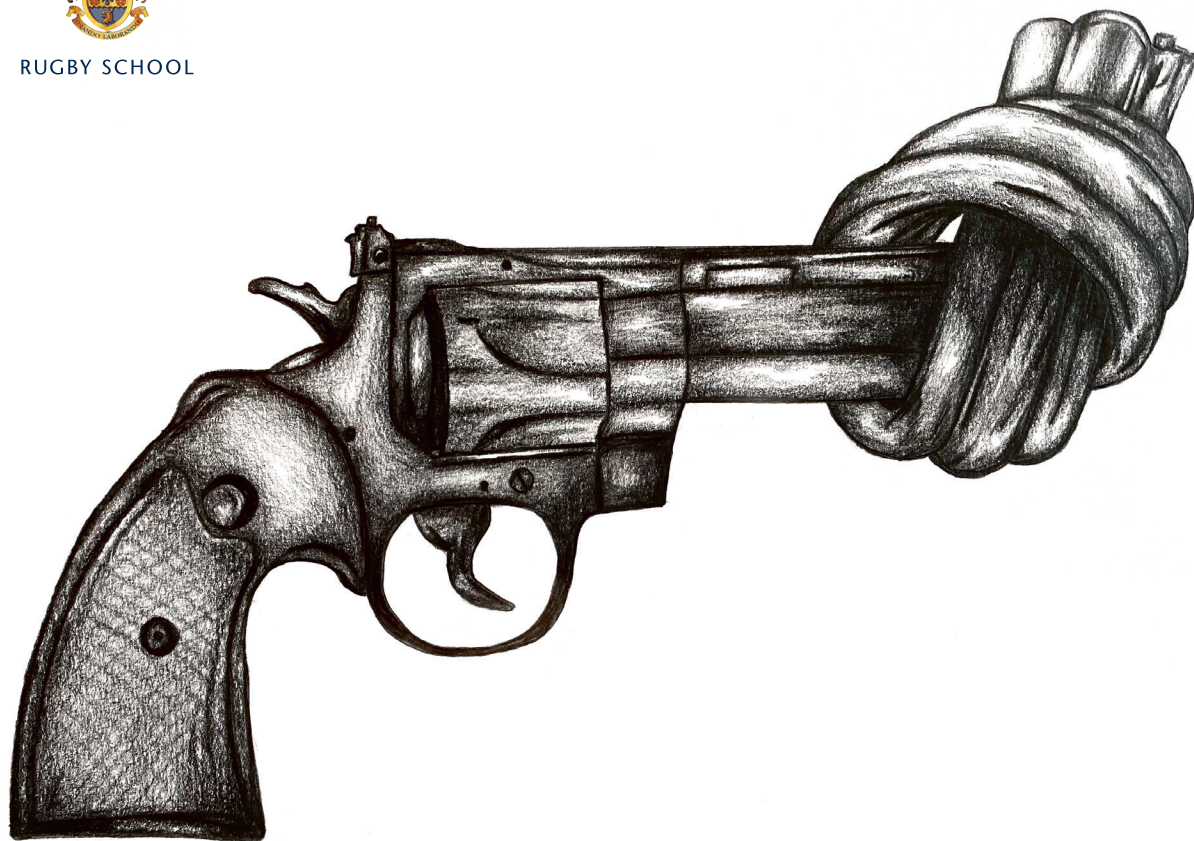




RUGBY SCHOOL



CONFLICT WORKS?

Vol. 2
2022

A SELECTION OF ESSAYS FROM THE F BLOCK

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Intro

At the end of the Advent Term 2021 the F Block studied the theme of 'Conflict' in seven of their subjects (Classics, English, History, Geography, Philosophy & Theology, Modern Languages and Art). They covered a variety of themes from The Just War Theory to The Scramble for Africa to the Origins of WW1. Drawing on this material, each student then used the Christmas holidays to produce a 1500-word essay on the title 'Conflict Works?'

The essays featured here showcase some of the very best work produced with the students weaving together the different themes from the range of topics they had studied across the curriculum. Many chose to go beyond the topics raised in class and undertook further independent research, some even drawing on other subjects such as Politics and Psychology to explore the question further.

These essays get to the heart of the debate surrounding whether conflict can act as a progressive

force. Many of the students point out that the positive progress made by conflict cannot be justified by the destruction that it causes, others argue that conflict is the real driving force behind progress and advancement. As a couple of the essays point out, these contrasting arguments can be most clearly seen in the seeming paradox of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) whereby the very Weapons of Mass Destruction which are designed to cause conflict can, if held in equal quantities, actually progress peace.

As several of the authors highlight, conflict 'works' because without conflict resolutions cannot be found. Conflicting opinions facilitate lively debates, fuel protests and force us to confront our own pre-conceived ideas. This is demonstrated most strikingly here where the conclusions of each of our authors are as varied as the themes considered.

Rachel Force
Assistant Head Middle School

Oscar Austin



Regardless of whether through competition for natural resources, mating partners or in more recent times differing political or ethical beliefs, conflict has existed since the beginning of life. However, before one can investigate the abstract idea of “conflict”, one has to define its meaning. What is conflict and how is it caused?

Conflict is defined as a dispute between two or more groups. Conflict is simply a problem that needs to be resolved. Conflict sometimes comes in the form of choosing between a set of decisions you need to make: have leftovers or a bowl of cereal for breakfast; ride the bike to school or take the car, though sometimes it comes in the manner of a dispute or a difference of interests or beliefs between two people.

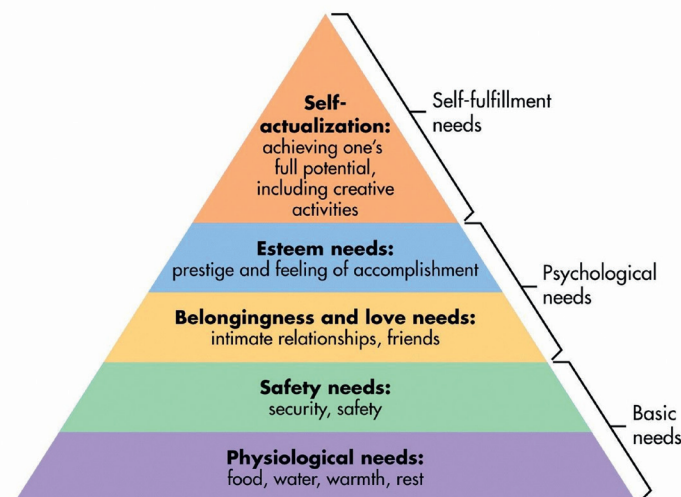
To resolve a conflict, a conflict resolution is needed. Take the Russo-Ukrainian war, for example. Russia has a problem. Despite being an independent country since 1991, as a former Russian/Soviet republic, Ukraine has been perceived by the Russian

Government and groups likewise to be part of their sphere of influence. Russia claims that if western Europe becomes more powerful and united, an area like Ukraine (which largely consists of plains), makes for a good area to attack. Russia claims that its national security is threatened by this; therefore they decided to resolve this by invading and attacking Ukraine, hoping to take control of Ukraine again.

Where does conflict come from?
At a surface level, conflict comes

from two groups/parties having a disagreement or a set of clashing objectives though if you dive a bit deeper, you will find that all conflict begins because of someone not having access to aspects of Human Fulfillment described in of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs describes the needs involved in achieving human fulfillment. The priority in terms of survival decreases as you rise up the pyramid. At the basic level, all



humans need food, water, sleep and shelter. These are things you would fight to the death to find. Moving up, need for security and safety. These are top priorities after your basic needs. To achieve fulfillment, you need access to financial security and physical safety. These are not things you would fight to the death for, though for example you may actively seek to make friends, find a romantic partner, but if you lose those it is not a matter of life or death. Going further up, again, if you do not have access to self-actualization needs and esteem needs, it is not a matter of life or death but you may not feel your life may be as desirable as it could be.

One can argue that conflict is the root cause of more conflict and all conflict should be avoided, but conflict itself has always existed. Sometimes it is the resolutions to said conflicts which do not work to bring the world forward. WW1 and its battles were meant to be a resolution of the conflict that sparked the beginning of WW1, though it effectively laid the groundwork for WW2 to happen.

Though conflict may sometimes lead to undesirable resolutions, change cannot happen without conflict. This is because without conflict, everything becomes static; societal systems become outdated and unable to keep up with changing times. Take WW1: World War 1 is known to be one of the costliest conflicts ever to be fought in terms of loss of human life, damage to economies and radical change to societal structure, etc. It is estimated that the conflict generated deaths of up to 22 million, up to half those deaths being of non-military civilian life. What followed was the dissolution

of four major European monarchies: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Russia. The war resulted in the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, and, in its destabilization of European society, laid the groundwork for World War 2, where a further ~55 million deaths were estimated as a direct cause of the war, with another ~19-28 million deaths to war-related diseases and famine.

The tragedies of WW1 and WW2 allowed for massive change and technological advancement to come forth. It has been observed that during these times of war, the rate and effectiveness of research of technology is significantly higher than in times of peace. The technological advancements seen in WW2 laid the groundwork of nearly all our modern 21st century luxuries, such as radar, computers, penicillin and the harnessing of nuclear energy. During and after WW1 and WW2, the realization of the horrors of war and its destruction led to the forming of new human rights legislation (1948 Human Rights Doc.) and banning of certain weapons considered excessively injurious or whose effects are indiscriminate in the form of the Geneva Conventions. Women's rights made a huge leap during and after WW1. When men went off to war, the suffragette movement aided the country in filling the jobs left open by men sent off to war, giving them leverage over the Government to give them the right to vote. In 1918, women over 30 who met property requirements were allowed to vote, which marked an important milestone in ending the protracted conflict of women's rights. With these pieces of evidence, we can determine that using conflict and allowing the conflicts to be resolved, we can

introduce massive, positive change into our society and therefore bring humanity forwards.

Another way we know conflict works is because humans would not exist without the use of conflict. The very concept of evolution relies on conflict. From the very beginning of life, living things have had to compete for resources, mating partners and such. This often leads to a conflict where one side is clearly more powerful than the other. This conflict allowed the weaker group, over time, to adapt, evolve and better suit themselves to their environment. This method of conflict, evolve, conflict, evolve proved to be extremely effective and evidently led the evolution of humanity (Homo-Sapiens). In modern times, we must do the same. If people stop adapting to new environments, we risk the systems we have built for ourselves becoming outdated.

Some people may say that conflict works to a degree and on different levels. For example, sometimes in order for someone to have pride, another must be put down. This is common across many conflicts in history. For the victor, the conflict may have achieved their goal and 'worked' for them, though for the other side it counts as a defeat and therefore they may not have achieved their goal. The problem with conflict is that not all times do all parties involved agree on a solution that benefits all; therefore one solution is eventually picked, whether by agreement or by force.

Some pacifists may argue that since some conflicts have the possibilities of bringing harm to people and life likewise, we should avoid all conflict. Conflict itself will always exist, so avoiding conflict is not

an option. The only way to solve conflict is to present a resolution.

While it is true that some conflict resolutions may occasionally lead to situations in which people are physically or mentally harmed, sometimes a person or group of people has to suffer to a certain extent to achieve a positive resolution. If a resolution is found, it may benefit many more people in the future than harmed.

Because utilitarianism is a consequentialist ethical theory, it is based entirely on the consequences of one's actions, not the actions themselves. If we present a resolution to a conflict that will benefit many people in the future

in return for the suffering of a few in the present, there is a potentially infinite number of people in the future who will benefit from it and the happiness generated from that far outweighs the suffering of the few. If utilitarianism is to be believed, it shows that conflict is both moral and ethical to allow for a resolution to a conflict, and more importantly allow for conflict itself. Equally, sometimes two parties have a conflict and it is never resolved. Instead, the conflict remains dormant as a 'blockage'. Those two sides will never work together to find a solution that benefits both and instead refuse to work together. To give an example, if you instruct a computer to do two different things at the same

time (e.g. move left, move right), there will be no resolution and instead the system stops working. This is why it is important to find a resolution to these conflicts.

In conclusion, we can determine that conflict can work as a tool of sorts. Using conflict, people can try to identify what causes a dispute between two people, then resolve that conflict. Conflict works as a means to an end, to allow for change. Without change, we as a race cannot learn and cannot move forward as a whole. Right now we are experiencing an incredible period of peace, and without conflict, problems can build up and lead to undesirable outcomes that impact everyone negatively.

Clover Cockburn

FOR

Conflict sometimes does work and is justified. Recently, in Philosophy and Theology we have studied the Just War theory. Just War theory is a set of rules that a conflict must align with for it to be a justified conflict. One of these rules is 'It has to be the last resort', meaning all possible other options must have been tried and failed so that war is the only option left. When it comes to conflict, war is not a popular option of solving it but sometimes it must be the answer in order to fully draw a line under the conflict. Another rule from Just War theory is 'There must be a likely outcome of success'. This means that there must be a victor, so the war doesn't carry on for a prolonged amount of time whilst at a standstill, and that there is a point to the war, instead of just fighting and declaring war despite knowing that it could last a very long time without a consequence. A war without a victor or a consequence is very dangerous as it can lead to unnecessary damage. So, I think Just War theory makes conflict work as it proves whether the conflict is valid or just a waste of

time and money. War does need a substantial amount of time, money and resources so I agree with Just War theory in that the war must be valid and justified. And therefore, it must follow Just War. So if it does fit the rules of Just War, it is valid and therefore it works. All in all, Just War makes conflict or war work.

