### 1AC

#### Resolved: Just societies should never deliberately initiate war.

Too much has been written throughout history that glorifies war and the warrior who is sent by the state to do its bidding. Dying for one's country — regardless of the circumstances that brought on the conflict — is seen as the ultimate sacrifice. To protest the war is to be a traitor. Being a professional soldier is viewed as one of the noblest of occupations. The death of enemy combatants is celebrated. Civilian casualties are written off as "collateral damage."

In the current Iraq war, before the phoney transfer of power on June 28, 855 American troops had [died](http://antiwar.com/casualties/). That is 800 young men (and women) who will never gave their parents any grandchildren or who left behind grieving wives and children. Forgotten are the over 5000 military personnel who were [injured](http://antiwar.com/casualties/), many of whom will endure suffering the rest of their life. And that number is just the "official" figure. The thousands of [Iraqi troops](http://antiwar.com/casualties/) killed or injured are not much of a concern to anyone — and neither are the [Iraqi civilian casualties](http://www.iraqbodycount.net/).

General descriptions of the horrors of war can be read in any military history by John Keegan or Martin Gilbert. But more and more specific accounts of the horrors of war are beginning to see the light of day. [Blood Red Snow: The Memoirs of a German Soldier on the Eastern Front](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1853675083/lewrockwell/) and [His Time in Hell: A Texas Marine in France](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891417516/lewrockwell/) are two recent books that explore the horrors of war from the individual soldier's point of view. Chris Hedges' [What Every Person Should Know About War](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0743255127/lewrockwell/) is a stinging indictment of the twin evils of the glorification of war and the concealment of its brutality.

#### Lauren M. Vance wrote this in her article *The Horrors of War*. In it, she describes the second face of war that we seem to acknowledge, yet never truly see. The negative aspects of our conflict are reduced to numbers to be objectified and ultimately equate to our justification for fighting. War in the 21st century is seen as something to be honored, a glory to be displayed among the images of destruction to remind us of the bravery that it takes to serve the country.

#### Mac:Users:MasonOwen:Dropbox:Debate advanced 2012-2013:__Forensics:Graphic LD aff pictures:US-Army.jpeg

#### This is the picture that we want to see. Taken from the US Army’s facebook page, it proudly displays a celebration in honor of our men and womyn in uniform. Personally, I wouldn’t want anyone else than those willing to put their lives on the line for a good cause to serve in the military, several of whom I know personally, and greatly respect.

#### Mac:Users:MasonOwen:Dropbox:Debate advanced 2012-2013:__Forensics:Graphic LD aff pictures:Vietnam.jpeg

#### THIS is what we don’t want to see. THIS is what we don’t put on Army recruitment pamphlets. THIS is the kind of picture that we try to forget when we realize what War does to people. Napalm burning… Skin searing… Children crying out in pain

#### Tim O’Brien describes his relationship to this violence in *The Things They Carried*:

#### “They shared the weight of memory. They took up what others could no longer bear. Often, they carried each other, the wounded or weak. They carried infections. They carried chess sets, basketballs, Vietnamese-English dictionaries, insignia of rank, Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts, plastic cards imprinted with the Code of Conduct. They carried diseases, among them malaria and dysentery. They carried lice and ringworm and leeches and paddy algae and various rots and molds. They carried the land itself—Vietnam, the place, the soil—a powdery orange-red dust that covered their boots and fatigues and faces. They carried the sky. The whole atmosphere, they carried it, the humidity, the monsoons, the stink of fungus and decay, all of it, they carried gravity. They moved like mules. By daylight they took sniper fire, at night they were mortared, but it was not battle, it was just the endless march, village to village, without purpose, nothing won or lost.”

#### While this describes the hardship and suffering of US soldiers, Vietnam taught many that every War came with a price. The death toll of both the US and North Vietnamese reached over 1.5 million. You would think that as a “just society”, we would learn from the consequences of prolonging wars against false threats.



#### This is the experience that is reserved for the civilians—innocent men, women, children, blown to pieces to be regarded as “collateral damage.” Haider Asghar describes the terror of his experience as a non-combatant…

CP: Where did the drone attack take place?

H: The attacks took place in North Waziristan, Miranshah in District Ahmadkheel. My brother-in-law had friends he was visiting in Waziristan. As he was a guest there - and as is the custom of the people - many of the locals gathered to welcome him into the area. He was sat with a group of these people from the community when everybody gathered to pray the evening prayer ('Isha) together. The drone attack happened in the middle of the prayers and the entire congregation was martyred.

CP: Were there any Taliban or Al Qaeda in the gathering or were they all civilians?

