

⁶⁶ maybe, my hiccups are
representatives of Chennai's state
today. Will you offer it ~~offer~~
water too??

They both laughed, the protests
ended and Laurens water was
released to Chennai next day. This
peeps may offer some insights to
the present water crisis between the
~~two~~ states and lead to development of
future peaceful co-existence.

Having discussed the myths of
good war and bad peace, it becomes
pertinent to look at if history
shows any signs of a real good
war or if at all there was a bad peace.

While the instances may be
few, yet in this vast expanse of
journey of human existence,
exceptions are not so uncommon.

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An example of good war is close home when India fought with Pakistan in 1971. It led to liberation of Bangladesh and freeing up of territory on India's eastern borders.

Further, India's call for end to terrorism and hoarding of no money for terror conference sheds light on the need to eradicate terrorism.

On the other hand, an apt example of bad peace could be talks between USA and Taliban, held in Qatar on the future of Afghanistan. The abysmal state of the citizens climbing on the airborne plane to migrate to

6 peaceful countries & due to the takeover of Taliban questions the legitimacy of our capability to even have peace talks.

It thus becomes clear that good and bad are relative terms. They can be used for war and peace interchangeably, albeit not so frequently. The modern world is neither good nor bad, rather it hangs somewhere in the middle close to the grey zone.

Kenya said that, the importance of peace should not be undermined as it should always be the priority, and war always an exception. It becomes pertinent to understand how the world should move ahead from the grey zone?

A wake up call for peace

The first step should be to adopt a policy of peaceful resolution to every conflict. India set an example for the world when it created a common platform for Korean crisis resolution resulting in a ceasefire.

Nations can also undertake peace as the natural course. While the preparations of war should only seem to act as a deterrence.

India is a niche player in this domain through its no first use nuclear policy. And it is the only country to get a nuclear supplier group waiver to create a credible deterrence.

Globally, consensus are needed to give teeth to the institutional frameworks also already set in place. The Bretton Woods Institutions along with United Nations need to accept modern day reality and be open to reforms. When they become a platform for holistic and inclusive discussion for peace, they will automatically become a beacon of a peaceful future.

One must always remember Sun Tzu's The Art of War

“To win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill.

To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill.

It can be truncated in the modern

day reality where subduing the enemy may not be needed and bring temporary peace. But not letting the issue go to battle, rather bridging peace should be the acme of skill

12:47 pm

Section B

" He who will not economize
will have to agonize "

In the early 2000s, Anil
Ambani was seen as a beacon of
success and potential in the
corporate world. Following the
split in Reliance family, he took
charge of the newer, forward
looking ventures while Mukesh
Ambani got the traditional core
businesses. The emerging sectors'
growth made him surpass Mukesh
Ambani in wealth and became
world's sixth wealthiest individual.

Fast forward 25 years
to 2024, Mukesh Ambani's net
worth exploded to over 100 bn dollar
while Anil Ambani's net worth diminished
to zero.

How the fortunes of two seemingly similar individuals can diverge significantly in a little over twenty years calls for a deeper understanding of the need to economize. Before delving deeper, it becomes imperative to understand what is meant by economize.

In a narrow sense, economize as a term is associated with finance. It refers to curtain unnecessary expenditure and practise thrift and save for the future.

However, in a broad sense, term has a connotation in diverse fields. It can be related to efficiency where the capacity

of a plant is benchmarked with the maximum efficiency possible.

Similarly, focus on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle has become a cardinal call for Responsible consumption. Prime Minister himself acted as a beacon of change when he wore a steel-reinforced jacket, made from recycled plastic bottles during the meeting with Bill Gates.

Furthermore, the call for limiting the use of fossil fuels also is a case of economization. Since they are limited and depleting in nature and need to be preserved for future generations.

In the similar way, the classic call of
" Minimum Government
Maximum Governance "

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can also be a form of economization.

on the other hand, to agonize is to be agitated by not getting the outcomes one desires. While in certain cases

agony comes from uncontrollable factors. But in most cases, an individual's own actions can enhance or reduce agony.

for instance, if a child prefers to play over completion of homework, he will have to

agonize the next day in class.

or if a report asked by the team leader is not completed due to procrastination, agony is inevitable.