Conflict is an inevitable part of life. People have opposing values and opinions and it is inevitable that there will be disagreements wherever we go. At times, you just can't avoid conflict. There is nothing you can do to prevent it, and sometimes conflict is a growing point too.

In Islam, there is a main principle called Jihad that is about internal conflict. There are two types of Jihad, Greater and Lesser Jihad. Greater Jihad refers to the personal struggles a Muslim goes through when following the teachings of Allah and learning how to overcome human instincts like greed, pride and hatred. Greater Jihad encapsulates the struggles a young Muslim might have when coming to terms with their personal desires and needs that must be

resisted when becoming a Muslim. Lesser Jihad refers to how Muslims must be ready to fight to defend their values and to defend the oppressed and to combat injustice. Lesser Jihad also works as a conflict because if there is oppression against Muslims occurring, a Muslim must be prepared to stand up for what they think is right, whether that be physical combat or protests. This works because it is an attribute that all Muslims must have and it is obligatory to becoming a Muslim, therefore, it works. Lesser Jihad is essentially protecting and defending a Muslim's faith, which they are much obliged to. Greater Jihad is more about internal conflict but in this instance, this conflict is key to the religion and becoming a Muslim. Meaning, it works as it is a key part to growing and living as a Muslim. It's a conflict that one must learn from, and I think such conflicts exist that we can learn and grow from. Whether it be teaching us a lesson on how not to behave or teaching us a lesson on how to behave. So, to sum my last point up, Greater and Lesser Jihad both are or include conflicts that work.

We have also been studying conflict in History. We've been looking at WWI and the impacts it had on society and the world afterwards. An aspect of this specific conflict was trench warfare which was the style of fighting WWI took. There are many pros and cons of trench warfare. One good thing about trench warfare is that it provides a good and safe hideout for soldiers. Due to the shape of the trenches, the infamous deep ditch, this meant that soldiers there were very hard to kill or attack. Like I mentioned, it provided a safe place for troops to reload and then fire at the enemy with minimal risk of them being killed as they were behind a barrier.

Another positive of WWI is that it forced technology and mechanics to progress hugely within a short space of time. Weapons like machine guns, airplanes and tanks were introduced. Inventions like these changed the world as utilising these types of weapons creates power if certain countries have them and others don't as the weapons can cause immense destruction. However, these new weapons being introduced was also a good thing as it adds another level of both defence and attack; for example with tanks you can transport many soldiers without them being killed with machine guns you can kill many more people compared to just a singular gun with a singular bullet.

Despite WWI being a devastating war, some good came out of it. This conflict has pros and cons, and it did work in terms of benefiting society in the long term, like the progression of technology. But there are some negatives too, and I'll be talking about those in my next argument.

AGAINST

In Philosophy and Theology, we have also been studying why war doesn't work and is never the correct answer. Pacifism is an idea that backs up my first statement as pacifism is the belief that conflict never works and war is never the answer. A pacifist can be religious or not, but their main belief is that conflict (when apparent) should always be handled peacefully. Pacifists campaign and protest against the unnecessary cruelties and excesses of war, for example the maltreatment and torture of prisoners. People are pacifists for many reasons, like religious faith, non-religious belief in the value of life or the practical belief that war is a waste of resources. Pacifism is opposed to killing – nothing can justify killing a person, hence why this is against the statement 'conflict works'.

Also, the teachings of Jesus promoted peace and therefore promotes the statement. Luke Verse 12:51 in the New Testament opens with a question, 'Do you think I have come to bring peace to the Earth?' It's of course answered with 'Yes, of course we do. You are the Prince of Peace, after all.' Throughout the Bible the theme of bringing peace to the world is prominent and heavily stressed. The verse talks about bringing peace to Earth as a goal and responsibility so war and conflict ruins and destroys what Jesus (as the designated Prince of Peace) worked for.

In History we also learned about the many negative impacts of WWI. Firstly, WWI used extreme amounts of money, materials and food. World War I cost about £22 billion in early 20th-century money – meaning it would've amounted

to much more money nowadays due to the difference of worth of currency. Leading up to WWI, months and months were spent manufacturing machine guns, tanks and many other weapons needed for the war. Lastly, rations were introduced in the UK due to the lack of food which came about because of the trading routes and naval blockages being destroyed.

One of the many other obvious negatives of WWI was the extreme destruction of France and the terrain on which much of the war was fought. It took decades to rebuild and restore the war damage across Europe. There was also an immense number of casualties (37,466,904) in the war. This proves that the war was of course not worth it. It caused so much strain on the country due to lack of resources, money and food. It also inflicted colossal pain and emotional damage to the families of deceased soldiers.

CONCLUSION

I partly agree with the statement 'conflict works'. I feel sometimes conflict is beneficial as it's a learning point. Every mistake is a learning point, and the same idea can be applied to conflicts such as war. Also, I think some things are worth fighting for and if a group of people are very passionate about a certain issue, then they should make a stand and make their points heard. Sometimes conflict can be beneficial to society too as technology will improve as every country is trying to have the most powerful and newest weapons, meaning technology would constantly upgrade. Furthermore, I believe that if a war or conflict fits with the Just War theory then it is valid and therefore it works. On the other hand, as the

world has seen post WWI, war and conflict can be devastating as it can cause casualties and maybe even deaths and could cause cosmic destruction. To sum up, conflict can work, however, it might still have very negative long-term impacts.

Theo Day



Conflict is serious disagreement and argument often leading to violence. It can be used for many objectives, based around power, the ability to influence someone to get your desired outcome. The question remains however: does conflict work? Is the desired outcome often worth the suffering? In this essay, I will examine evidence of conflict that I have been studying in the three subjects of history, P&T and Latin.

War is a conflict between nations. In Latin classes, I have been studying the Trojan war, by translating and interpreting texts which tell the story. The Trojan war lasted for 10 years, with many battles and loss of life happening outside the walls of Troy. The Greeks had two different reasons for the war. The Greek king, Agamemnon of Mycenae, a collection of kingdoms, desired all the wealth and power in the world. He wanted Troy for its powerful army, many treasures and large, walled city. The Trojan prince, Paris, when on a trip to Athens had brought back to Troy the beautiful Helen, wife of Menelaus, Agamemnon's brother.

This infuriated Menelaus, and he begged Agamemnon to send the armies of Greece to destroy Troy, Paris, and Helen. You could argue 10 years of conflict was worth it for a huge city, but as soon as the Greeks penetrated the walls, they burned it to the ground. I think this was stupid as this was the kind of response you would have to a threatening empire, not a valuable city you could use as a puppet for power. They should have captured it, not destroyed it.

Furthermore, all the battles that happened outside the walls, with brave warriors such as Achilles and Hector killing dozens of soldiers, were effectively worthless. This is because the only thing that allowed the Greeks to enter the city was the clever trick of the wooden horse by Odysseus. He had the Greeks sail all their ships around the rocks so it would appear the Greeks had left. He left diseased bodies in their camps, and a large wooden horse containing 50 Greek soldiers. The Trojans, thinking the Greeks had left and the horse was an offering to the gods, dragged the horse through the gates, partied all day and got drunk with

victory. Then when all the Trojans were asleep, the soldiers climbed out, opened the gates and the Greek army came inside, killed all the Trojans, and burned the city. If Odysseus had just thought of this earlier, thousands of lives would have been saved. Even after the war, Helen did not go back to Menelaus, because he was dead! This all supports the view that conflict can sometimes not work (and trickery can be a substitute). On the other hand, without the Trojan war, the Roman empire supposedly would never have been founded. People like Agamemnon and Achilles would also not have had their desired fame across history. These reasons support that conflict can work. Looking at all the evidence, however, I believe the Trojan war is evidence that conflict can sometimes be ineffective.

In history I have been studying World War One. It is a huge amount of evidence to interpret whether the conflict and resulting situation was worth all the lives of the soldiers. There are a lot of reasons why it might not have been worth the suffering.

The main cause of the war was the two alliances of Europe feeling threatened by each other. Britain, France, Russia, and Serbia felt threatened by the growing empire of Germany and Austria. The Austrian duke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian agent, effectively the flashpoint that caused the war between the two alliances of nations. You could argue the only point of the war was to have your alliance in control of Europe. Keeping this in mind, the soldiers of both sides were ordered to live and fight in unbelievably awful conditions: rats, disease, mud, toxic gas, and rotten food. Most of World War One was spent on the stalemate western front, with awful trench systems running from the coast to the Alps. These systems stayed in place for the whole war. The sides would constantly be engaging in trench warfare for most of the war, which was a questionable decision by the British generals. Hundreds of thousands of men from both sides would die due to the artillery barrages and strategically ineffective charges in this new type of combat.

Battles like Passchendaele and the Somme had huge casualties, and the generals didn't seem to have learned their lesson until the last year of the war. For a war just based on control of Europe and bad relations, suffering was at its highest. This evidence of a war so horrible could easily prove conflicts like war can have extreme consequences, made worse if the goal isn't even worth the fight.

On the other hand, you could argue that the conflict of World War One was worth it for the recognition women received for replacing the male workforce in factories. This would then lead

to women receiving the right to vote in 1918. The right to vote would solve very many problems for women at the time, such as prostitution, marital rape and venereal disease (through women voting for laws against these things). The immoral behaviour of men at the time would be greatly increased with World War One and the right to vote.

Finally, in Philosophy and Theology I have been studying Just War theory and weapons of mass destruction. Supporting the statement that conflict can work is Thomas Aquinas' Just War theory. Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican priest who wrote the theory. It is basically a checklist to make sure a war is started and fought ethically.

Here are the criteria: 1. It must be in a just cause. 2. It must be declared by a competent authority. 3. There must be just intention. 4. There must be compassion on both sides. 5. It must be a last resort. 6. There must be a likelihood of success. 7. It must be proportional.

I think the Just War theory is great evidence that conflict can work with few consequences. In addition, there are many examples of when certain criteria are or are not met, and the consequences of that scenario. For example, when the Americans dropped the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was definitely not proportional to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. However, the Japanese military had a strict ethical policy that surrender was the least honourable thing you could do, and would have fought the war ferociously to the very end if they hadn't dropped those bombs. Therefore, dropping the

bombs ultimately saved more lives than taken by stopping the war. This is still evidence that conflict can work, just in a different way. This is utilitarian ethics, weighing the positives against the negatives.

Weapons of mass destruction are another part of conflict. They will certainly make you win a war and act as a deterrent for one, but are they worth the huge amount of death and destruction? Absolute pacifists believe all war is morally wrong, especially weapons of mass destruction. Often based on religion, these pacifists believe conflict does not work and is not worth it at all.

In conclusion, I believe conflict works as long as it follows the criteria of Thomas Aquinas' Just War theory. This is because it will have the least suffering for the cause of the war, and everything would be proportional and ethically okay. Unlike the Trojan war and the World Wars One and Two, the war would ultimately achieve much more per death of one person. It allows defence for the defenceless.



Zachary Denham



Conflict has many meanings. In a geopolitical sense it can mean 'a state of disagreement caused by a country's needs or wants between another country or people.' In a moral sense it can mean 'a situation caused by a person having two moral obligations' and in a state of war it can mean 'a struggle for land, property and power'. In a more general sense, the term conflict is defined in the English Oxford Dictionary as a 'serious disagreement or argument'. All four of these definitions demonstrate that all types of conflict are caused by the desire for something. This desire can come from a disagreement between two areas of concern – it could be two different countries or two different people, all fighting over something they desire. Conflict can be caused by a small issue such as having a fight or disagreement with a friend over who has the last biscuit in the tin. They disagree over whose biscuit it is and who should eat it. Conflict can also be caused by much bigger issues such as two countries fighting over what land they control. This was seen in both World Wars and in conflicts such as when India was partitioned in 1947. Whether

conflict is caused by small issues or far bigger issues, fundamentally it is an argument about the desires of the person or country.

One example of a historical conflict is the Suffragette movement which was a huge success to all the women fighting for the vote. Emmeline Pankhurst started a revolution in order for women to be given the vote. Women in England had been denied the right to vote despite most men being given the vote in 1884. Two main political groups were formed, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Women's Social and Political Union. Both campaigned for the right of middle-class, property-owning women to vote. The WSPU were angry at the lack of progress and turned to violence. Violent acts such as breaking glass windows, planting bombs and handcuffing themselves to railings were used to get their point across to the government. These were all examples of conflict working. In the end these methods were successful and all women over 30 were given the vote in 1918.

There are plenty of examples in history of conflict not working. Both

World Wars were huge conflicts that did not achieve the desired goal, which was a problem for both sides, because they both lost millions of pounds of resources for both countries to lose out. At the beginning of the First World War the conflict was between the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. Failure to sort out this conflict at the beginning stages resulted in a huge number of deaths. The pointless four-year war (1914-18) that followed which was fought in the trenches of France ended with around 40 million deaths – both military and civilian casualties. Twenty years later Germany and the UK were at war again, in the Second World War (1939-45.) The desire Hitler had to dominate the world resulted in nearly 50 million deaths worldwide. The World Wars are an example of huge conflicts over the desire for more land and control.

