**Each excerpt below is color-coded for your convenience:**

**inspiring excerpts, interesting excerpts, and funny excerpts!**

**War**

**They shall beat their swords into plowshares,**

**and their spears into pruning forks:**

**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,**

**neither shall they learn war any more.**

***(Isaiah 2:4)***

**Our government must forever be a kind of war of about one half of the people against the other. *(John Adams)***

**All wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield, the second time in memory. *(Viet Thanh Nguyen, novelist)***

**The Iraq war’s 500th amputee was airlifted back to the U.S. last week. Of the 22,700 U.S. soldiers wounded in the war, 2.2 percent have lost one or more limbs. *(Time.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 2, 2007)***

**Only two animal species wage war on their own kind – ants and humans. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 54)***

**Muslim views of the United States turned to outright animosity after the Iraq war, leading to increased support for Osama bin Laden, according to a poll of 16,000 people in 20 nations. “The bottom has fallen out of support for America in the Muslim world, and antagonism has deepened and widened," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press in Washington, which conducted the poll after the heavy fighting had ended. Kohut said the polls found the Muslim world not only dislikes U.S. policy, but increasingly dislikes Americans and are showing that by boycotting American products and technology. He said one trend that will be worrisome for American diplomats is that popular support for Osama bin Laden is swelling in cities of predominantly Muslim countries like Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, and Pakistan as well as in the Palestinian Authority. Half of those polled in those countries said they had confidence that bin Laden would do the right thing in world affairs. *(Lance Gay, Scripps Howard News Service, in Rocky Mountain News, June 4, 2003)***

**Antarctica is the only continent that has never seen a war. The Antarctic Treaty, signed in 1959, prohibits anything of a military nature in Antarctica. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 136)***

**War is what happens when language fails. *(Margaret Atwood)***

**In World War I, almost eight million men fought for Austria-Hungary, and 90 percent of them were either wounded or killed. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**How to fix the U.S. financial crisis: The U.S. is going the way of all empires, said Anwar Kemal. Empires are not always conquered militarily. They sometimes collapse from within, once their economic supremacy is challenged. And that seems to happen when they can’t afford to pay for their wars. The British Empire, for example, petered out at least partly “on account of the staggering financial expenditures that it incurred during two world wars.” And the Soviet Union bankrupted itself on the war in Afghanistan. Similarly, the U.S. is now experiencing an economic meltdown because of its unsustainable wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. There’s still time for it to salvage some of its international standing and influence. It just has to “extricate the country from the unnecessary war in Iraq” and bring stability to Afghanistan. Once it has retrenched militarily, it should “balance its books by reverting to the old American values of financial discipline, investment in knowledge, and hard work.” If the U.S. fails to take these steps, it will become history’s latest example of “imperial overreach.” *(The Week magazine, October 17, 2008)***

**War is God's way of teaching Americans geography. *(Ambrose Bierce)***

**The U.N. estimates that 40 percent of the bomblets that Israel dropped on Lebanon during the war with Hezbollah failed to explode. In the seven weeks since the conflict ended, many of these shells have detonated, killing 18 civilians and wounding more than 100. *(The Boston Globe, as it appeared in The Week magazine on October 27, 2006)***

**In war there is no second prize for the runner-up. *(General Omar N. Bradley)***

**In 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt sent to Congress a budget of $109 billion, $100 billion of which was for the war in Europe and the Pacific. *(Ben Franklin’s Almanac)***

**The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a shortage of bullets, affecting police departments across the nation, which are cutting back on live-fire training. U. S. soldiers are now firing 1 billion bullets per year. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine on September 7, 2007)***

**All patriarchal societies are either preparing for war, at war, or recovering from war. *(George Carlin, in When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, p. 111)***

**The question is whether any civilization can wage relentless war on life without destroying itself, and without losing the right to be called civilized. *(Rachel Carson)***

