

CAN WARS BE STOPPED?



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Conflict, [aggressive behaviour](#), fighting and killing is a fundamental hard-wired innate instinct built into animals. The human species, being a development or branch of animal species, continue to carry these instincts.

It all started in the jungle. The activity there is not regulated by any law but the “[law of the jungle](#)”. There, the strongest have all the rights and are the winners. Aggressive behaviour manifests itself for different reasons. It can be predatory or anti-predatory, in which animals prey upon or defend themselves from other animals of different species. It can also be intraspecific aggression, in which animals attack members of their own species. Other reasons for aggression are [territorial](#), rivalry for the predominance of leaders, competition for mates, defending the young by parents and aggression over resources.

Animals of higher intelligence, like humans, expanded the animal habit of operating in [packs](#) and formed communities which increased in size from small neighbourhoods to cities and eventually to countries and unions of countries. Humans added to the reasons for aggressive behaviour the expansion of their community borders at the expense of other adversary ones. Hence the hundreds of historical examples of wars for the creation of [empires](#).

In human communities and within the human psyche [ethical](#) thinking started to develop. It wasn't difficult to understand that theft or murder, for example are bad, as most would find it unacceptable to be victims of these crimes themselves. Within the communities, the need emerged to pass laws and to form police forces to check unlawful behaviour, to restrict the power exercised by the strong and to protect the weak. The trend in law making is for national laws to come in line with the Ethical law. One example is the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the USA which granted African Americans equal rights and access to restaurants, transportation, and other public facilities from which they were barred by the racist national law.

Aggressive and unlawful behaviour was thus checked within countries, but humans had to find a way to stop another major source of conflict, that of getting the reins for the leadership of the community, without the various parties resorting to armed conflict leading to internal strife and civil war. The solution was found in ancient Athens and is called [Democracy](#), a system of government which is today considered one of the fairest available. With this system the majority of the “demos”, the public, choose the leader who will govern the country by peaceful means. However, the majority governs but the minority is not brushed off. It is respected and is allowed to take part in decision making by having representatives in parliament. Freedom of speech and criticism of the government are among the most basic rights. Moreover, the general population is given equal rights according to the laws.

Democracy solved the problem of conflict within countries but the even bigger problem of [expansionism](#) is still with us today leading to wars between countries. This is an ongoing

anathema afflicting humanity since its appearance on the planet earth. The United Nations was formed in 1945 with the aim of preventing wars. For the same purpose the UN has even managed to form courts like the International Court of Justice. However, the ICJ and other human rights courts have no means of enforcing their decisions. Today it is obvious that humanity has failed miserably to prevent war. Over the centuries several attempts were made to form agreements and charters to prevent wars, with no success. Could an International Democracy succeed as it did within the boundaries of countries? Could the formation of an international parliament to update and enrich the international laws and to find a way to enforce international justice help? Could an international policing force be formed to put a stop to international aggression leading to wars?

Is it possible that the big powers are not interested in international democracy because this will make their innate instinct of expansionism void and prevent them from achieving their innate wish of becoming a single global empire? One cannot be criticized for answering yes to the last question as world peace was for a long time and still is in their hands, but they don't seem to be in a hurry to adopt it.