A geographical example of conflict is demonstrated by the Catalonians' desire for independence from Spain. The Catalonians' wanted Catalonia to become its own state, with its own government and law making. This was a major issue and led to conflict as so many Catalonians

desired to be independent. There were many violent protests and rioting throughout the area. However, the people who ruled Spain did not take much interest in the events and branded the rioting Catalonians as terrorists. Catalonia still desires its independence from Spain and some discussions have taken place in Spain since 2021 but it is unlikely that Catalonia will be granted independence anytime soon. But still, this is unsurprising, as Catalonia holds more than one-fifth of Spain's economy – £191 billion pounds.

A geographical conflict that was more successful was the Crimean War. The Crimean War was originally started from religious matters which was a problem because the fighting and opposing countries both believed in different religions. This eventually overflowed into a war – a conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Russia wanted to have control of Ukraine as it was useful to Russia as the Ukraine was a warm-water port and this would benefit Russia's trade and military power. However, Ukraine became pro-European and therefore President Putin annexed it with the support of pro-Russian rebels. This caused a lot of conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The allies of Russia were not very fond of each other because the British were not used to fighting together, but against, but still, Putin desired to control much of Ukraine and despite the huge death toll, he got what he wanted.

A further example of conflict can be seen in Philosophy and Theology. An example of conflict working was the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, the most destructive Second World War bomb. It took lives of thousands of innocent lives just to prove

themselves, and even the people who did survive, all their homes were destroyed by the bomb. This was an unexpected conflict because there were five Japanese cities that the US were going to bomb, but neither of the cities were on the list. This event controversially brought an end to the deadly Second World War. The Americans dropped the bomb in order to bring an end to the costly war. It did have the desired effect; however, over 200,000 Japanese civilians were killed as a result. If the Second World War had continued, a much higher casualty list may have been reached. So, was it right to drop the bomb? It did bring an end to the deadliest conflict of the 20th century and yet was it right to kill so many innocent civilians?

The Vietnam War is an excellent example of conflict not working. It was a horrible war where nearly 1.5 million people were killed. The conflict began because America was very scared about Communism. Communism was spreading throughout Asia, and America was determined to stop it in its tracks. They were extremely scared about Communism infiltrating the USA. North Vietnam had become Communist and Americans were determined to stop South Vietnam falling to Communism. They sent in American troops to try and fight against the Viet Cong (the Communists.) America really did not think they would lose the war. They were sure that the powerful US army would be able to destroy the Communists very quickly. In reality, however, they just could not win. The Vietcong were well trained in jungle warfare. This is also known as the war of the flea. The Americans were used to big battles, with extraordinary displays of military power. However, the Vietcong

attacked in small cells, 24 hours a day and lived in a vast network of tunnels. The Americans could not win and despite fighting the war for many years, eventually pulled out in 1975 having not won. South Vietnam fell to Communism as the Americans left.

To conclude this essay, I have talked about lots of different types of conflict, like what types of subjects conflict can be in and how big or small conflict can be. This just shows how much conflict can change due to different circumstances. This essay shows that in a lot of ways conflict is used well, like the suffragettes because they used conflict, and they got what they wanted, but this essay question also can prove that conflict can be the wrong decision because if conflict doesn't work, you have just lost thousands of men and resources, but still you didn't win what you wanted, this can also prove that maybe words can work instead of conflict. In my opinion I think that conflict is the right thing to do at certain times, because sometimes, as I said it might be over something small, and you just need to think about whether the conflict is appropriate, so if you are fighting about who gets a country, you do need to fight for that, because words don't mean much in certain situations, like when you are winning, but they still could mean a lot if you use them correctly. But if you do end up fighting over the last cookie, you should just try to talk before you do even more damage to yourself, or even your country.



Thalia Douglas



INTRODUCTION

Conflict is a disagreement, or a serious argument and it is commonly regarded as a negative concept, something that hardly ever has any positive impact and only results in destruction. However, it may be considered that there is much more to it than that. Conflict is something many associate with big world crises, overlooking the fact that it occurs in everyday life as well.

WAR

One of the most famous events of conflict is the First World War. It is mostly thought of as a wasteful loss of life. Many British people at the time were in support of the war. There are many countries in Europe who have never really gone to war, for example Switzerland. When someone wants to invade Switzerland, they don't necessarily respond with immediate violence, instead they defend themselves in different ways. Knowing this, one can understand why the First World War can be thought of as bad conflict as it could have been dealt

with differently. Primarily, Germany hadn't even invaded Britain, resulting in many lives being lost for Britain's allies rather than for Britain itself. Also, the First World War was supposed to be the end of all wars and the Treaty of Versailles was signed in the hope to prevent any wars in Europe for ever. However, this only led to the start of the Second World War some years later so the conflict and the settlement of it could be considered to have been for nothing.

On the contrary, before the First World War Germany was becoming ever more powerful and were not going to use their power in a good way. So even before Germany started invading other countries the Triple Entente were already concerned and shared the same worry. Germany needed to be stopped for the benefit of Europe and the rest of the world and this was the perfect opportunity to do just that. This conflict also strengthened the relationship between the Triple Alliance; this is something that was necessary especially with the history of endless battles between France and Britain. Even though

the Treaty of Versailles is not the best example in terms of peace treaties, it does show that they can be made and do stop violence for at least a few years. They may not have managed to reach the Treaty of Versailles without the war, like Switzerland maintaining neutrality as Germany was so powerful, leaving war as the only option.

POLITICS

In politics especially it is important to have conflict. Without conflict it is likely that a country would become too one-sided, meaning that the government's actions would only benefit a certain group of people rather than benefitting the whole population. Especially when there are two parties who have very different opinions, with conflict they can create a balanced decision making it better for everyone rather than just one party's core voters. In these cases, it is important to have conflict as it stops a very one-sided view in Parliament. When making big decisions, for example Brexit, it is important to have a counter-argument as it makes sure that all

the faults in the plan are explored and debated so people are informed about both sides of the argument. With Brexit this was particularly important as it was the public themselves who made the decision for Brexit through a referendum.

However, conflict when making important political decisions is not always the best thing. It can create a stalemate and stops a decision from being made. In politics it is a recurring theme that the opposing party tries to make life more difficult for the party in charge, rather than helping them and doing what is better for the country. This especially has a massive affect during times of crisis. For example, in a war, as this type of conflict lengthens the process; it creates a time of uncertainty for the country meaning that they are more vulnerable to the enemy. This is also recognisable with the COVID-19 pandemic when political decisions need to be made quickly. If an opposition party continually disagrees with the Prime Minister's views and decisions, it slows the whole process down; letting the Prime Minister get on with it may be more beneficial for the whole country.

EDUCATION

It is not just politics where conflict is very important. In education, conflict is often encouraged, as it can have a positive effect as it can be constructive. If one is working on a group project, everyone will have slightly different views but if they work together and merge people's ideas it could be better than if one person were to just use their point of view. However, if everyone has a personal interest and it becomes a more competitive

and destructive conflict then the opposite effect occurs, and they will end up with nothing.

CIVIL CONFLICT

Disagreements can arise on a big scale within a country as well. A good example of this is Gaddafi's dictatorship of Libya. The people of Libya did manage to use conflict and war to overthrow Gaddafi with some help from NATO. In this situation the war was thought to be needed, but even without the war the conflict was still there. Gaddafi retaliated to people's gentle protests with violence meaning that the situation escalated causing NATO to join in. There actions were successful, and Gaddafi was overthrown having been a dictator and ruling over Libya for 40 years.

Despite the obvious success about overpowering Gaddafi, it didn't just have a positive impact. When NATO became involved, many innocent people were killed over the year-long process which ended in the assassination of Gaddafi. As a result of this, however, people began to migrate to different countries. Migration can be destructive to developed countries and even more destructive to developing countries. Migration can cause an economic crisis and many deaths as well. During dictatorships this tends to occur as well. When a country becomes independent having been under dictatorship for such a long time, it is very difficult for them to suddenly follow modern democracy. This then begins to cause more violent civil conflicts meaning that they may have even been better off

under a dictatorship. Thus, it can be seen that solving one conflict may lead to further conflicts which may be even more serious.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, conflict does work on many occasions. When two different parties share their opinion most of the time conflict or a minor disagreement will occur; however it can be positive and improve the situation implying that conflict does work. It is true that it depends on who the conflict is affecting and how they deal with it for the conflict to be positive or negative. If the person is open to different opinions and makes the most out of the conflict by using other people's ideas and merging them with theirs, then the conflict will be positive. At the same time, people can do the opposite; if one was self-interested and didn't listen to other people's suggestions the conflict would become destructive and therefore negative. Sometimes countries must become involved in a violent conflict as the alternatives are much worse than going to war. These consequences can mean that it would be more beneficial for a country to go to war than to try and talk it out. Having conflict stops a one-sided way of life. Humans have different cultures and religions, and positive conflict can result in compromises to allow governments to formulate rules which work for everyone.



Sophie Gedye



Conflict can be defined as ‘a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one’. Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘There is no path to peace; peace is the path’ suggesting conflict should be avoided at all costs and only used as a last resort. However, there are many examples in history that can be used to prove that conflict can have positive outcomes and can perhaps at times be seen as the only way forward to solve a problem or bring about a positive change. Throughout this essay, I will present different arguments and evidence and seek to determine whether ‘conflict works’.

World War 1 was a conflict that took place from 1914 – 1918. It began when the Archduke of Austria, Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and Britain went to war with Germany because they chose a route that went through Belgium after they had previously agreed to keep Belgium neutral. World War 1 has been one of the most horrific wars and the negative consequences are easy to see.

Firstly, it cost Great Britain £3.251bn, which in today’s money is £161bn making it more expensive than any previous war in history. WW1 caused around 889,858 British deaths and had a total of 14 million deaths for the whole world. This is the first example of an industrial war, which are more violent with the advanced technology and did not bring peace to Europe. Gandhi said, ‘I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.’ This appears true in this case as shortly after World War 1 ended, World War 2 began.

On the other hand, this conflict can be seen to have had positive outcomes, especially for women, who at the beginning of WW1, did not have the vote. WW1 created many job opportunities for women. Women had much more responsibility and freedom during the war. Lots of jobs were open to women as Britain needed more workers. Some of the jobs included were as office and factory workers, and even on military bases. Being able to

do these jobs meant that women could prove to men that they were capable because if they could do most of the jobs that men did then it would make the chances of them getting the vote more likely. Women received the vote in 1918, and it could be argued that this was a direct result of their efforts during wartime. In addition, WW1 caused the breaking of colonialism, which gave many countries more independence and freedom.

Further evidence of the positive and negative results of conflict can be seen in World War 2. World War 2 started in 1939 and ended in 1945. It involved most of the world’s countries, forming two opposing military alliances. The main cause of World War 2 was that Adolf Hitler, who was the Chancellor of Germany at the time, pursued an aggressive foreign policy initially invading Poland. Many good things came out of World War 2 including job opportunities. This conflict also ended dictatorship, particularly in Europe, and led to peace with no further conflicts of this size

and nature to date. It also led to growth in economy because of the production of warfare materials. The period after WW2 became known as the golden age of capitalism with 20 years of economic growth. However, World War 2 was the most destructive war in history. Estimates of those killed vary from 35 million to 60 million – more than twice as many as in World War 1. It cost the UK £120 billion. Despite this huge cost, if this conflict did not take place, then the outcome could have been much worse; over a million people died in Auschwitz alone, and if Hitler had been allowed to continue unchecked, many more people would have been killed.

The Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 1994 and treated Afghans, mostly women, horrifically. They also banned media, photography, and movies. They prevented women from attending school, getting employed outside of healthcare, and required them to be accompanied by a male relative and wear a burqa at all times. In September 2001, the Taliban crashed two planes into the twin towers in New York causing 2,977 deaths, and more than 6,000 people were injured. There were also several London bombings that the Taliban were responsible for. Britain and USA began invading Afghanistan to stop the Taliban taking over. Many people would argue that their invasion was self-defence and any conflict caused would be for a justified reason. If America and Britain hadn’t invaded and tried to bring down the Taliban, they believed they would continue to grow stronger, developing more violent attacks. The war in Afghanistan

lasted for 20 years. During this time, there were several peace talks between the US and the Taliban, though no agreement ever materialised. Efforts were made to train and recruit Afghanistan troops so they would be able to defend themselves. In this case, it can be discussed that conflict does not work, as the minute the British and USA troops pulled out of the country, the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan and is now bringing back the old laws. A total of 176,00 troops and police died for there to be no outcome and it could be argued that things are therefore worse than they were before the conflict took place – evidence that with no long-term gain, conflict does not work.

Over time, many conflicts have arisen because of complexities caused by the positioning of state borders and attempts to distribute land effectively among participating nations. For example, many countries fought over who got what in Africa when they colonized it. In a rush to get land, state borders were drawn randomly with little thought put into it. State borders were mostly drawn by people who had no idea what the country was like, so people would end up in states that might have been very mountainous areas, or places with little vegetation. Therefore, when people ended up without the resources they needed, it was likely to end in conflict that should have been easily avoided. Conflict could also be caused by the state borders splitting up religions and people with different ethical beliefs and can put two different political supporters together

in the same state which can cause disagreement. One reason conflict works in this case is when people speak up about why they are not happy about something, they will be heard and someone with power could solve it. However, one reason conflict does not work is when people get hurt and killed for these reasons which would not be right, as it could be fixed through peaceful methods.