**One thing more than any other in human history has caused wars – border disputes. In medieval England and elsewhere, combat was the normal legal way to settle rural property claims. No court system handled such. This was brought over to North America’s frontier, quite naturally. In movies, we see cattlemen justify little wars against settlers with tales of how said cattlemen alone fought the Indians to tame the land. But traditionally, they didn’t need to justify. That was how it was done, how it always had been done. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Tucked away in last year’s military spending bill was a lump sum of $20 million to fund a national celebration “for commemoration of success” in Iraq and Afghanistan. Left unspent, the money has been rolled over into this year’s budget. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 20, 2006)***

**The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**Children of veterans of the first Persian Gulf War are more likely to have three specific birth defects than those of soldiers who never served in the gulf, a government study has found. Researchers found the infants born to male veterans of the 1991 war had higher rates of two types of heart valve defects. They also found a higher rate of a genital urinary defect in boys conceived after the war to Gulf War veteran mothers. In addition, Gulf War veterans' children born after the war had a certain kidney defect that was not found in Gulf War veterans' children born before the war. *(Associated Press, printed in Rocky Mountain News on June 4, 2003)***

**Chimpanzee groups go to war with each other and engage in cannibalism of their enemies. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 5)***

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**Politics are almost as exciting as war, and quite as dangerous. In war, you can only be killed once. *(Winston Churchill)***

**There is at least one thing worse than fighting with allies -- and that is to fight without them. *(Winston Churchill)***

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**Honestly!: Author-historian Shelby Foote, upon completion of the third and final volume of his epic narrative The Civil War, noted: "In response to complaints that it took me five times longer to write the war than the participants took to fight it, I would point out that there were a good many more of them than there was of me." (*Reader's Digest)***

**U.S. authorities last year doled out $19.7 million to Iraqis in “condolence payments” for civilian injuries and deaths due to American military actions – up from $5 million the year before. Officials said the increase reflects more urban combat, as well as a greater willingness among Iraqis to come forward to claim compensation. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine on June 23, 2006)***

**About 4 million people – half of them children under 5 – have died as a result of fighting between Congo’s army and rebel militias since 1998. Every six months, the toll of Congolese who die of malnutrition, disease, or violence equals that of 2004’s deadly Indian Ocean tsunami. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine on August 11, 2006)***

**No nation ever had an army large enough to guarantee it against attack in time of peace or ensure it victory in time of war. *(Calvin Coolidge, former U.S. president)***

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**The real cost of endless war: I hate to spoil “the charming romance of war,” said Steve Chapman, but the official cost of trying to transform Iraq and Afghanistan into democracies just surpassed $1 trillion. In the age of “TARP, Obamacare, and LeBron James,” that may not sound like much, but it’s actually more than we’ve spent on any war except World War II. In fact, Afghanistan and Iraq “have cost more in real dollars than the Korean and Vietnam wars combined.” And $1 trillion doesn’t even come close to covering their true costs, which include future veterans’ benefits and the interest on the massive debt we’ve accumulated in getting China to finance our foreign adventures. In 2008, scholars Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes pegged the long-run cost of the two wars at $5 trillion to $7 trillion, nearly twice this year’s federal budget. But Bilmes now says costs are actually outpacing those estimates, and could eventually read $8 trillion. That, of course, is in addition to the 34,000 Americans killed or wounded, and the tens of thousands who’ve returned with invisible damage to their psyches. What a price to pay for learning that even the U.S. cannot afford “to redesign the world to suit us.” *(The Week magazine, August 20, 2010)***

**As President Obama deliberates on whether to commit thousands of new troops to Afghanistan, the White House has been using a formula that assumes a cost of $1 million per soldier for each year of deployment. That means 40,000 additional soldiers would cost the U.S. Treasury about $40 billion a year. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 27, 2009)***

The cost of the wars: The actual cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is $1.6 trillion, about double the administration’s funding requests, according to a report by congressional Democrats. The study attempted to measure the “hidden” costs of the wars, including interest on money borrowed to fight them, lost investment, and the expense of long-term care for wounded veterans. The price tag works out to $20,900 per American family, the study said. The White House dismissed the report as “partisan and political.” (The Week magazine, November 23, 2007)

