

Who is keeping our Peace? A simple question, a simple answer. Despite this, people still find some way to shift the blame in another direction. Realistically though, World Peace **must** begin within ourselves! One can take many positions in viewing the global issue of World Peace. Among the different conflicts we face with regards to World Peace none are more significant than that of the political and religious stand point as well as that of the social point of view.

As you can see many people seem to point the finger at the political system. Instead of bringing peace and harmony to the world, they have created massive chaos and destruction. They have been the so-called instigators of wars and conflicts between diverse groups in society. Look no further than the current ongoing war in the Middle-East countries for a prime example of why these accusations are being made. On March 20th, 2003, former United States President, George Bush accompanied by the United Kingdom and small contingents from Australia and Poland invaded Iraq. They had stated that the motives of their assault were:

- (1) To negate a possible attack from the Iraqis and disarm them of their weapons.
- (2) To capture Saddam Hussein and end his reign of terrorism.
- (3) To free the Iraqi people.

Officials have also made it clear that Oil Reserves could have also been a major factor in the Iraq infiltration. In 2005, a report statement was released proclaiming that no weapons of mass destruction had been found in the

country. In a poll of United States Nationals, 64% had approved military action against Iraq but 63% felt that Bush should avoid war and find a diplomatic solution to the conflict. Another 62% predicted that with the introduction of war, terrorism would increase. In this instance, we see how the government can unjustly use their power to abuse our freedom and disrupt peace around the world. As of June/2006, 654,965 people had lost their lives. Almost three years have passed since then, and as the casualty numbers increase, so do our frustrations. How can we be satisfied with the leadership of our countries when so many unnecessary deaths are caused? The governments around the world are supposed to be there for us, to guide us and help keep the world under control. I don't see that now. I see them worrying about nuclear bombs and mass destructive weapons. People are dying and it is time for this to stop! Of course you could take the other side of the coin in viewing the actions of the government. As mentioned before, one of the stated motives for initiating the Iraq war was to free the Iraqi people. Obviously it wasn't right to treat the Iraqis as they were, but you must commend Bush and his troops in risking their lives for a group responsible for the infamous 9/11 incident in New York. We see in this way how a single government can, while destroying peace, help protect people suffering under their own political system. But again, why would Saddam Hussein and his party torture their own people? Why can't everyone at least try to hold the peace not only between distinct groups and countries, but also between similar crowds and people? We all have to play our part in

keeping the world together, that includes **ALL** of the Political Parties across the globe.

Now, let's take a look at different religious groups and how their views and beliefs can have a significant impact on World Peace. In today's society, many religions view World Peace as something that is possible to achieve without the use of weapons and other destructive instruments. But, one religion specifically the Islam faith, does not fall under this category. This group has been known widely for their acts of terrorism, especially on September 11th, 2001. On that day, as the World Trade Centre came crashing down, all the Muslims around the world were looked down upon as an evil, destructive group trying to kill us all! Realistically, that statement could not be more false. Obviously a wide-range of individuals from the faith have been involved in some terrible crimes, killing thousands of innocent people, but that doesn't mean that they are all destructive and evil-minded. Looking around the World today, one has no problem finding a pleasant, compassionate and friendly Muslim who's willing to lend a helping hand to his fellow man. Apparently, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the Muslims are not proud of the actions of their people, but it is not our place to shun them out and make them feel like aliens in a foreign land. Now it is time to turn our attention to a widely debated issue between, not only the public, but a number of the Religious congregations. Several Religions including Christians, Jews, Muslims and the Sikhs consider Homosexuality disgraceful and a sin against God. Many even go as far to say that Homosexuality should be an

offence of the law. This definitely lets you know how Religious personnel feel about same-sex marriages. Some Clergy refuse to acknowledge Homosexuality as a life decision and have denied them the right to be married in a church. Many adults seem to believe in the same principles. They believe that Homosexuality is wrong, while the majority of the younger generation seems to accept it. They just see it as a fact of life. As time has gone forward, so has the acceptance of Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals in society. In spite of this, conflict and controversy has raged on dramatically. Homosexuals have been involved in many discriminating events. They have been the subject of hate crimes, job firing and both physical and mental abuse because they made a personal decision in their lives. You will never be able to change public opinion or Religious beliefs on Homosexuality, but if we learn to accept a person for who they are instead of what they are then maybe we will have a better chance of co-existing and the World would be a more pleasant place to live. We have to realize that the majority of people from every Religion are working together to hold unity amongst us all.