Climate change has always been a huge cause of conflict. Firstly, it can be discussed that conflict does not work. There have been many protests carried out to create awareness about climate change. Lots of these protests and riots have caused violence and unnecessary deaths. When someone is so passionate about a subject and wants people to listen to them, they would do anything to make themselves heard, even if it would result in conflict. On the other hand, conflict has worked when used to create awareness about climate change. An example of this is one of the major protests that took place which was the Global Climate Strike in 2019. Over eight days, 7.9 million people joined forces across the globe to demand action from global leaders. Because this protest was on such a massive scale, it was able to get global leaders’ attention, making it a successful protest. This means that in this case, the statement, ‘conflict works’ is true because it is an example when conflict has been used to make a change and create awareness and that has been successful. In this case the mostly non-violent nature of the protest meant that the positive outcomes outweighed any negative ones.

In order that 'conflict works' it must be seen to have long-term positive outcomes. In the past, conflict has led to positive change around the world, which many would argue would not have come about were it not for the conflict. It can also be seen that there are times when conflict may have stopped even greater catastrophic actions taking place.

For many this makes conflict justifiable, and in these cases, it could be said that 'conflict works'. However, there are lots of people who believe that war and conflict are never justifiable, particularly if there will be loss of life, no matter what the circumstances, and think that a peaceful solution should be continually sought.

In conclusion, someone's culture, circumstances, beliefs and how the conflict directly impacts them, will determine whether they believe this statement. In every conflict there will be positive and negative outcomes. Depending on whether the positive effects outweigh the negative ones determines whether each 'conflict works'.

Elliott Godfrey

I think that conflict works in some cases. However, in most cases I think it does not. I would also say that even when conflict 'works', it still causes further issues and long-term problems.

The first example that I will be discussing is in the subject of History, WWI. WWI (World War I) was a worldwide conflict that occurred from July 28th, 1914, to November 11th, 1918. July 28th is seen as the start of WWI, because it is when the event that sparked WWI occurred, the assassination of the Archduke of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Franz Ferdinand. WWI then escalated from this point with Austria-Hungary then invading Serbia. They had wanted to do this for a long time as they sought to take over Serbia. However, they decided to use the assassination as a reason to invade and attempt to take over Serbia. This was a mistake, however, as Russia and Serbia were allies, so Russia invaded Austria-Hungary. This is where Germany come into the equation. The German military had a plan called *Weltpolitik* (World

Politics)¹ which was the ambition that Germany had to rule the whole world, therefore Germany would become the largest power. This plan was led by Keiser Wilhelm, the ruler of Germany at the time. The first stage of this plan was to take over Russia, and since Russia was concentrating on Austria-Hungary, it gave Germany a chance to attack Russia. Germany then wanted to attack France, but France had troops

stationed on the Franco-German border, so Germany decided to try and access France via Belgium, who were neutral. However, this aggravated Belgium who then asked for the help of their long-time ally, the UK. The UK and France then declared war on Germany and now almost all the major European powers were at war. In the end, Germany signed an armistice and surrendered, and the Allies won the war.



Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1889 until his assassination on 28 June 1914 (aged 50)



Kaiser Wilhelm II, ruler of the German Empire from 15 June 1888 until his abdication on 9 November 1918



The Bristol F.2 Fighter – One of the many British fighter bi-planes developed and used in air combat during WWI

On one hand, the conflict of WWI did work because it prevented Germany's *Weltpolitik* plan from succeeding. This meant that Germany did not become overly powerful and that the independence of other nations at the time were maintained. If *Weltpolitik* had succeeded, it would lead to a substantially larger amount of conflict taking place. This further conflict would have been civil war as countries that were taken over by Germany would have tried to take back independence. It also worked because of the technological advances that were made during the course of the war. These advances include aircraft use in conflict. WWI was the first time that aviation was used as a weapon in a major war. At the start of WWI, planes were mostly used for reconnaissance. However,

later in the war they were used for bombing and even air to air combat. At first, air-to-air combat was enemy pilots shooting their pistols at each other. However, guns were then integrated into the design of the plane, meaning that the pilot did not have to use an inaccurate firearm, but instead could use a high-calibre rifle or machine gun capable of shooting down an enemy plane.

However, on the other hand, WWI did not work because it caused over 20 million (approx.) deaths. Many of these people were innocent civilians who did not even fight in the war. However, in WWI, unlike WWII, most of the deaths were in the military. Furthermore, WWI did not work because it was supposed to be the 'war to end all wars'², but shortly after, in 1939, WWII started. The

purpose of WWII was for Germany and its allies, Italy and Japan, to try and take back what they had lost in WWI, and to try and gain power over Europe. WWII caused a further 70 million (approx.) deaths (military and civilian) on top of the casualties of WWI. This is a 3.5-fold increase.

Overall, I think that the technological advancements made in WWI and the cessation of the *Weltpolitik* plan mean that WWI was a successful conflict. However, looking at it from the perspective of Philosophy and Theology, it is unethical that so many people had to die in WWI. Just War theory says, 'The maximum damage caused by a conflict should be proportional to the scale of the conflict'. Since this conflict is worldwide, hence the name World War I, Just War theory says that the maximum damage

caused by the conflict can be large. However, I still do not see this as an appropriate reason for such a large amount of casualties and damage. For this reason, I think that the negative effects of WWI outweigh the positive effects; Therefore, I do not think that the conflict of WWI worked.

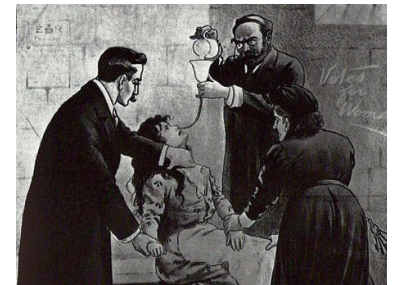
Another example of conflict is also in the subject of History – the Suffragette movement, and the fight for women's rights in the UK. The fight for women's rights started in 1897 when a group

of women called the Suffragists was founded. This group believed in peaceful campaigning to get women the vote. The other group that was involved in the fight for women's rights were the Suffragettes. They were founded in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst. This group used more violent methods to try and attract the attention of the government, so that they could try and get women the vote. Often, when the Suffragettes were arrested, they would reject food, which would put them in a vulnerable physical

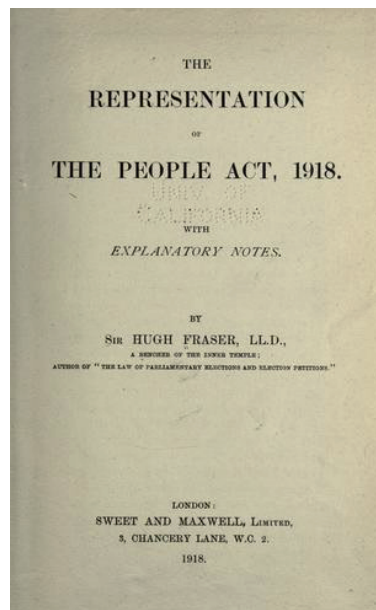
state. The prison staff would then force-feed the Suffragettes through a tube that would be inserted into their nose, that would go down to their stomach. This was extremely uncomfortable and painful, but it kept the women alive, so the prison staff used it. Eventually, the women would become too weak and ill so they would be released from prison and once recovered, they would continue to act as Suffragettes. This process would be repeated over and over. After a while, the Suffragettes told stories about their mistreatment in prison³. The prison staff were then called out for torturing women in prisons, and this statement alone made a large contribution to getting women the vote. I would say, however, that the contribution of women in WWI was the main reason why women got the vote. This is also another reason why WWI was successful and worked. While the men were away fighting, the women had to fill in their jobs and make supplies for the men on the fronts to use, such as weapons, ammunition, and helmets. This showed that the women were able to do the same jobs as the men, so therefore should be treated equally to men. The Suffragettes also stopped their protests during WWI, which showed that they were patriotic, just like the men, and were willing



Emmeline Pankhurst, founder of the Suffragettes (Jul 15, 1858 - Jun 14, 1928)



An image of a Suffragette being force fed by prison staff



The front page of the Representation of the People Act (1918)

to come together and support their country during times of conflict. This made many men and politicians like the women and Suffragettes more, which led to them being more likely to be given the vote. Eventually, the Representation of the People Act (1918) was integrated into the law, which meant that all men and women above the age of 18, who were also a citizen of the UK, were allowed to participate in voting. On one hand, the conflict of the Women's Suffrage Movement and the fight for women's rights in the UK worked because it passed the Representation of the People Act (1918) which meant that women got the right to vote and were seen as, in most cases, equal to men. Furthermore, many women were required to fill jobs that fallen soldiers had left behind after the war, which meant they could earn a living to support their husband's wage. This removed the stereotype that women were only

supposed to be housewives and raise a family. Women started to be treated more equally and this means that the conflict worked for them.

However, the conflict did not work for the men at the time because they lost their superiority over women and were humiliated because of the way that they had treated women over the years. Furthermore, even though women now have the vote and a larger range of rights, there are still issues in society today such as genderised pay gaps. This term means that women get paid smaller wages than men, even doing the same job. This means that women and men do not have completely equal rights even to this day. In this case, I think that the positive effects of the conflict outweigh the negative effects of the conflict which means that I think the conflict worked.

My third and final example of conflict is in the subject of Geography. It is the Libyan War and the intervention of

NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Muammar Gaddafi was the leader of Libya from 1 September 1969 – 20 October 2011. Due to the way that Gaddafi ruled, there were many who protested against him. He had a very aggressive and patronising style of rule. A BBC News article on Gaddafi states, "Gaddafi was a skilled political manipulator, **playing off different tribes against each other and against state institutions or constituencies.** He also developed a **strong personality cult.** More and more, his rule became **characterised by patronage and the tight control of a police state.**"⁴

There was a large civil war in Libya to try and remove Gaddafi from power. This civil war was called the First Libyan Civil War, and lasted from 15 February – 23 October 2011. This means that the civil war lasted eight months, one week and one day which is quite short for a civil war (given that the American Civil War lasted four years and the French Revolution even longer). During this time, Gaddafi tried to remain



Muammar Gaddafi, leader of Libya from 1 September 1969 until his death on Oct 20, 2011

in power and assert his dominance over the rest of Libya. In an interview with ABC News on 17th March 2011, Gaddafi said, "You know, the armoured militia yesterday, they **killed four young boys in Benghazi.** Why? Because they (the boys) were against them (the militia). Everybody is terrified because of the armed militia. They live in terror. Nightmare. Armed people are everywhere. They have their own courts. They execute the people who are against them."⁵

In this interview, Gaddafi is trying to intimidate people who were considering joining the rebellion. He was saying that if they joined the rebellion, they would end up like the four boys. However, this was not very effective; many people still joined the rebellion, and this resulted in protests and parades through the streets of Libya. Gaddafi ordered the militia to open fire on one of these parades, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people. In the end, the people looked for the help of NATO. NATO intervened to support the anti-Gaddafi side. This resulted in the death of Gaddafi and the liberation of the people of Libya. However, with there no longer being a government to rule



The 6th and current logo of NATO (The Northern Atlantic Treaty Organisation)



An image showing a map of current Libya

over Libya, the state soon fell into civil war and to this day, it is not seeing any signs of improvement or development. There is controversy around the subject of whether NATO should have intervened and the state that Libya is in now makes many debate whether or not the conflict and the intervention of NATO worked.

On one hand, the conflict worked because it removed Gaddafi from power and liberated the Libyan people. By removing Gaddafi from power, it prevented him from causing further damage to Libya and from causing more deaths like those of the four boys (refer to [figure 1]). In another sense, the conflict also worked because it demonstrated the power of NATO as they were able to remove Gaddafi from power and liberate the people of Libya. It demonstrated their military

strength and significantly boosted the hard power that they have.

However, I think this conflict mainly did not work. I think this because of the state that NATO left Libya in after removing Gaddafi from power. They did not help Libya at all after they had killed Gaddafi. This made many think that NATO only helped Libya to remove the threat that Gaddafi posed to the rest of the world if he became more powerful and started to look for power outside Libya. This humiliated NATO. The state that NATO left Libya in was treacherous. There was civil war and other conflicts all over Libya due to the fact that there was no longer a government to keep the country stable and enforce law. Overall, these downfalls of the conflict outweigh the positive effects of the conflict and therefore makes me believe that conflict did not work.

In conclusion, I think that the conflict of the Suffragettes and the fight for women's rights in the UK worked because of the Representation of the People Act (1918)⁶ which allowed all British citizens over the age of 18 to vote. This was a very large step towards women being seen as equals to men. This argument is a strong argument for conflict working, due to all of the positive consequences of the conflict, which in my opinion outweigh the negative effects that the effort had on some women, especially the Suffragettes, who were committed to getting women the vote; This proved successful. However, on the other hand, I think that WWI did not work due to the severe

amount of damage that was caused, and the large number of deaths (over 20 million). These devastating consequences of WWI outweigh the positive effects of WWI in my opinion. Therefore, I think this conflict is a strong argument against the statement. Furthermore, the conflict of the Libyan war and the intervention of NATO did not work due to the fact that NATO did not help make Libya stable after they had removed Gaddafi from power, resulting in Libya's economy collapsing. No improvement has been seen since, and Libya is still in a state of civil war today. For this reason, I think that the conflict of the Libyan war and the intervention

of NATO was unsuccessful and did not work. Overall, I conclude that conflict does not work. However, I think that alternatives to conflict could be used to achieve the desired outcome, but without the collateral damage caused by conflict and war. Alternative methods could include democracy, to try to come together and make a decision; or even political debates to come to an agreement about what should be done to achieve the desired outcome with the least amount of damage and loss of life caused as a result.