H: All the people gathered were locals from the community who had come to welcome the new guest to the area. The people are renowned for their hospitality and it is unthinkable for them that somebody would come to visit and they would not have a gathering to welcome them. In total, 31 people were killed. Drone attacks are so powerful nobody can escape them merely injured.

CP: How did you find out this happened?

H: Between our area and Waziristan is an 8 hour journey. The drone attack happened at night time and we all knew about it by the following morning. People who had witnessed the attack had come to tell us and described what they saw of the remnants and damage in the aftermath. They said the attack was so severe that they could not even distinguish the bodies from one another- even the bones of the people were completely blown apart. The dead were completely unrecognisable. My brother in law’s coffin was tightly sealed and we were not allowed to open it to view anything. We had the coffin with us for 30 minutes before it was taken away for burial.

CP: Why do you think the US/Pakistan government do this and what do you think they hope to gain?

H: We just don’t know. We don’t know how much authority Pakistan has given the US to attack our areas and we don’t know until when the US are given free license by the Pakistani government to carry out these drone attacks. So far between 1400-1600 people have died as a result of these attacks. Nobody takes responsibility for these civilian deaths. Ask the journalists or officials for the true statistics, we know that it is 1400-1600 civilians, women and children killed. In this, they would have been lucky to even have 11 or 12 'militants’ amongst them. These attacks are so widespread that even my brother in law who lives in Peshawar was made a victim of it. Who do I appeal to? Where can I go? I don’t even know who to hold responsible for his death and how I do it.

I am shocked that the US can come to attack Pakistan in this way and Pakistan does not even have the authority to question them on the deaths they are causing. The civilians in all these regions are extremely frightened and fearful. They can’t work in the day, nor can they sleep during the night. As soon as they hear the slightest sound of an aeroplane, they flee in panic from their homes and buildings trying to find a place for security. The whole community is in a state of fear and I just cannot explain to you how unbearable these calamities are for the people. Every household has at least half of its people martyred (i.e.: killed) as a result of these attacks. I simply do not understand what the understanding between Pakistan the US is on this matter.[[1]](#footnote-1)

#### There is a sinister theme that ties these linguistic and virtual depictions of tragedy together—the deliberate initiation of war, the decision that it is ethically sound to send military to engage in conflict in a split second.

#### But it’s important to recognize our role in these decisions and the limits of our agency with imagination. Voting Affirmative or Negative will not externally result in a world without conflict or pain, but what it can do is establish a decision to reorient ourselves towards War and death in a different way. One in which we don’t hastily make the decision to march off the troops, drop the bombs, and feel the aftermath…

#### Thus, in place of a traditional value or criterion, you should instead vote for the team that best performatively and methodologically makes War real. Ultimately the value and criterion are a framework through which you determine how to evaluate the round. You can weigh my role of the ballot the same way you would weigh a value and a criterion.

#### While my performance isn’t stylistically the go-to for most LD debates, there is value not only in my argument, but my nature of presentation. Too often, we hold discussions about waging wars and conflict, and due to our lack of exposure to the entirety of War’s composition, we loosely throw around consequences without a broader understanding of how EVERYONE is effected—the American soldier, the Afghani child, the Vietnamese womyn, ALL suffer in some way when we make the decision to initiate war. My introduction of graphic death imagery is an attempt to make the effects of War real because the moment we divorce these images from our understanding of War, it becomes that much easier to give into the temptation to deploy troops, to send off the tanks and missiles and drones, to a far away place where we don’t have to watch, we don’t have to see what happens when the bomber miscalculates a cluster munitions, we don’t have to see the 24 year old have his face blown off before he returns home, we don’t have to see the severed limbs and attachments that at one point composed a person.

#### I’ll conclude my speech where it began—with *The Horrors of War*:

The conflict we read about in Intimate Voices is the "great war" to "make the world safe for democracy" — the "war to end all wars." The war began when Austria declared war on Serbia after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, during a state visit to [Sarajevo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarajevo), the capital of the Austro-Hungarian province of [Bosnia-Herzegovina](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/bk.html). The archduke had recently given an after-dinner toast in which he advocated peace: "To peace! What would we get out of war with Serbia? We'd lose the lives of young men and we'd spend money better used elsewhere. And what would we gain, for heaven's sake? A few plum trees, some pastures full of goat droppings, and a bunch of rebellious killers." His advice went unheeded, and resulted in the slaughter of over a million soldiers who fought for his empire, plus an untold number of ordinary citizens. Overall, 65 million men donned a miliary uniform, over 9.3 million soldiers died, 21 million soldiers were wounded, 7.8 million soldiers were captured or missing, and 6.7 million civilians died.

1. [Exerpt is from a Hompage Daily article. No date was given, but it is expected that the article has been published within the past couple of months.] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)