

WHAT CAUSES WAR?

THOSE WHO OPPOSE WAR MUST DISCOVER ITS PREMISES

By Frank Bubb

The slaughter in Southeast Asia, and conflict in many other parts of the world has put the question squarely before the American people: *Is War Moral?* A hearteningly large number have answered NO!

Then why does war continue? One reason is that the intellectual inconsistency of some of the opponents of war seldom persuades anyone that war must cease. Too many intellectuals and opponents of war have been undercutting their own moral stand on war by immoral stands on other issues, particularly domestic issues.

The only moral reason for opposing war is that **war violates individual rights**. Vietnamese peasants have the *right* to live without being napalmed. And American youth have the right to live without being drafted and sent overseas to kill or be killed.

Each person has an inalienable right to his own life. All his other rights, such as the right to liberty and the right to keep what he produces or trades for, are derived from and indissolubly linked to the right to life. The practical application of these rights is that **man should be free of the initiation or threat of physical force.**

The only way to stop war is to oppose it on the grounds of basic principles. Which means to oppose force as a means of dealing with others. Which means, at the very least, not to support any and all government programs which use force.

Then *why do most of the opponents of war support taxation?* Taxes are now 40% of the average person's income. And taxpayers

are resisting in droves. Why don't the opponents of war support the tax revolt instead of advocating that government continue to steal our money to pour it into "social welfare" projects?

Some might answer that taxation for domestic programs is *not theft*. *If that is so, then the draft is not involuntary servitude, and war is not mass murder.* And if that is so, the opponents of war have no moral basis for their opposition to war.

Some might answer that "we" have the right to tax "ourselves" because the majority must rule. If that is so, the majority has the right to draft the minority, make war against the will of the minority, and even . . . as in Nazi Germany . . . commit genocide against the minority. Opponents of war must logically oppose rule as such . . . whether by a majority, a minority, or a dictator . . . or remain morally disarmed by their own illogic in their attempts to change peoples' minds.

Taxation is theft and must be abolished. Government should be radically decentralized so people can pay for services voluntarily on a market basis.

And *why do most opponents of war support government-run education?* Government forces people to pay for the education of others . . . whether they want to or not.

Some might answer that "the public interest" justifies coercive education. If that is so, then why can't "the public interest" be used to justify coercion in the form of conscription and war? "Public interest" cannot be defined when it entails human sacrifice because human beings compose the "public".

The major . . . if unadmitted . . . purpose of government-run education is indoctrination with the values of the Establishment. The major result is the crippling of young minds

through regimentation and discipline. How can opponents of war support *that*? Why not let people set up their own independent schools instead?

Taxation and government-run education are only two examples of the institutionalized coercion that our government perpetrates daily against us. Sadly, those opponents of war who are "liberals" or "leftists" do not see their own contradictions. They continue to rail against war abroad but cheer for every domestic war that is waged on the individual and his human rights.

What causes war? The idea that coercion is ever morally justified. What will bring peace? Only the idea of the inviolability of human rights. Let's start an intellectual revolution for peace and human rights by opposing all forms of coercion!

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