"War is not the answer, violence is not the solution. A more peaceful world is possible." – Ron Kovic⁷

Harley Hiller

Conflict can be seen as a disagreement between two or more sides or people with different beliefs. Conflict is effective in different ways and can result in many positive long-term effects. However, conflict can also be detrimental for many different communities, states and individuals and only cause suffering to thousands. World War I was an example of where conflict did not work because, although the war ended a dispute and stopped the Kaiser becoming too power-hungry, the harsh conflict resulted in around 40 million civilian and military casualties. Furthermore, conflict is often ineffective for people who believe in utilitarianism as years of warfare and battling can result in little gain for the majority of the population. The overall good effects caused by the war are often outweighed by the casualties, and the tremendous amount of damage caused. However, sometimes war is justified; for example, World War I is often seen as having positive long-term effects, such as helping women across Britain gain the suffrage, and huge technological developments. Finally, for people

who believe in the Just War theory, war is only seen as necessary and effective if it meets a set of criteria. They believe that if the war meets these criteria, then the conflict will work to resolve a dispute while making sure the damage and casualties are worth it compared to the outcome and therefore justified.

On the one hand, conflict and wars do not work because they cause immense suffering and create unnecessary, disproportionate damage. An example of this is World War I. Known as the Great War, World War I started in 1914, and led to mass destruction across the world. There were an estimated 40 million casualties, including military personnel, and civilians. Pacifists believe that conflict in any matter is unnecessary, and any violence is unacceptable. In World War I, they were known as conscientious objectors. They were shamed and seen as cowards and women would approach them and hand them a white rose, to publicly embarrass or shame them. They believe that violence is unacceptable, and peace should

be preached across the world. This means that conflict does not work, as it causes suffering and should be avoided all together. After the Industrial Revolution, Britain became more reliant on machines, and there were often easier ways to complete a task than before the revolution; this also applied to warfare. In World War I, different types of militarised weapons and techniques were used. This meant that deaths were often more painful; a prime example of this is how German soldiers utilised machine guns. They were able to mount them in fortified positions and mow down tens of soldiers in quick succession. In just one day during the Battle of the Somme, 20,000 British soldiers were killed by machine guns. Furthermore, World War I was one of the first wars where both sides used gas. One of the most torturous gases used was mustard gas. Due to its high density, it lingered low to the ground and when inhaled, it would blister and break down the lungs and throat, causing shortness of breath and coughing. Soldiers would either endure a painful death, or spend days in hospital coughing until the gas

Sources:

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weltpolitik>

² This quote came from the H.G. Wells book 'The War that will end all War' - <https://archive.org/details/warthatwillendwa00welluoft>

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-46320435>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12532929>

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Libyan_Civil_War

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1918/64/enacted>

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Kovic

was fully cleared from their body. Machine guns and mustard gas are both reasons why conflict does not work, as war promotes unnecessary suffering.

Secondly, conflict is ineffective for people who believe in the ethical theory of utilitarianism. Utilitarianism can solve many ethical scenarios as it states that 'the doctrine that an action is right in so far as it promotes happiness, and that the greatest happiness of the greatest number should be the guiding principle of conduct'. This means that war and conflict do not always work, as sometimes more people remain content if the war does not take place than if it does. If a war kills hundreds of thousands of people, the general population would be happier if the war never happened, as they would not have to be put through the pain and suffering of being injured or losing a loved one. Many civilians believe that war should not take place, as they must suffer. However, the government who wants a war to take place remains safe while solving an insignificant matter, or gaining power, land and money. Governments may want war to happen as they are frequently power-hungry, doing everything they can just for a small expansion to their empire. They often disregard the people of their country, leaving them to struggle while they take the glory for themselves. Colonialism is a conflict that is proved unnecessary by utilitarianism. The Berlin Conference in 1884 to 1885 led to a period of heightened colonial activity. It also led to Africa being split up among the European powers. The borders were drawn randomly, and many natives were displaced, with ethnic groups

being split up. While the European powers remained content, it was worse for more people. This had long-lasting effects on the people of Africa and utilitarianism proved that conflict is not effective. Ronald Reagan once said, "People do not make wars, governments do." This conveys that civilians do not want war, but instead governments do because they are constantly craving power and land. Many civilians do not require the extra land and power the government wants, and instead want a suitable place to live, with basic human requirements. The fact that many different governments want more power and therefore enter warfare to gain their desires is why conflict does not work, and instead the human race should co-exist without the need for more power, and rather more peace.

On the other hand, conflict is effective because of the opportunities presented as a result. An example of this is the Suffragette movement. This campaign involved women trying to gain suffrage through the use of various protests, some of which were peaceful, while others involved destruction and violence in order for change to happen in Britain. These actions did not go unnoticed, however, no real differences were made in Britain until World War I. As many British men had to fight in the war 700,000 of them had to quit their jobs including factory workers, bus drivers, construction workers as well as various other jobs. This meant women were forced to take over many jobs to keep Britain's developed economy thriving. From this point onwards, the people of Britain finally saw that women were capable of the same jobs that they were capable

of. This led to the Representation of the People Act in 1918, which allowed most women to vote in elections, excluding around a third of women due to them being under the age of 30, or not meeting a property qualification. Protesting continued until 1928, when the Equal Franchise Act was implemented in Britain, which gave women equal voting rights to men. World War I was a conflict which created opportunity for women across Britain to vote which has led to positive change. This shows that conflict does work, as it has changed the lives of women for ever.

Finally, many people who believe in the Just War theory believe that conflict can be effective to a certain extent. The Just War theory is a set of criteria that a war must meet for it to be justified. The seven criteria include: it must be for a just cause; there must be a just intention; the war must be declared by a lawful authority; the war must be a last resort; there must be compassion from both sides; there must be a reasonable chance of success; and the war must be proportional. These rules ensure that when a war takes place, the outcome is worth the casualties and destruction for a greater good. This means that the war is solving an issue which is much greater than the lives lost in warfare. If a war is suitable according to the Just War theory, then the war should be the lesser of two evils when compared to the issue at hand, as there must be a just cause. This means that when a war complies with the theory, it is always effective and justified. Therefore, conflict does work in circumstances where it is appropriate according to the Just War theory.

In conclusion, conflict and warfare do not work because wars are ultimately declared by governments, and not the people of the country that will inevitably suffer. Moreover, war does not work because of the sheer damage, pain and suffering created, as people's lives and safety matter far more than governments gaining small pieces of territory or access to resources.

However, war can also create great opportunities for different groups of people, including women in the early 20th century. World War I was a turning point in the Suffragette movement as women were finally seen as capable of fulfilling the roles that men had dominated prior to the war. Additionally, a war may be justified if it complies with the Just War theory. Marcus Tullius Cicero

once said, "An unjust peace is better than a just war." This means that humanity should always strive towards peace rather than head into a war without thinking about the possible detrimental effects on the people and environment. Overall, the sacrifices made in warfare outweigh the benefits, and therefore war is an inhumane event which turns humans against one another.

Charlotte Hon



Throughout this essay, I will discuss the question 'does conflict work?' I believe that conflict works. I have chosen to use examples and content from History and P&T lessons. First of all, what is the definition of conflict? A conflict is a disagreement over ideas, opinions, philosophy or interests. There are many different types of conflict, including internal conflict, physical conflict, conflict with others, conflict in society, conflict between countries... I will explain my opinion in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, it can be discussed that conflict does work as conflict is needed to solve problems in society and is needed to bring change. This can be seen through the example of the suffragette movement that helped women gain their votes. Before 1914, working-class women mainly worked at factories or as domestic servants, even though they went to school, as they needed the money. However, middle- and upper-class women were taught music, singing, drawing... things that would entertain men and

make a good wife. They were also forced to wear fancy dresses and corsets as men thought it was feminine. Women were considered as objects to men and were used to please them. They were also considered ornaments to men and did not have any choices. Men were always above women and they were unequal. By 1900, many women believed that getting the vote was the key to getting rid of the inequalities. There was a lot of conflict between society. Lots of men believed that women were incapable of doing what men did. In 1903, Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Suffragettes and they believed in "deeds" rather than the Suffragists believing in "words". The Suffragettes threw constant riots and burned places down and attacked police officers and government officials. This really caught the public's attention and more and more people started supporting women and the Suffragette movement. While the Suffragists just wrote letters and waited for replies. Soon, during World War 1, women got the chance to prove that they could do men's jobs as well as them if not better. In 1918, women finally

gained the vote and had equal voting rights as men by 1928. The Suffragettes kept fighting hard and incited lots of conflicts and finally gained women their votes. This solved a large inequality issue and reduced sexism largely. That is one of the reasons why I believe conflict works.

Next, let's talk about conflict in the form of wars. Another reason that conflict works can be seen through Just War theory. This theory was suggested by Thomas Aquinas who was a Dominican friar and priest, and an influential theologian. According to Just War theory, war and conflict are acceptable and work if the situation satisfies the following:

1. It must be in a just cause.
2. It must be declared by a competent authority.
3. There must be a good intention.
4. There must be compassion on both sides.
5. It must be a last resort.
6. There must be a likelihood of success.
7. It must be proportional.

I think that conflict would work and might even be beneficial if it follows these rules. Just War theory ensures that every conflict and war between countries or people

is worth it as it is for a just cause and will lead to a better outcome. This way, war or conflict can actually settle and solve a lot of problems. For example, imagine if two countries have been arguing about whether to kill millions of animals and use farms to build more commercial buildings. Country A is against it, as it is unethical, and wants to start a war. In this case, war would work and would be acceptable as it satisfies the Just War theory. It can stop millions of animals of being killed, and that is a good intention and a just cause. There is also a big likelihood of success. Let's say country A did win. The animals are saved and the problem is solved. Conflict worked.

On the other hand, conflict doesn't work because of the damage, deaths and hurt it causes. This can be seen through the two world wars. During World War I, the total number of casualties was estimated to be 40 million – 20 million dead, and the rest wounded. Even during the first day of the battle of the Somme, there were 57,000 British casualties. You can imagine how the rest of the war was. In World War II, around 75 million people died. It was the bloodiest war in history. Many families were left devastated. Wars also destroy people's homes. It also destroys all human development and natural resources, and that makes it harder for humans to rebuild the world and recover from this disaster. Even after a war ends, most soldiers get Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and live the rest of their lives in fear and trauma. Families who lost loved ones will also live every day in pain. This type of conflict is often caused by people misjudging situations

and starting unnecessary wars and conflicts. When people don't follow Just War theory, conflict or wars do not work, and brings millions of deaths.

Another reason people argue that conflict does not work can be seen through different philosophical and religious theories. One example is the ten commandments. It states that we should not murder, lie or be jealous of other people, and therefore shouldn't fight and go to war. Another example is Jesus' teachings in the Bible: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also." Christians believed that we should not react violently to someone if they were violent to us first. Early Christians were pacifists and believed that we shouldn't engage in conflict between each other. A pacifist is a person who believes that war and violence can rarely or never be justified. Some Muslims also believe that we should avoid war and conflict, and this is called greater Jihad. This refers to the personal spiritual struggle of every Muslim to follow the teachings of Allah, and overcome internal conflict such as anger, greed, hatred, and trying to forgive people who hurt them. Utilitarianism also suggests that conflict doesn't work. It was created in the 19th century by Jeremy Bentham. Here is his idea: 'It is the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong.' For example, war makes most soldiers and civilians unhappy, sad and scared, and little to none will be happy. According to this theory, war is unethical and is not right, and therefore conflict does not work.

This essay has discussed different ideas, including reasons why conflict works or doesn't. I believe that conflict works, mainly because conflict is needed to change society for the better and is needed to solve problems, and because conflict or war can be really beneficial if Just War theory is followed. And here are the main reasons with which others might disagree. The first one is that people fail to judge and follow Just War theory, and start unnecessary and unethical wars and cause much destruction and pain. All the different ethical and religious theories such as pacifism and the teachings of Jesus also suggest that conflict does not work.



CONFLICT WORKS?



To begin with, we must define the word “conflict”. Conflict is a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one. For example, it could be the internal conflict of one’s moral standards or it could be two countries in a war arguing about land ownership. Although conflict is negative on the surface, it is part of human nature and often does good for society’s development. Conflict is necessary for the progression of human society.

Conflict is at times unavoidable as the different opinions of people could both be convincingly agreeable. In our Philosophy & Theology class we have learnt about the ethics of abortion, and how the morals of people differ vastly. Some people believe that abortion since the day of impregnation should be considered murder. Yet some on the opposite extreme believe that pre-birth abortion should still be legal. However, those views are much less common in recent centuries. Even in the modern era, people still have a lot of disagreements about this subject as being pro-life or pro-

choice have both extraordinarily strong points to back them up. But most of the points just boil back to the question of “when does life begin”. Though this question is exceedingly difficult to answer as this is something that many people do feel strongly about, derived from their religion, their culture, or their background in general. However, this is an ongoing conflict but people have compromised to make law for abortions legal until 24 weeks of pregnancy. This is a good example of the compromise of a conflict to conclude that many people can agree is justifiable or moral.