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Fifty-seven countries were involved in World War II. (Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 164)

**A culture war is something only the other side fights. The side you are on is merely talking sense. *(Robert Shrimsley, journalist)***

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**The last time the United States “declared war” on another country was in 1941 during World War II. But historians note that since that war our nation has been involved in 30 to 40 wars, depending on how war is defined*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**Even though the U.S. has been involved in more than a dozen military conflicts over the past 70 years, Congress has not formally declared war on any country since June 5, 1942, when it signed off on military action against Nazi Germany's allies Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. *(ABCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 13, 2013)***

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**Every declining nation in its latter years has used constant wars as a means to divert attention away from its failures at home. *(Clyde Harkins, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**About 300,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars – 18 percent of those who have served – are suffering from depression or post-traumatic stress syndrome, according to a comprehensive new Rand Corp. analysis. More than half of those affected are not receiving adequate treatment, and the study warned of “long-term consequences” for the vets and for the nation. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 2, 2008)***

There have been well over 15,000 wars throughout recorded history. Some 100 million people have died in wars in this 20th century alone. (Keith A. Stump, in Plain Truth magazine)

**The number of disabled veterans has jumped by 25 percent since 2001, to 2.9 million. With tens of thousands of Iraq war veterans coming home with such injuries as multiple amputations, brain damage, and burns, the federal government expects to be spending $59 billion a year to compensate injured vets in 25 years, up from $29 billion this year. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 23, 2008)***

**The administration and the military don’t want a draft and don’t need one. Our active duty force is about 1.4 million today. In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War, it was more than 3.5 million. During World War II it was more than 12 million. *(Mike Rosen, in Rocky Mountain News, October 5, 2007)***

**I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask, “Mother, what was war?” *(Eve Merriam, in Peacemaking: Day by Day)***

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**Man cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war. *(Albert Einstein)***

**I am not merely a pacifist but a militant pacifist. Nothing will end war unless people refuse to go to war. *(Albert Einstein)***

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**Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron. *(Dwight Eisenhower, former U.S. president)***

**I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity. *(President Dwight D. Eisenhower, former U.S. president)***

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**A war was ended by a solar eclipse – and became the oldest event on earth that can be dated to the exact day. The armies of Lydia and Media were preparing for battle in Asia Minor when the eclipse occurred. Sobered by the event, the two nations signed a peace treaty. Modern astronomers have fixed the date of that eclipse at May 28, 585 B.C. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 394)***

**On April 6, 1917, the United States formally entered the First World War. By the time the war ended on November 11, 1918, more than 2 million American soldiers had served on the battlefields of Western Europe, and some 50,000 of them had lost their lives. *(Moments In Time – The History Channel)***

**The war in Afghanistan is on track to become the nation's most expensive combat operation since Vietnam -- if it hasn't reached that milestone already. Although the Pentagon hasn't released a breakdown of costs of Operation Enduring Freedom, White House budget director Mitchell Daniels has estimated the price at about $1 billion a month. *(Lisa Hoffman, Scripps Howard News Service, printed in Rocky Mountain News, January 23, 2002)***

**Every family is a war but some are more civil than others. *(Namwali Serpell, novelist)***

**Recovering from years of “war fever”: Every few decades, the U.S. catches a bad case of foreign “war fever,” said Andrew Bacevich. Gripped by this mania in 1898, Americans charged off to free “oppressed Cubans” from Spanish tyranny. When we eventually came to our senses – having acquired an empire stretching from Puerto Rico to the Philippines – “no one could quite explain what had happened or why.” A feverish desire to “bear any burden” flared up again in the 1960s, when three successive presidents committed U.S. troops to saving South Vietnam. A decade of horrific casualties, followed by the fall of Saigon in 1975, temporarily inoculated the country against destructive overseas adventures. But “then came 9/11, and the fever simply soared off the charts,” leading to endless war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now polls show that the public is weary of war and wants our troops to come home; Republicans have joined liberal Democrats in questioning the wisdom of indefinite, open-ended conflicts. Even military officials, such as Defense Secretary Robert Gates, warn that our armed forces are “exhausted” and cannot take on any more war. Is this isolationism? No: It’s simply a return to sanity. *(The Week magazine, July 15, 2011)***

