

# War, Peace, and Human Security

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## Introduction

1. Discuss scenario on taking over command – incipient insurgency – mass alienation.
2. **Alienation** = Indifference. The opposite of love is not hate, its indifference. The opposite of life is not death, its indifference.
3. Launched **Sadbhavna** to win peace – published my book after having waited 12 years to give peace a change – after all, we were attempting something that had not been done before.
4. People often say that after retirement, Generals become advocates of peace. I practiced peace when I was in command of forces in an area affected by insurgency. Realized the futility of war and the need to have a **higher purpose in life**.

## Decline of Violence in History

5. In his monumental book, ***The Better Angels of Nature***, Steven Pinker argues that, the most significant development in human history is the **decline of violence**, which is at its lowest level today.
6. Contrary to popular belief, the 20<sup>th</sup> century was not the most violent century in history. In the ranking of death toll (mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century equivalent), the results are startling:

#1	An Lushan Revolt 429,000,000	8 <sup>th</sup> Century
#2	Mongol Conquests 278, 000,000	13 <sup>th</sup> Century
#3	Mideast Slave Trade 132, 000,000	7-19 <sup>th</sup> Century
#9	2 <sup>nd</sup> World War 55,000,000	20 <sup>th</sup> century
#16	1 <sup>st</sup> World War 15,000,000	20 <sup>th</sup> century

\* *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Steven Pinker

## My Beliefs

7. Beliefs are assumptions, values, and principles derived from our life experiences. Beliefs are not what you think; they are what you practice. Our world view, attitude and behaviors are shaped by beliefs.
- **Man is innately good.** I agree with Rousseau that man is born good but is corrupted by society. Interestingly, one survey says that only 38 percent Westerners believe that man is good.
  - **Reverence for life** is an ethical principle based on respect for all forms of life—humans, animals, and even plants. Those who believe in this principle, are non-violent, they serve the poor and the suffering, and practise compassion and forgiveness.
  - **Human security.** Lies at the core of national security.

- **Gross National Happiness.** Human development and sustainability can't be based exclusively on GDP. ***"GNP measures everything except that which makes life worthwhile."*** (Robert Kennedy)
- **Forgiveness**(and atonement)is a value that brings durable peace and conciliation in society. Forgiveness helps us to live with diversity. To forgive is not to forget; but to resolve not to take revenge. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa after the collapse of apartheid is a living example. As Mandela walked out a free man from Robben Island, journalists asked him if he hated his perpetrators for what they had done to him. He replied, *"Where was the time to hate?"* In a post-conflict situation, there are four options:
  - **Option1:** Genocide/revenge (Rwanda– Hutus and Tutsis, Kosovo and Bosnia).
  - **Option 2:** Nuremberg.
  - **Option 3: Do nothing** >amnesty.
 

*"Those who remember the past are doomed to repeat it."*
  - **Option 4:**TRC in South Africa.

## **Premise #1: Peace is Everybody's Business**

### **Concept of Governance**

8. Governance is not the sole responsibility of government. That is a idea that belongs to the era of nation-states. In a flat, complex, and interconnected world, **governments can't manage everything.** The private and social sectors (media, judiciary, armed forces, NGOs, associations, etc.), and even citizens, must share the burden of governance.

9. In remote and under-developed areas, the armed forces can even “piggy-back” the Administration.

### **We are Citizens first**

10.
  - Most difficult part for the military and corporations to understand. The military mind is Clausewitzian.  
*“The business of business is business.”*(Milton Friedman). Such a market culture is contradictory to citizenship.
  - Think global, act local.
  - We get our self-identity from the community.

### **It’s 1% that Start a Revolution**

11. Transformational leaders do not need 100% support to change society. History is replete with examples where revolutions are started by 1%. Whether you want war or peace or sustainability, you need just 1% to believe in it.
12. Transformational leaders must focus on arousing the 1%. Like what Christ and the 12 Apostles did.
13. Are you prepared to be the 1%?

## **Premise #2: Rise in Protests & Dissent**

### **Era of Dissent / Protest**

14. Because of globalization, un-sustainability of the planet, technology, and empowerment of common persons, we are witnessing a rise in protests and dissent. **TIME Person of 2011 was The Protestor.**

### **Horizontalism and Occupy Movements**

15. Derived from post Argentina 2001, Arab Spring, and Occupy Movements.
16. **Hierarchies constitute 1%**and the 99% are voiceless. Very undemocratic.
17. People have lost faith in traditional leadership (based on the concept of the heroic leader). They now **bypass hierarchy**. Want to connect directly with the leader – not through his representatives.
18. Social media is being used effectively to (a) **mobilize** people, and (b) apply the **“emergency brakes.”**

### **Political Power Does Not Come Out of the Barrel of a Gun**

19. Political problems cannot be solved by military means.

#### **Compelling Ideas**

20. There are five compelling ideas to prevent conflict.

1. **Role of armed forces:** no longer to win wars; it's to prevent war. This was not easy for soldiers to understand. Deterrence by:

#### **Nuclear Weapons**

#### **Diplomacy**

#### **Human Security**

#### **Border Development**

#### **Development**

2. **Human Security.**

3. **Winning hearts and minds** -a shibboleth
4. **Womens' empowerment** and **education** are the key to conflict-prevention.

### **New Thoughts on Leadership**

1. Leadership is the ability to lead yourself first; then others.
2. Transformation begins with you, then 1%, and finally 20%.
3. Winning the *hearts and minds* is a shibboleth; you have to win the heart first.
4. The crisis of leadership: flawed education; rise in human consciousness and diminishing spirituality.
5. Leadership and values have to be learnt like any other art and science. The 10,000 hour rule is applicable for leaders also.