Finally, we have a look at the most important adversary responsible for creating World Peace.

OURSELVES. We, as a society have prompted numerous riots ,conflicts, and wars. For some reason ,we look at others in a different way than ourselves. We judge them based on their appearance and decisions. We make unjust stereotypes and rationalizations. Lets begin by taking a look at the Racism witnessed and experienced in the late 18th and 19th

century. Blacks were looked down upon harshly, as the white-men thought of themselves as the superior race. Blacks were imprisoned and forced to work long, laboriousness hours while receiving no wages. They were presented with only meagre ,unappetizing meals, barely enough to keep them alive. Whenever their “Master ” sighted them lacking in production, they would be whipped senselessly, and if they were ever caught trying to escape, a beating to the brink of death would be in their foreseeable future. They were enslaved and discriminated against just because their skin was a different colour than everyone else. Unfortunately, it took one of the deadliest wars in American history to bring a halt to slavery in the country. In 1861, a number of Southern slave states declared War and on April 12th,1861 the Civil War officially began. Each side produced their own army and so the aggression began. Then in September of the following year, President Lincoln made his famous “Emancipation Proclamation” speech, effectively making halting slavery in the country a top War goal. When the last battle had ended on May 13th 1865, a devastating 620,000 soldier bodies had been found dead plus an unknown amount of civilians. A positive thought to take from this War, was the fact that slavery had dropped considerably after the War and by 1877, Slavery had been successfully extinguished. Racism still continued on until we reached the 21st century. It is horrible to think that Blacks were disempowered, discriminated and beaten just because they looked different. We as a society were fools to think that we could reign supreme over somebody else just because they didn't look

like us. We needed to realize that we are all unique and equal, and only recently did we take a monstrous step in realizing our ultimate goal as Barack Obama was named the President of the United States. If you would have told anyone 150 years ago, that an African-American would one day be one of the most powerful men in the World, they would probably look at you really funny and start laughing. So we have come a long way but there is still a long road ahead when it comes to World Equality.

It seems though, that the one issue in society that is drawing the most conflict is our resources. This includes Land, Water, Oil and so much more. Several Wars and conflicts have arisen from our limited resources and it will get worse before it gets any better, as our supply of non-renewable resources continue to down-grade. Millions of people have died fighting for their countries control over the resources. It is definitely time that we come up with an economic and harmonious solution to the problem! Let's begin by taking a look at the 1980, Persian Gulf War. A War between bordering countries, Iraq and Iran, over the border. A land dispute had been occurring between the two sides for quite some time, but on September 22nd, 1980, Iraq invaded Iran. With the sneak attack, Iraq quickly gained Iranian territory and looked in total control, but by 1982, Iran had gained back virtually all of it's lost territory. Iran went on the attack for the next six years but when the dust settled on August 20th, 1988, the border had not changed, it was exactly the same as eight years before. Neither Country could say the same about their population or their budget. Iraq is

believed to have lost anywhere from 250,000- 500,000 lives whereas the casualty number for Iran could have extended to as high as 800,000. Both sides lost more than \$500 Billion U.S. Both sides lost a great deal but neither gained a thing. Although many Wars are introduced for various reasons, our decreasing stock of fossil fuels are creating more Wars than ever before. Oil, our most precious resource, is fading. It won't be around forever! Because of this, riots, conflicts and Wars have broke out with the sole purpose of stealing another nation's oil reserve to beef up your own. Gas prices have risen to an all time high while showing no signs of slowing down. But its our own fault! Thousands of people have died and it's linked directly to **US**. We have overestimated our oil reserves as we often feel like they **will** be around forever. However, realistically, they won't! Enough people have died fighting for us, but it's not to late to do something about it. We have got to be conservative over all of our resources. Not only to make sure future generations have access to them but also to allow others to live to see the future. It's in our hands!

So, who is keeping our Peace? We all are! Political leaders, Religious personnel and everybody who calls the Earth their home. We've all got to do our part to keep the World together. Some may take on bigger roles than others but that doesn't mean that their any more important or that they're more significant in obtaining World Peace. We are all equal and important in achieving this goal .I think World Peace can be obtained but unless people start working together instead of against one another World Peace will be forever a dream, never to be!

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