**War is like fighting a skunk. If you live through it, it doesn’t make all that much difference whether you win or lose. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**December marked the first month without U.S. combat casualties in Iraq since the war began in 2003. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 15, 2010)***

**Benjamin Franklin wanted the Army to use the longbow as its basic infantry weapon. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**All wars are full of stories that sound like fiction. *(Javier Cercas, novelist)***

**In his last two budgets, President Bush made no provisions for funding a possible war with Iraq. Now the probable costs of that venture are becoming clearer. The administration is preparing to ask Congress for supplemental appropriations -- unbudgeted additional spending -- of at least $60 billion to fund fighting and reconstruction in Iraq over the next six months. Meanwhile, loose estimates of the cost of maintaining an occupation force in Iraq run anywhere from $6 billion to $20 billion a year. *(Rocky Mountain News, March 3, 2003)***

Perhaps not having learned what a terrible waste of life war could be after World War I, and hopping mad about the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, the Germans regrouped and decided to try their luck at taking over Europe for the second time. World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945. (Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 290)

**God help the army that must fight for an idea rather than an objective. *(Mark Helprin, author)***

**Napoleon thought he had whipped Spain. But clusters of Spaniards went on fighting what they called “the little war” – the “guerilla.” First use of the term, that. And it was way back then that a few, only a few, students of international conflict began to realize that the winning of a war only occurs, if ever, long after the fighting stops. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A hard lesson about war: By now, you'd think our nation would understand the limits of American military power, said Steve Chapman. Yet even after the U.S.'s recent misadventures in the Mideast, hawks are clamoring for new wars in the region -- promising that attacks on Syria and Iran will be "quick, low-risk, and ordained to succeed." But consider Iraq, where the U.S.'s nine years of war and thousands of casualties have left the country back where it was before the 2007 surge, engulfed in "bloody chaos." In the sectarian violence sparked by a rekindled al Qaida rebellion, an average of 20 citizens are massacred every day. In Afghanistan, we've waged war for 12 years, and we're "still bogged down fighting jihadists." President Hamid Karzai's regime is rotten with corruption, and the Taliban are primed to stage a comeback when our troops withdraw next year. Since we intervened in Libya and helped depose dictator Muammar al-Qaddafi, the country has become a failed state -- a "lawless haven for terrorists." In all three foreign interventions, victory became a "brief mirage on the way to defeat." Remember that next time you hear a hawk promising "victories" in Syria and Iran. *(The Week magazine, November 22, 2013)***

**On January 29, 1891, Lydia Paki Liliuokalani was made queen of the Hawaiian Islands after the death of her brother King Kalakaua. Her rule didn’t last very long; American businessman Sanford Dole, backed by the U.S. Marines, deposed the queen two years later. In 1900, the Republic of Hawaii was organized into a U.S. territory. Liliuokalani spent the rest of her days petitioning the federal government for compensation for seized land and other losses, to no avail. She died at her Honolulu estate in 1917 at the age of 79. *(Chai Woodham, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime. *(Ernest Hemingway)***

**On August 30, 1963, a 24-hour-a-day “hot line” system between Moscow and Washington, D.C., went into effect. The hot line was never really necessary to prevent war between the Soviet Union and the United States, and its significance at the time was largely symbolic. *(Moments In Time, The History Channel)***