Economization: A treasurehouse of growth

The need to economize is crucial for achieving growth in any field. There are few reasons for it.

Firstly, the resources on earth is limited which makes it incumbent upon us to use them judiciously.

In the context of India - India has only 2.4 % of global land yet it has to support 16 % of global population.

Additionally, resources can only lead to sustainable growth when they are economized. If future generation will have a legacy from our current generation, it should be a one which they cherish, not

despise which can only come
from sustainable use.

Also as humans, this
innate in us to move to an
efficient system from old and
archaic systems in any field. For
instance, old license regime
hindered India's growth up until 1990s.
The need to economize became
inevitable post the economic crisis.
Its fruits are evident today when
through economization, India has
become fifth largest economy.

Additionally, to economize
it is also ^{use} ~~to~~ hmc more
Judiciously. It leads to overall
social progress and better
economic activities.

Lack of economization: Increase in agony

It is indeed true that those who will not economize will have to agonize. At an individual level, those who do not economize face economic and social issues. Wasteful expenditure and a lack of savings culture will lead to agony due to being trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and debt.

At the family level, it impacts household savings, standard of life and compromise on health and education. Thus starts the inter-generational transmission of agony.

Society also bears the brunt of non-economization as it

perpetuates inequality and leads to widening gaps between haves and have nots.

Nations who do not economize ~~face~~ face severe debt crisis economic misfortunes and are left at the mercy of debt relief. Sri Lanka being a case in point. The populist measures being used to remain in power eventually led to agony and economic collapse.

Similarly, the recent climate crisis and changing monsoon pattern has caused havoc in wayanad with tragic death over 150 in landslide. It reflects on our incompetencies to economize in the environmental domain leading to

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mother nature being in fury of agony

Can economization have an evil face

while the benefits of
economization are unpleen.

There are few anomalies as well,

for instance, we humans have two
kidneys and extra capacity in

many of our organs.

because nature likes to overhire

itself. unlike humans who is
increasingly engaged in debt.

This concept of redundancy
is explained by Nassim Nicholas

Taleb in his book Antifragile.

where he quotes -

66 Redundancy is ambiguous because it seems like a waste if nothing unusual happens. Except that something unusual happens — usually."

A similar unusual event happened in 2012. A 0.6 magnitude of earthquake in Japan not only caused loss of human life but also impacted ~~to~~ the operations of Toyota. The company pioneered in lean manufacturing systems and six sigma had to crumble due to non-availability of car components amidst the global supply chain crisis. It seems that over-economization is as much a bane as non-economization.

To economize is to ease out life

It is evident by now that
the virtuous way forward is to
economize —

In right quantity
At right place and
At right time.

While the fruits of economization
are clear, the path needs to be
laid out.

Firstly, values of thrift and
saving need to be instilled in
children in families and schools.
As children learn by watching adults,
a simple act of turning off the
unnecessary light or closing the
tap while brushing can create
values of economization.

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In monetary sense also, if children are taught the importance of financial planning in school and colleges, they may not agonize much in future while filing their taxes.

Additionally, our institutions need to be quality driven and discussion oriented. The budget making process can be more participative where citizens are more aware of the nation's finances. This will help them in not only getting agonized by increase in taxes, but appreciate the robustness of economy as well as the complexity of economic decision making.

Role of media also needs to be thought about. As they act as a medium for celebrating good economization practices. Rise of social media channels like ThinkSchool helps in propagating case studies regarding best practices of economization in different fields.

Further, robust international convents are needed to bring to fruition all the economizing done in domain of climate awareness. The setting up of Global Stocktake in COP28 Dubai is a welcome step. But it will only benefit if the implementation is also economized.

Lastly, the word of Mahatma Gandhi can act as a guide for us.

on the path of economization
The dictum

“There is enough in the
world for everyone's needs
but not for everyone's greed”

In this way, one can learn and
practice the quality of
economization to have a
peaceful, happy and a good free
life