The issue we learnt in P&T can be connected to the real world in many ways. Abortions, transgender rights, anti-racism, equal rights, and more are things that make the world more progressive and a place that accepts differences and celebrates diversity whilst being fair to the people. Most of these things started as “taboo” or “indecent”, therefore causing the conflict of people who agree and people who disagree. Over time, people do get more progressive and

accepting of these things, and that also leads these things to become socially accepted by most people. Then at last, the laws will change so people can have their rights and the lives of many people can be improved. However, if people avoided conflict, people would not have tried to fight for their rights. For example, Stonewall, the Black Lives Matter movement, women rioting to be granted a vote in the early 1900s and much more would all have never happened. And so, if those events did not happen, many other people and I would not be living a life in circumstances as comfortable as ours currently is.

Conflict does not always work as sometimes the conflict does not get resolved. For example, in “Robot Boy” (a poem that was studied in English), the conflict was never fixed per se. Robot Boy’s mother committed adultery with a microwave-blender, making the Robot Boy’s father angry at both Robot Boy and his mother. Throughout the entire poem, Robot Boy was neglected and unloved. Every character in this poem has their conflicts. Robot

Boy was struggling with his self-identity and fitting into a human society designed to exclude those like him; Robot Boy’s mother cheated on her husband, lighting the conflict between her and her husband; Robot Boy’s father holds misdirected hatred towards Robot Boy as Robot Boy is not at fault for being born. Although Robot Boy did eventually grow up into a young man, the main conflict of the story remains unsolved. It can be concurred that what happened to Robot Boy and his family is objectively a terrible thing and the conflict seemed near impossible to resolve. This goes to support the point of how conflict can sometimes do more harm than good, therefore going against the statement “conflict works”.

Conflict is unpredictable. Sometimes, it can bring good that no one expects but still has its prominent downsides, for example, World War I, a calamity that brought both bad and good into the world. I shall start with the blatant bad parts of such – war is caused by a conflict blown out of proportion and when people believe that resolution is impossible. Then, war will be declared, and people will engage in combat with each other. This ranges from violence, like bombs dropping into trenches to complex geopolitical tension from the Cold War. World War I caused about 40 million deaths in total, seriously harming both civilians and soldiers, leaving millions with PTSD (shellshock) and injuries that made them not able to function again. In the moment, the war also slowed down industrial development a lot as most of the young men went to war and women didn’t work. But this leads me to my second point that is the good that happened

because of the war. In history, I have learnt that the woman rights moment took off and accelerated because of the war. Young working-class men went to war leaving most jobs empty and therefore women had to take over. Such events not only showed the capability of woman to work, but it also made people understand that women were not just emotional or inferior to men. This is still widely believed as the largest cause of women being granted a vote in the western countries. Many technologies were also developed in World War I to either improve the chances of winning the war or unexpectedly turned out to be useful. These include the initial stages of a computer, X-rays, machine guns and many machineries for communication which were all invented or vastly improved during that period.

This type of situation is common in the social interactions of daily life. To have a long-term healthy friendship or romantic relationship, conflict is inevitable. From envy of one another to the conflict of wanting to eat different meals with one’s significant other, daily life is filled with conflict. Yet we humans tend to overlook such or even not notice these because of the bonds, closeness, and love (both platonically and romantically); instead people find the difference in opinion a joke or turn it into something positive. However, large conflicts that can potentially ruin a friendship or relationships can also happen. For example, political conflicts, difference in religion and such. People who genuinely enjoy each other tend to either compromise or let the other person(s) have their way, so avoiding further conflict; others would simply avoid

bringing up such types of conflict and it is sometimes the best way to maintain the friendship or relationship.

Conflict is a remarkable thing yet it does have its risk. In Philosophy and Theology, the conflict of abortion led to more human rights, therefore making an example of that conflict does indeed work. However, in English, we learnt about Robot Boy whose family conflicts destroyed his family and led to misery. Robot Boy was an example of conflict not working. Lastly, in History we learnt about World War I. Although it was a brutal war that killed millions, it also progressed women’s rights and many machineries that are still relevant to the current day were invented. This is an example of conflict causing harm yet bringing unexpected advances to human society. In conclusion, conflict is inevitable and part of human nature. However, the key to success in conflict is how does one solve the conflict, as depending on what happens post conflict is what becomes truly the good or bad of the conflict.



Isabella Lang

Conflict is an active disagreement between people who hold opposing opinions or principles. This essay will present various ideas concerning whether conflict works and discuss if “conflict is neither good nor bad”, like Kenneth Kaye, a psychologist and writer said. Historical evidence, modern-day examples, and different theories will be focused on explaining both sides of the argument. I agree with this statement to a certain extent; while conflict is necessary and unavoidable, it should be kept in control.



On the one hand, conflict is necessary to bring changes. The Suffragettes, WSPU started their campaign for rights in 1905; when during a speech given by Sir Edward Grey, Annie Kenney, a member of the Suffragettes shouted, “Will the

Liberal government give women the vote?” This caused a massive uproar and disagreement in the crowd. Despite the challenges, the Suffragettes’ efforts eventually led to the 1928 act, which established equal voting rights for men and women, meaning that gender discrimination was finally easing. By 1918, the position of women in society became increasingly more favourable. If it were not for the Suffragettes, the world would not have given women the recognition they deserve. Modern examples also show the importance of standing up for what is right. In 2017, Angie Thomas authored a book called *The Hate U Give*, winning multiple awards, including the 2018 Carnegie Medal. This book is based on actual events in the Black Lives Matter movement and tells the story of a teenager shot dead by a police officer. The BLM movement began in July 2013 and became famous through social media after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting of an African American teen Trayvon Martin in February 2012. Due to BLM protests, a significant decline in police homicides was recorded. Unsurprisingly the statistics show

that the most significant declines were when protests were large or frequent. BLM saved hundreds of lives that might have been lost because the protests were heard thus bringing changes.



A piece of evidence that goes against this is that as this world is getting more advanced, the aftermath of large-scale conflicts will cause destruction too drastic ever to be fixed. Conflict in the modern world is even more threatening than when technology was less advanced. There are now weapons of mass destruction in many countries, including atomic bombs, nuclear weapons, even deadly

viruses. The world’s nuclear powers have around 13,890 total nuclear warheads and 3,750 of them are active. These weapons can kill millions directly and through their impact on agriculture, potentially killing billions. On 6 August 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki only three days later. The aftermath of these two bombs was horrendous, with casualties of 135,000 in Hiroshima and 64,000 in Nagasaki. Even those who survived the bombing could not escape radiation poisoning, with effects like high fever and energy loss, often resulting in death. When recalling what happened, a six-year-old eyewitness described that people “were bleeding from their faces and from their mouths and they had glass sticking in their bodies. And the bridge itself was burning furiously...The details and the scenes were just like Hell.” If this is the damage of just two atomic bombs, what will happen if the countries are all using their weapons now that there are estimates of about 13,890 total nuclear weapons worldwide? Nothing with such severe damage can ever be described as working.



Another argument for why conflict works is that we cannot prevent conflict; we can only accept that conflict is inevitable while trying to control and make the most out of it. This concept is encapsulated by Thomas Aquinas’s Just War theory. This theory acts as a checklist to decide when and how a war can

happen, for instance “as a last resort” or with “just intentions”. Aquinas, a Dominican friar and priest, believed that it was not a sin to go to war if the war was for ‘just’ reasons. Therefore, this theory gives circumstances for when conflict can happen and shows that you cannot stop conflict itself but its effects can be controlled. Moreover, it is natural that conflicts occur between and within countries. Such was the case when Russia tried to take over Ukraine, causing internal stress within Ukraine as some wanted to join Russia while others wanted to stay independent. Despite this, there are different ways to exert power including hard power (aggression, enforcing and direct action), soft power (persuasion and negotiating), or smart power, which combines hard and soft power. In today’s globalized world, particularly considering advancements in war technology as mentioned previously, smart power is the best approach. Without soft power, hard power is destructive with no room for negotiation, and without hard power, soft power cannot reinforce its advocacy. Smart power might take longer to form, but it is highly effective, as such an approach forms long-term relationships between countries, avoiding disorder. In 1945 following World War Two, the United Nations was set up to facilitate negotiation and cooperation between countries. In 2009 “Investing in New Multilateralism”, a report issued by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, highlighted the role of the United Nations as a smart power strategy describing it as essential for addressing threats to peace and international security. Thus, just War theory and smart power both demonstrate that

while conflicts exist everywhere, sometimes the solution to these will not harm this world and instead bring positive influence.



Going against this argument, from a moral rather than political perspective conflicts cannot be considered right and therefore surely cannot be described as something which ‘works’. Pacifists believe that conflicts and violence under any circumstances are wrong. Pacifism is different from passive; passive means not fighting back, while pacifism means finding an alternative solution to a problem instead of violence. Therefore, while Just War theory attempts to justify war, a type of conflict, in response to certain circumstances, pacifism searches for an alternative solution. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind.” I agree with this, as a world filled with blindness is a mockery and waste of humanity. Destruction and death that follow many conflicts are heartless and vile, especially since humans inflict those damages on each other. World War One saw around 37 million military and citizen casualties, all of whom were just ordinary people plunged into war as soldiers, nurses, or women who were put into jobs they had never done before. While some might argue that conflict cannot be considered as wrong, as sometimes no morals can apply - Is fighting fire with fire the best way to go? It will just cause the entire world to burn. We should

try to tame the fire with peaceful reproaches; after all two wrongs do not make a right.



Another reason opposing this statement is that conflict can accumulate at a terrifying speed, making it a destructive catastrophe. A prime example of how conflict spreads was the World War I. This all started on 28 June 1914, when an assassin supported by Serbia killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, next in line emperor of Austria Hungary, and his pregnant wife. Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbians for the “Act of Terror”, which angered Austria-Hungary into declaring war on Serbia. However, Serbia successfully gained help from Russia, protector of the Slavs (Eastern Europe), forming the Triple Entente. Austria-Hungary, while trying to find allies, asked for support from Germany, who saw this as an opportunity to carry out their Schlieffen Plan to attack Russia; this started the Triple Alliance. Unexpectedly, Britain also joined the fight when Germany requested to attack France through Belgium. This sudden involvement was due to the treaty of London in 1839, providing international recognition for the state of Belgium. This shows how every country had reasons to join the war; the conflict was made worse when alliances turned into the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente creating two opposing

sides both with powerful support. While conflicts might not seem threatening at first, they hold no limit; nothing with the potential to cause such destruction should be considered to work.



However, conflict does not necessarily mean war or violence; there are conflicts everywhere in our day-to-day lives. One such simple disagreement is the argument in France over whether a particular type of pastry with chocolate in the middle should be called *pain de chocolat* or *chocolatine*. *Chocolatine* is used in the southwest of France, while *pain au chocolat* is used everywhere else. An official survey website has even been created to vote on its name. The survey results show that 84% of French people call this pastry *pain au chocolat*, while the remaining 16% live in the southwest of France. This shows how conflicts are a part of our lives; it is unnecessary to associate this word with violence. Furthermore, conflicts might not mean physical violence but the spiritual difference between beings. Many works of literature and films adapted this concept into producing well-known pieces about the supernatural, including *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill. In many renowned stories, logical human thinking fears the existence of the supernatural, creating intangible conflict between

the two worlds. This all shows that it is wrong to associate conflict with violence, as conflict arises from everywhere and conflict works as it brings acknowledgment needed when solving problems.



To conclude, from the diverse perspectives discussed, conflict does work to a certain extent. Conflict as a term does not necessarily always mean physical violence. There are conflicts every day; we need these to understand what is causing distress and disagreement. Recognition through conflict and the resolution of conflict is necessary when making this world a better place. The word “conflict” does not link with violence; it is important to realize the outcome of conflicts can be either negative or positive. However, managing conflict is also crucial; theories like the ‘Just War theory’ can help minimize the effects of conflicts. Going back to Kenneth Kaye’s quote, conflicts cannot be controlled; it is better to control the outcome of the uncontrollable than wasting time trying to do the impossible.

Charlie Sheldon

This essay will be arguing the point that conflict works. I will argue for and against, pulling from a variety of sources we have studied around conflict including history, English and geography. In history I will cover the suffragettes and their tactics that involved physical conflict. I will also talk about how they were mistreated in society. I will also talk about World Wars 1 and 2, the high death tolls and some of the bloodiest battles in them. For World War 2 in particular I will talk about some of the horrors committed against the Jewish ethnic group and for both I will be talking about the causes that led up to the war. For English I will discuss *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and how Sir Gawain faces internal and external conflict. For geography I will talk about conflict around the DRC, as well as the ethics around abortion.