**A boy who was studying history in school came home one day and asked his father how wars got started. “Well,” said the father, “suppose America quarreled with England and ---” “But,” interrupted the mother, “America would never quarrel with England.” “I know,” said the father, “but I’m only stating a hypothetical instance.” “You are misleading the child,” protested the mother. “No, I am not,” shouted the father. “Never mind,” said the boy softly, “I think I have the idea now.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**In a war of ideas, it is the people who get killed. *(Anonymous)***

**$600 million is what the Army and Marine Corps together paid during the past year in bonuses and other incentives to attract volunteers. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, January 13, 2009)***

**The only never-conquered American Indians were the Seminoles. Were you aware, even, that they declared war against the Axis nations during World War II. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you. *(Leon Trotsky)***

**After eight years of war, bombings, and brutal sectarian violence, Iraq’s civilian population is now suffering an epidemic of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental illnesses, health officials there say. But there are only 100 psychiatrists to serve a population of 30 million. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 2-9, 2010)***

**It’s good for us when – in spite of all of the sober, pragmatic, and even correct arguments that war is sometimes necessary – someone says: “War is large-scale murder, us at our worst, the stupidest guy doing the cruelest thing to the weakest being.” *(George Saunders)***

**I look upon the whole world as my fatherland, and every war has to me the horror of a family feud. *(Helen Keller, in New York Call)***

**Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind. *(J. F. Kennedy, 1962)***

**One hundred twenty million people have been killed in 130 wars in this century – more than all those killed in war before 1900. *(Richard Nixon, in 1999 – Victory Without War)***

When is a war not a war? Apparently, the Korean War was not really a war, but a military conflict, because the U.S. Congress never actually declared war on North Korea. They regarded it as police action on behalf of a United Nations conflict, though it was one that ended in a stalemate. That is why it is sometimes referred to as "The Unknown War" or the "Forgotten War." (Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 160)

**It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it. *(Robert E. Lee)***

**Tens of thousands of people die every month in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Lancet reports, from easily preventable diarrhea, malaria, respiratory infections, and malnutrition – a legacy of war. *(Discover magazine, March, 2006)***

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**Newly released documents show the FBI is investigating Americans just for opposing the war. Maybe when we get done establishing democracy in Iraq, we could try it here. *(Jay Leno, in Rocky Mountain News, March 21, 2006)***

**President Bush said that the people who are attacking our forces in Iraq are getting more and more desperate because we’re making so much progress. So remember, the worse it gets, the better it is. *(Jay Leno, 2003)***

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**If we let people see that kind of thing, there would never again be any war. *(Pentagon official on why the military censored footage of the Gulf War)***

**So far, the U.S. has spent $750 million on the war in Libya. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 27, 2011)***

**In war, you win or lose, live or die – and the difference is just an eyelash*. (Douglas MacArthur, Army general)***

**War is only a cowardly escape from the problems of peace. *(Thomas Mann)***

**According to the Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention, no two countries have fought a war against one another since each got its McDonald’s. The accuracy of this statement depends on a flexible interpretation of the term “war.” *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 142)***

**About 46,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have already gone to Veterans Affairs centers seeking treatment for mental health problems. *(Newsday, as it appeared in The Week magazine March 31, 2006)***

**Erecting a missile defense system to give the nation limited protection from ballistic missile attack would cost nearly $60 billion through the year 2015, according to a congressional report released Tuesday. The Congressional Budget Office said that if successfully engaged a national defense system would defend the entire country against several tens of missiles. It cautioned, however, that many believe that a country just developing long-range missiles could use simple countermeasures rendering a missile defense system impotent. *(Jim Abrams, Associated Press, printed in Rocky Mountain News, April 26, 2000)***

**Calculators of such things say all the money spent on territorial wars could have bought outright every square foot of land on earth. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I was once asked why I don't participate in anti-war demonstrations. I said that I will never do that, but as soon as you have a pro-peace rally, I'll be there. *(Mother Teresa)***

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**In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. *(Jose Narosky, Argentine writer, in Si Todos los Tiempos)***

