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Causes of War

In the contemporary world we are living in, war is caused by a variety of reasons. The wars that exist are of different kinds and hence their causes tend to vary. People and states get involved in a war as a result of interest, honor, and fear. Warfare is a highly organized and planned activity that does not include a great deal of actual fighting (Stampp 19).

One of the causes of war is the underestimation or overestimation of hostility that exists between parties involved. The statesmen tend to be in a position of assessing the degree of destruction that can be caused. In some situations, the statesmen tend to view policies as being safe, yet they are very dangerous which result in conflict and failure to solve the conflict. The misperception of capabilities results in war. When the military acts in a manner that shows they are excessively optimistic it can lead to the outbreak of war. Military optimism tends to be risky especially in a situation whereby diplomatic and political pessimism is involved. It mostly results in the outbreak of war especially in a situation that a given country tends to have a feeling that despite it being in a position of immediate winning of a war, there is a possibility of having the military situation deteriorating and there also exist only a few chances of having a diplomatic settlement that is favorable. A state is likely to involve itself in a war if they believe that there is no balancing but rather bandwagoning is being used. It makes the state to have a belief which is incorrect that small gains or losses will help in setting off a cycle that appears to be self-perpetuating. For example, the war that involved Hezbollah and Israel was one which was not

having the right individuals with the right skills to help in the decision-making process. It caused the war between the two states or groups to prevail since Peretz and Olmert, who were inexperienced individuals, showed their willingness to allow the maximum army freedom of action and the army exploited it to its fullest advantage. Rationalist theories of war tend to show how wrong information or misinformation can result in the hindrance of assessment. During the second Lebanon war, there was the misuse of historical analogies which significantly contributed to the rise of a conflict. Analogical reasoning played a significant role in the decision-making process in Israel (Jervis 25).

The other factor that could cause a country getting involved in a war is when it has an objective or goal of defending the society. A state can get involved in a battle to save its territory from a rival country that is stronger. A country will involve itself in a war even when it is sure it can lose it.

Dynamics of humiliation, the desire for respect and the role of emotions tend to play a great role towards the global politics. A large variety of the perspectives of the International Relations relate to the role and nature of emotions towards being the causes of war such as patriotism, nationalism, international cooperation, and militarism. Countries are involved in a war to avoid humiliating themselves to other people or states. They do not want to show that they are weak and fear to be judged by others. The feelings and reactions to such humiliation had a great impact on the US post 9/11 politics. Acts of humiliation will tend to result in the outbreak of war. The US interrogators employed the tactic of humiliation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Such humiliation causes disrespect towards the affected party and this greatly contributed towards the occurrence of war to defend one's dignity and respect (Faludi 16).

The other cause of war is the status quo factor. Some countries have the belief that the only way in which they can maintain their status quo is by getting involved in a war. For example, in the year 1914 Germany and Australia were involved in a war since they believed that the tide of events that was taking place was against them and as well that their status quo. Cognitive psychology tends to consider the act of analogizing as an act which is usually inherent in all individuals and as well as a process which is essential to make sense of the world that we live in. It contributes to war as people want to maintain their status quo and believing it is only through having a certain level of status quo will make the world respect them.

In conclusion, a large number of factors can cause war in a given country. A country can involve itself in a war to protect its territory and people, to earn respect, to enhance their status quo and as well as ensure that they are not humiliated. Government officials and the military should ensure that individuals who are involved in the decision making process during a period of war are individuals who are experienced and able to make wise decisions since the information and instructions that they give have a great impact. Their decisions could either end the war or prolong it which could result in loss of property and lives hence having a negative impact on the country and its people.

Works Cited

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