In history there have been many conflicts where positive outcomes were brought about through not so positive means. For example, the suffragettes’ actions may have been questionable through their use of violence; however, they

brought about change and helped many people in the long term. This included getting votes for women, greatly helping gender equality in a broader sense. The suffragettes were founded by Emmeline Pankhurst after leaving the suffragists and forming the WSPU in 1903 after she decided that peaceful protests were not making enough progress. In the beginning they used peaceful means like speaking out in public and peaceful protests. When these means failed to make significant change they switched to more violent tactics like chaining themselves to buildings. On one occasion in a mass riot the women were beaten and imprisoned. They used their time in prison to protest through means like hunger strikes – they were then force-fed (which could be considered rape) although this did not dampen the spirits of the group. They went on to commit many more acts that become more and more extreme, such as bombings and attempted assassinations. The conflict of the WSPU stopped at the beginning of World War 2 when Emmeline Pankhurst stopped activity and started working to help the war

effort, taking on duties that men, who had gone to war, would usually perform. This greatly influenced people in Parliament to rethink their vote after women had proved they could perform these duties as well as men. Although this chain of events greatly helped the case for the suffragettes, they were getting close to making the government cave in.

Another example of conflict is in poetry and prose. For example, in one of the stories we have been studying for English, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, the main character, Sir Gawain, is going through mental conflict throughout the entire story as he is concerned (scared) about the fate dictated to him by the Green Knight. When he meets the Lord and Lady at the manor, he is told to rest. He is encouraged by the Lord’s wife to sleep with her, an example of internal conflict because he is trying to uphold both his virtues and those of a wife. The Lord asks Sir Gawain to give back what he takes and he does this by returning kisses taken from the Lord’s wife. On the last day he takes the girdle and

rather than giving it to the Lord he keeps it, as he believes it will keep him alive. The conflict in his mind meant he lies to the Lord, keeping the girdle and choosing his life over his virtue. This choice through his internal conflict shows he is willing to go against his beliefs. Finally, when he takes the blow from the Green Knight, the Knight judges him fairly because he had shown true virtue of a knight until the third day. The conflict inside him made him choose poorly and not honour the pact between him and the Lord. In the end he was still seen as a true Knight in the eyes of the Lord of the Manor.

Conflict of a different type exists around abortion and the ethics around pro-choice and pro-life. Many argue that women should not be allowed to abort a foetus. However I will talk about those who believe it is women's right to choose. These people are called pro-choice – they believe that the mother and her life come before the foetus. There are legal reasons for being allowed to abort an unborn foetus up to 24 weeks in utero – these include: the risk to the mother's physical and or mental health; if the baby is a threat to the mother's life; or if the child has a significant percentage of being born with a mental or physical deformity like Down syndrome, or something like anophthalmia or physical deformities like a cleft lip. These are some of the reasons people believe you should be free to abort. At the other extreme, pro-life believers argue that at no point should abortion even be considered. They believe that even if the baby has a deformity or another issue the baby should be born and cared for by its mother.

It could be due to their religion or personal moral beliefs, but some pro-lifers even go as far as to call people who abort murderers.

This paragraph will be dedicated to arguments against conflict working. For example, in geography there have been many fights over land. Many lives were taken in battles like in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a place that has been shrouded in wars. It is a good example of how weak artificial borders can lead to a frail and divided state. It has been ravaged by internal conflict, and the mineral wealth of the country means it has been exploited by outsiders. The DRC is not a developing country and it shows no signs of developing despite being one of the second largest countries in Africa with a population of 81 million people. In the wars since the late 1990s, around 6 million people have died. The DRC should have never been put together and it is one of the most under-reported war zones in the world and it has pretty much fallen apart. It is divided into more than 200 ethnic groups, the biggest of which is Bantu. The DRC has been ripped up so much that it is effectively falling apart from the inside.

Further examples of geographic conflict include World War 2, a war that spanned six years with around 85 million people perishing. It was a needless war that started after the Nazis invaded Poland because the Germans wanted to take back power for Germany. There were signs that there was going to be another war, including Germany's and Japan's sudden rise in military power as well as the failure of the League of

Nations, the first world-wide inter-governmental organisation with the aim of maintaining world peace. Germany's defeat in World War 1 left it feeling humiliated and broken. Adolf Hitler gave the Germans a common cause to believe in and a common enemy. He blamed many things on the Jewish ethnic group, committing many war crimes like massacres, mass rape, forced labour and the murder of 3 million Soviet prisoners of war. When it comes to conflict, World War 1 was also devastating and although not as many died in this conflict as in World War 2, it still resulted in roughly 20 million people losing their lives. World War 1 took place when terrorists from Bosnia assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria which was effectively waging war against the Austrian-Hungarian empire. This was a war Bosnia could not win and so it quickly spiralled out of control. With a possible war on the horizon they started to bring in their allies. Once Germany got involved they decided to power through by any means necessary and so they did. This escalated and resulted in World War 1 although they did try to resolve the matter through negotiations and peaceful means but the Germans refused to bargain and it broke down into all-out war. The Battle of Verdun in 1916 symbolises the conflict of this war as the bloodiest and longest single battle of World War 1, taking place over ten months.

In conclusion, having seen the arguments for and against, it is difficult to say if conflict is necessary; however in some situations it is. In some cases, there will be internal conflict as we saw with Gawain. When there is

conflict for a personal belief such as pro-choice vs pro-life, I believe it is the woman's right to choose what she does with her body (pro-life) and should not be subjected to abuse from those who believe she is killing a baby. Then there is the needless violence of the World War 1 and World War 2 conflicts. World War 2 saw many atrocities committed in the four years the war lasted. World War 1 spiralled down into a big mess in a very short time although they did try to resolve the conflict by talking but that did not work.

Conflict can be very helpful – it can bring about meaningful change (such as women's rights), stop arguments and sometimes even lead to peace, but there are also times when conflict can be the worst possible thing to do, so it varies, but I would say in many cases conflict works.

Rhys Shoker



Conflict is an action caused by a disagreement or an argument between people. It can be described as a quarrel and usually ends in violence. Conflict is a thing that happens every day and every minute, sometimes it is just a little scrap but in worse situations it could lead to something as large as a war. Conflict is something that is unavoidable in your day-to-day life, so it is important to learn live with it. Although conflict is looked upon as a bad action, it has actually helped the world and people to evolve so, therefore, sometimes conflict is good. Examples of where conflict has worked are in the Suffragettes' and Suffragists' movements in the fight for women's rights and more recently, the Black Lives Matter Movement, which I will discuss. On the other hand, there are examples where conflict has not worked and instead has had a negative impact, for example, in Libya's fight for freedom. Lastly, I will speak about WW2 which I believe had both positive impacts and will conclude with my opinion after speaking about these four examples.

The first example I will look at where conflict has been necessary to cause change is the recent Black Lives Matter movement. The Black Lives Matter movement (known as BLM) is a recent and popular action using conflict. It started to get popular in May 2020, after a black citizen, George Floyd, was violently killed by a member of the police force for no apparent reason. The cause started to get popular as a recording and news about the terrible event was spread on social media and the news and resulted in people gathering in the streets. Many people proceeded to have peaceful protest about police brutality, and with it being near the middle of the 2020 lockdown it got a lot of popularity on social media. From the peaceful protest BLM was becoming a very popular worldwide movement and managed to get on thousands of news shows and newspapers across the world. Soon after the peaceful protest the protest started to turn violent, and people started conflict. Houses and buildings were destroyed, there were fires all around and there were thousands of stores and shops getting raided, resulting in the US government

losing millions of dollars due to all the damage. Therefore, soon after the violent protests there was a kind of multiplier effect as further violence started to break out in other countries and consequently, the police officer was arrested. Leaders were speaking up about BLM and over time it had most of the world leaders' attention. This movement has resulted in there being a George Floyd Act of 2020 passed which has shown how this conflict has worked.

Another example of conflict that has worked is the fight for women's rights in England. The Suffragettes and Suffragists was a movement in the 20th century. Both the Suffragettes and Suffragists were protesting and fighting for women rights in England. The Suffragists used peaceful protests and non-violent ways to get the vote for women. However, the Suffragettes used more violent ways and they used conflict to try get the vote for women. Many of the Suffragettes got arrested and some got sent to prison because of their violent ways. But some in prison went on hunger strikes so the police

officers had to pin them down and force feed the women. In addition, the Suffragettes used violent ways – they blew up post boxes and they were well known for smashing windows, they cut electricity wires and used to chain themselves to railings. However, their use of violent tactics did get the government's attention and pressured the government a lot. The government held several meetings about giving women the vote. The Suffragists used peaceful protests to get the government's attention. They held public meetings to try get the public's attention. The protests and meetings helped the movement to get women's votes. The Suffragists did help populate the movement, but they did not get as much popularity as the suffragettes. The biggest event that happened involving the suffragettes was when one of their members, Emily Davison, jumped in front of the King's horse during a race at Epsom and putting a scarf on the horse saying, 'Votes for women'. While jumping in front of the horse she died, meaning she killed herself fighting for women's vote. However, women only achieved the right to vote after WW1 which is thought to be a reward from the work the women did in the war. When the men went off to fight, the women had to fill in and do the men's jobs like making guns, ammunition, bombs, etc. Many women died from radiation or got very ill from working in the factories. Furthermore, women at home grew vegetables and still took care of kids even though they were working as well. This proved that women are as responsible as men, and they can do the same things as men, so they got the vote. This agrees with the quote 'Conflict works?' because

the cause only got popular after the Suffragettes carried out their extreme actions.

Towards the end of WW2 near the end of the War the USA hit Japan twice with an atomic bomb. The USA hit the cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Hiroshima had 135,000 casualties and Nagasaki had 64,000. The bombing is thought to have helped massively to stop the war. However, the bombing killed mostly civilians who had not signed up to fight. However, there are two sides to the argument because some people believe that if the atomic bombs had never been dropped then there would be more suffering and more people dying through the rest of the war, and some people believe that the atomic bomb was unnecessary and killed thousands of civilians even though the war was coming near the end. This disagrees with the quote, 'Conflict works?' because even though the war ended soon after, thousands of innocent people were killed even though they did not want to be in the war.

In 2011 Libya's citizens started to protest peacefully against the ruler Qadhafi. The peaceful protest started because they did not like how Qadhafi was controlling the country. Libya's citizens started to protest in Benghazi. The citizens started to peacefully protest but Qadhafi responded with violence. He did not like the fact that people did not like him as a leader, so he wanted to hunt down and kill whoever was against him. He got his military to search every house and every street. Unfortunately, Qadhafi did not care about the people's lives as he was letting his military kill people cold-bloodedly on the streets. But, because of this news the Libya citizens were

very scared of the military, so this caused a lot of chaos and violence in the street because everyone was panicking and running from the military. However, there were some citizens who did not let Qadhafi push them out, and they chose to fight back. Qadhafi started using missiles and military machinery and kept brutally murdering innocent people on the streets. Luckily, the international community decided to step in. The UN Security Council demanded Qadhafi stop the violence and murdering the citizens. Unfortunately, Qadhafi ignored the request and he carried on killing and harming citizens. So, the international community had to stop him. Soon after the international community came in, Qadhafi was found and killed. Libya ended 42 years of dictatorship and ended 2011 as a free country. However, after the international community left there was a lot of chaos in the country. Some citizens were against the international community, because of the things they had done. The citizens believed they should have confiscated weapons, and that they should have trained the military. People found out that NATO did not actually have a plan, but they just destroyed things and left. On the 30th of August 2011 at 3:30pm, two GBU-13 guided missiles hit an innocent family's house, they killed a man's dad, mum, both his sisters and his brother; the youngest sister was nine years old. Furthermore, after the freedom nothing 'good' happened to the country; all that happened was that lots of buildings were destroyed and there was a lot of chaos – no progress was actually made, just lives lost. This disagrees with the statement 'Conflict works?'

because even though they stopped Qadhafi the country was left in more mess and has made no progress from then.

I somewhat agree with the statement 'Conflict works?' This is because in some situations conflict can solve a lot of problems. This is proved from examples like BLM conflict gave the cause so much popularity and a change was actually made. Also, using conflict the Suffragettes gained so

much popularity for their cause. I somewhat disagree with the statement 'Conflict works?' This is because conflict can cause more problems and bring more suffering, for example the bombing of Japan in WW2. Also, conflict can make situations a lot worse, for example what happened after Libya's fight for freedom.

In conclusion, I agree with the statement 'Conflict works?' because on many occasions it

starts with peaceful ways but often when violence starts, the cause gains a popularity because that is what the news and the public hear about and react to most – for example the fight for women's votes in the 20th century. Also, conflict can stop some things from happening, like wars and illegal torture.

Josephine Sol



Conflict has been something which humans have engaged in since Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel. Wars between different tribes and different people have always influenced human behaviour. Conflict can mean wars and battles but also smaller disagreements between people not necessarily resulting in death but often long drawn out. The definition of "conflict" is "a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one". Whether conflict works can depend upon the point of view of who won the conflict. The winners will often think that the price of the conflict was worth it as they have achieved their aims. However, the losers may feel that they wish they had never engaged in any conflict at all but rather found a different way to accomplish their aims. As Winston Churchill said: "History is written by the victors", which implies that history is not always based on facts but on the interpretation of the winners; the same can be said of conflict. In this essay I am going to try to look at the historical facts and evidence as to whether conflict works.

I am going to look at conflict in the academic areas of Philosophy and Theology, Geography, History and English to see whether conflict works or not.