**Billy says to Dolly as he jumps off the diving board: “Look, Dolly! A cannonball!” Dolly: “I’m tellin’, Billy! Mommy said no war games of any kind!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**War: Not necessarily depressing: Some soldiers are traumatized by war, but many come home in better mental shape than when they left, says the British Journal of Psychiatry. Researchers at King’s College London questioned 421 members of the 16 Air Assault Brigade of Colchester before and after taking part in operations in Iraq for about four months, and concluded that they underwent “a highly significant relative improvement in mental health.” But these were not typical soldiers: They were all in an elite unit which maintained high morale while in Iraq, and they all saw positive results from their service. Nonetheless, said researcher Dr. Jamie Hacker Hughes, the findings challenge the stereotype of the traumatized and depressed veteran. Participating in a war, he said, “may not be as deleterious to psychological well-being as previously thought.” *(The Week magazine, June 24, 2005)***

**In nuclear war, all men are cremated equal. *(Dexter Gordon, musician)***

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**Democrats are arguing that the $60 billion that will be spent on war in Iraq could be better-spent here at home. President Bush has agreed and has now announced a plan to bomb Ohio. *(Conan O'Brien)***

**Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld criticized the media for portraying the Iraq war in a negative light. He said, “The media should focus on the more light-hearted, fun aspects of the war.” *(Conan O’Brien, in Time, December 19, 2005)***

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**Henri Dunant, at age 30, was a wealthy Swiss banker and financier. His life would probably have continued much as it had except for one fateful day, June 24, 1859, which changed everything. Dunant had been sent by his government to talk to Napoleon. He was to discuss a business deal between the Swiss and the French which would benefit both. But Napoleon was not in Paris; he was on the plain of Solferino about to do battle with the Austrians. Henri Dunant tried to reach the scene before the battle began, but he was too late. His carriage came to a halt on top of a hill which overlooked the battlefield. Suddenly trumpets blared, muskets cracked, cannons boomed. The two cavalries charged and the battle was on. Henri Dunant, as if in a box seat at the theatre, sat transfixed. He could see the dust rising, hear the screams of the injured, the dying. Dunant sat as if in a trance at the horror below him. But the real horror was later – when he entered the small town after the battle was over. Every house, every building was filled with the mangled, the injured, the dead. Driven by pity at the suffering he saw all around him, Dunant stayed in the town for three days doing everything he could to help. He was never the same man again. War was barbarous. The world should abolish it. This was not the way to settle differences between nations. And most of all there ought to be a worldwide organization to help people in times of suffering and chaos. Henri Dunant returned to Switzerland, but in the next few years he became a fanatic on the subject of peace and mercy. He began to travel all over Europe preaching his message. Eventually his business suffered in the effort and he was soon broke. But he persisted. At the first Geneva Conference he carried on a one-man assault against war. As a result, the Conference passed the first international law against war – a movement that was to give birth eventually to both the League of Nations and th U. N. In 1901 Dunant was awarded the first Nobel Peace prize. And though he was penniless and living in a poorhouse, he gave the entire prize to the worldwide movement he had founded. Henri Dunant died in 1910 almost totally forgotten by the world. But Dunant needed no monument to mark his grave. As a symbol of the organization he had fathered, he had taken the Swiss flag, a white cross on a red background, and reversed it: a red cross on a white background. The organization which became his everlasting monument was the Red Cross. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it. *(George Orwell)***

**In 1943, everyone was no doubt sick of World War II. But one side cannot call the end of a war and expect peace to follow. The pandemic is a war between all of humanity and an invading virus. Human beings are smarter (or should be); less than a year after a new virus began its assault, science, medicine, and government had devised, manufactured, and started distributing billions of doses of a weapon exquisitely designed to neutralize SARS-CoV-2. But millions of people have refused to enlist in the battle, and the vaccines have thus far failed to reach large swaths of the population. Given time and opportunity, the enemy continues to evolve new weapons of its own. Our frustration and impatience won’t change reality. So let’s put on our big-boy and big-girl pants and do what’s necessary to end this damn pandemic. Get vaccinated. Get boosted. Wear masks in indoor public places. Don’t spread the virus. Join the war effort. *(William Falk, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 10, 2021)***