I will discuss the idea of pacifism, which is a belief that war, and conflict, is never justified, and I will also discuss whether war is ever justified. Pacifists would give the evidence of the millions of people killed in wars and the devastation that it causes, not only for those involved, but for generations afterwards as a reason for never going to war and that conflict does not work. The United States detonated two nuclear weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 and killed between 129,000 and 226,000 people. The terrible aftermaths are still being felt today and most people believe that nuclear weapons should never be used again.

One reason that conflict does not work for pacifists is their belief that there is always another answer to violence, religious or not, and their view that conflicts should be settled in a peaceful way. Pacifists

strongly believe that it is best to work at preventing war from becoming a possibility. They argue that if people are not denied basic freedoms and rights, they are less likely to engage in conflict. Conflict can be prevented by all people being treated justly and having enough food and land so as not to have to go to war.

Some Christians are pacifists, others are not and would support the Just War theory instead. The just war theory is the idea to see if it is possible to go to war only for an ethical reason. Thomas Aquinas wrote about the theory of a just war and gave conditions for what this must be and the boundaries. For example, in the Second World War, millions of Jewish people were murdered in concentration camps by the Nazis. It was ethical to engage in this conflict to save millions of innocent lives because there was a just cause, a last resort and the response was proportionate. In this instance, conflict did work.

Many Christian pacifists take their inspiration from Jesus. Early Christians were pacifists and

followed the example of Jesus. In the Gospels in Chapter 5 of Matthew it says, "You have heard it was said 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' but I say to you 'Do not resist an evildoer. Now if anyone strikes you on the right cheek turn the other also'." But as Christianity became the religion of many empires such as the Roman Empire this belief in non-violence did not fit with the desire to conquer other lands and people. For the Romans, conflict did work as it enabled them to grow an enormous empire.

Many Jews believe that under certain criteria, war is a necessary evil and a duty from their faith. Jews believe that developing good relationships with other people and other nations makes conflict less likely. The former chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks wrote: "Wars are won by weapons, but peace is won by faith."

Followers of Islam also allow conflict in certain circumstances, for example, in the belief that it is justifiable to struggle to defend Islam, for justice, or in self-defence. If all peaceful means fail, Muslims should be ready to defend the *ummah* against aggression. In this instance conflict does work as it allows for the religion to expand and gain more converts.

In English literature there are countless books which look at conflict, both in terms of global conflicts as well as individual conflicts. The poetry of Wilfred Owen during the First World War, was so significant as to change the public's perceptions about war. The devastation and loss of life during the First World War as documented by Owen in "Dulce et Decorum Est" made war seem

pointless and wrong and is a very strong argument against conflict ever working by someone who was actively involved in war.

Regarding smaller conflicts, in the book *Long Way Down* written by Jason Reynolds, we see the cycles of violence and gang culture told by a criminal in conflict. He is born into such a life of social deprivation and poverty he feels that it would also be impossible for him to remove himself from such a life without conflict. Poverty often leads to conflict as resources are scarce and people need to fight for what there is so that they do not starve. In this instance, conflict works for them, for without it, they may not have enough to eat and live on and may die. The book says "Gun shots make everybody... deaf and blind." For those in greatest poverty, there is often no choice but conflict, which is ignored by those surrounded by it, as they pretend not to hear or see anything in case they get involved. For the victor, gun crime and conflict do work, as they survive, and their enemy does not.

This book also looks at inner conflict and personal turmoil. Inner conflict can lead to good outcomes as it challenges the individual to look inwards and try to make positive changes to their lives. In these instances, conflict can also work as it forces change.

In Geography, we can see that a lot of conflicts occur around borders. Borders are man-made divisions between lands and although often placed at physical features such as mountain ranges and rivers, human factors also cause land to be divided such as to divide fertile land from non-fertile land. In the conflict in the

Middle East, we can see that the "promised land" is a land that is very fertile "of milk and honey" and therefore has been a subject of much dispute over thousands of years and the creation of man-made borders and countries. Unfortunately, this conflict is still ongoing between the Israelis and Palestinians. In this instance we can see that conflict does not work as the conflict has lasted for hundreds of years without any resolution. It has caused enormous loss of life and suffering for the Palestinians and fear for the Israelis. In this instance it can be argued that a peaceful settlement reached just after Israel was created, with thought as to the Palestinians displaced, would have been a much better solution.

The scramble for Africa, also called the partition of Africa, or the conquest of Africa, was the invasion, annexation, division, and colonising of most of Africa by seven western European powers during a short period known to historians as new imperialism (between 1881 and 1914). The 10 per cent of Africa that was under formal European control in 1870 increased to almost 90 per cent by 1914, with only Ethiopia and Liberia remaining independent, though Ethiopia would later be invaded and occupied by Italy in 1936. This conflict and over-running of Africa by European countries can be seen to have helped inflict great poverty on several countries in Africa and loss of self-rule. Several new countries were created and given names relating to their mineral and wealth content such as the Gold Coast and Ivory Coast without consideration for the people living in those countries. Here we can see that conflict did not

work as the African countries did not have the same capabilities as the European invaders and were overrun and their minerals and goods stolen. This caused great harm with many African countries are still in great poverty without true self-autonomy. This conflict in Africa is still causing problems today and did not work to improve the lives of most Africans who live under very weak economies and much corruption as a direct consequence of the conflict they endured.

The First World War was a great human tragedy; it led to 27 million deaths in the USSR alone. People were put through the worst conditions and knew that they would die soon but didn't know when. It is estimated that in total 37 million people died, 16 million of those were soldiers and the rest were civilians. Many of the soldiers died from gas attacks which kill you slowly and painfully and is devastating. Hundreds of thousands more died from disease and illness and many more died from blood loss and infected wounds. This was one of the greatest losses of human life ever and is a very strong argument against conflict working as this war did not stop war and was followed by more devastation in the Second World War.

The reasons for the beginning of the First World War also point to conflict not working. One small conflict can also lead to more, for example, Archduke Ferdinand was killed which escalated into the First World War. If his murder had been treated differently and without conflict, millions of lives could have been saved. Conflict can breed conflict, and this is a very strong argument against it ever working.

One reason conflict can work is because conflict is necessary to bring about change, for example the Suffragettes and BLM movements. Conflict can be a good thing. For example, in the First World War all the men were forced to go and fight in the war which left no one to farm or work in the factories so women stepped in which was the first time that women were allowed to work and get paid. This allowed men to see what women were capable of; however, the women involved had to fight for their rights. The suffragettes were part of the Votes for Women campaign and used art, debate, propaganda, and attacks on property, including window smashing and arson, to fight for female suffrage. Emily Davison even gave her life by jumping in front of the King's horse at the Derby to protest. Here conflict did

work as the bravery, and challenge to the status quo, pushed through necessary change and forced through women's right to vote.

In conclusion, we can see that human conflict has happened throughout time and around the world. The topic of conflict crosses every academic subject and is a ground for much discussion which I have looked at in this essay. Whether conflict works is very much open to debate. This essay has discussed different ideas and instances in which conflict has had a beneficial impact, for example to end the Holocaust and to bring about beneficial changes, such as the suffragettes, but also instances where it has caused absolute devastation, such as the numbers killed in the First World War and the detonation of the Hiroshima bomb.

Conflict in the past may not have been so terrifying as it will be in the future. With the advancement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, any serious conflict in the 21st century could cause the destruction of the planet. It is for this reason that I am most convinced that we must move away from conflict and argue that it does not work and try to move towards more peaceful resolutions of disputes.

Emma Xiao



A conflict is a struggle and a clash of interest, opinion, or principles. Throughout history, conflict, no matter how big or small, has always been a part of our everyday life. Conflict can be seen as chaos and disruption of peace but, on the other hand, is also the key to the development of mankind. Throughout this essay, I will discuss whether conflict works or not, focusing on the use of conflict in subjects such as P&T, geography, English, and history.

War is often described as the most extreme form of conflict. Wars can be fought for multiple reasons, but one of the main causes of such conflict is how countries want to gain land and expand their territories. In geography, we learnt how the border of a country can change massively through time, mainly because of warfare. On one hand, having to live in such an unsettling environment could be quite frightful for civilians, as they would be forced to leave their homes and become refugees, some might even die. Meanwhile, invading territories would need a huge amount of army supplies, as well as soldiers to fight for the

country. This could cause countless deaths and is a waste of resources. On the other hand, despite the physical loss frequent warfare fighting over territories can bring, such conflicts can bring a lot of economic benefits to countries. One example is how the Roman Empire used gaining lands as one of its main economic incomes. Wars can also shape a country's development, as times of war are often the pinnacle of philosophy and the arms industry.

In P&T, we discussed the impact of warfare, evaluating if it's okay to have conflicts such as war. Pacifists believe that wars are rarely, if ever justified. Pacifists think that the value of peace is not only the absence of war but also a sense of wellbeing and security. In their opinion, wars take away basic human rights and freedom, which should be treated with importance. They argue that it is only without war that people can live in a peaceful society. Another broadly discussed issue in terms of warfare is weapons of mass destruction, and how it's unethical to use such weapons that cause so many innocent people to die. One

of the most famous examples is the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War Two, when nearly 200,000 civilians were killed. Such use of these weapons is ruthless and unjust, which is why many protest against warfare. Meanwhile, many claim that it's okay to go to war in some cases since war is a rather efficient way of stopping countries that are already in conflict from further being loss. War itself isn't incorrect, but rather the way it's fought. From "just war theory" to "jihad", we have been presented with examples of ways we can justify such conflict. Both theories mention how the conflict must have a justified cause and intention, while it also shouldn't risk harming innocent people and animals. If wars follow such ethical regulations, there's no reason for them not being justified.

Although equality among humans is something we all try to achieve, we have to admit that there are times where people were treated differently regarding gender, race, etc. In history, we learned about when women were not granted basic rights, especially the right to vote. On one hand, the fact that

women couldn't vote while men could is an example of conflict in society, as two groups of people are being treated differently. People argue that such conflict shouldn't exist in the first place, as it is extremely unfair. Back then, many people were prejudiced towards women, as the thought that women were born to be wives and mothers and incapable of engaging in politics was extremely popular, mostly among men. Women were also restricted from doing many jobs that society considered they were not capable of. This led to women finding it hard to make a living. Meanwhile, since only men were able to vote on important political decisions, women never had the chance to make a change to their lifestyle. This is the reason why people chose to campaign for female suffrage. People wrote propaganda and advertised the idea of women voting to the public. Suffragettes put pressure on Parliament by creating conflicts, attacking properties, and going on hunger strikes. Although it was only after World War One that women were granted the vote, partly because of their contribution to the war effort, we can still see the significance of the suffragette movements in terms of women winning the vote. Without conflict they caused to make Parliament aware of such a problem and to take it seriously, it would have taken a lot longer for women to be granted the vote. Sometimes, it is crucial to cause conflict because our society isn't fair. Simply to stand by and watch a problem grow and see people getting impacted by it is not enough. In such cases, conflict works.

In American history, there were a huge number of black people fighting for equal rights and against segregation. In English, we studied

the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In the book, Harper Lee describes the unfairness in society towards black people by creating the character of Tom Robinson. His character represents millions of others who also suffered the oppression of black people at that time. Tom Robinson is hard-working, kind, and helpful towards others; however, he didn't get appreciated for his hard work and contributions, but instead was wrongly accused and ended up shot dead with "seventeen bullet holes in him". A man like Tom Robinson should be rewarded for his acts, and certainly doesn't deserve to have such a tragic ending. Same as Boo Radley, the future he deserved is very different from what he actually received, and it's all due to the unfairness in Maycomb society. Even though in court Atticus proved that Tom was innocent, due to the conflict between races, Tom was found guilty and was shot dead. From the fact that the police shot him 17 times, we can tell that he wasn't even given human dignity. In Atticus' closing speech, he emphasizes the legal system is the most important thing in American life. Courts are "the great levelers". Outside the court, power, wealth, and in this case, race makes life unfair. However, because we're a civilized country, we have a legal system where it is completely fair and just. There's a travesty of justice with Tom being convicted even though he is innocent, and it is something worth changing to prevent it from happening again. By the time *To Kill a Mockingbird* was written, there was already a huge improvement in making races equal, and giving justice to those who were discriminated against. This was due to the civil rights legislation which was introduced several times in the US. In that society, which valued white

supremacy, people stood up for justice for their race and created conflict. The Harlem Renaissance of the 1930s was an early black civil rights movement that marked the start of the conflict which caused the gaining of equality between races. The Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1964, 1965, and 1968 gave more freedom to black people. After that, many people stood up and used conflict to challenge the old society of white supremacy, including the famous Martin Luther King. He said "Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

In my opinion, conflicts made to give love to more people does work. By writing her novel, Harper Lee supported the conflict by pointing out the social injustice that occurred in Maycomb and which reflected the whole US society.

In conclusion, I think conflict works in many cases, despite the fact that there are many clearly negative sides. We do need conflict to develop our society and to encourage innovation. Conflict is the core of bringing change to our world, and positive change is what we need to sustain our society, as nothing lasts for ever. Some conflicts are negative, but I would say it is more about how we resolve a conflict peacefully and helpfully, rather than not having conflict in society at all. A world without conflict wouldn't last long, as nature and things change around, and without conflict, we wouldn't be able to adapt to the developing world. Therefore, conflict works.



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