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**Of course people don’t want war but it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along. The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy! All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked and denounce the cipafists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country. *(Herman Goering, Hitler’s designated successor)***

**If so many people get hurt in war, why do they keep playin’ it? *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**A man was watching his young nephew play a war game at the beach with some other little kids in their sand forts. “Stevie,” the uncle called, “if you take those other kids' fort in the next 15 minutes, I'll give you a dollar.” About three minutes later, the boy ran up to his uncle with the news that the kids in the other fort had surrendered. “Here's your dollar,” said the uncle. “But how did you manage it so quickly.” “I offered the enemy a quarter,” Stevie answered, “and they surrendered.” *(Funny, Funny World)***

**The grim fact is that we prepare for war like precocious giants, and for peace like retarded pygmies. *(Lester Bowles Pearson, Canada's prime minister of the 1960s)***

**President Obama came into office pledging to end the wars of his predecessors, but if the U.S. remains at war in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria until the end of his term, Obama will be the only president in American history to serve two complete terms with the nation at war. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 27, 2016)***

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**Price of victory: $138 billion (in today's dollars): Cost of the Marshall Plan, the plan to rebuild Europe after World War II by Secretary of State George Marshall. The price was $13.3 billion in 1940s dollars. $30 billion to $105 billion - The American Academy of Arts and Sciences' estimated cost for rebuilding Iraq in the next decade. *(Rocky Mountain News, March 26, 2003)***

**The price tag for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will soon surpass that of the decade-long Vietnam War. By next year, the cost of ongoing U.S. military operations since 9/11 is expected to approach $600 billion. The Vietnam War, in today’s dollars, cost $536 billion. (*USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 1, 2006)***

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**The psychic suffering of World War II vets: Post-traumatic stress disorder did not start with the Vietnam or Iraq war, said Tim Madigan. As I learned while doing research for a novel on a World War II veteran, more than 1 million Americans who fought in that conflict were discharged for "psychoneurotic disorders." By 1947, nearly half the beds in Veterans Administration hospitals were filled with men with PTSD. A suppressed 1946 documentary by director John Huston reported that 20 percent of U.S. casualties suffered primarily psychic, not physical, wounds that left them with night terrors, survivor's guilt, depression, and alcoholism. The brutal reality of what World War II did to veterans' psyches has been lost "amid the mythology of the Greatest Generation." But with PTSD now out in the open, the remaining survivors of World War II are finally talking about their lingering symptoms, which have followed them into their 80s and 90s. "The greatest wound was right here," one veteran, Earl Crumby, told me as he pointed to his head. Another veteran, Otis Mackey, said, "When we got out, you couldn't talk about things like that." Instead, he and others suffered in silence, convinced they were alone. But even "the good war" did terrible things to those who fought it. *(The Week magazine, September 25, 2015)***

**Recognizing the reality of war: "War kills more innocent people than guilty ones," said Sebastian Junger. That's a reality of war that most civilians would rather ignore, but one that soldiers cannot; they often come home haunted by ghosts. In Iraq and Afghanistan, tens of thousands of innocent men, women, and children have perished, sometimes because of attacks by insurgents, and sometimes at the hands of 20-year-old American soldiers who, in the fog or war, mistook them for the enemy. One returning soldier I know told me he felt God hated him because he had "sinned"; his friends and family, he said, couldn't begin to understand what he meant. It might help such soldiers grieve, and face their guilt, if our society "were willing to acknowledge the very real horrors of war." One powerful way to do that is to build a monument like the Vietnam Memorial to the more than 100,000 civilians who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. Such a memorial might not only comfort our soldiers; it would show the world that we recognize the horrific sacrifices made by Iraqis and Afghans over the past nine years. "If our soldiers died for freedom there -- as presidents are fond of saying -- then those people did as well." *(The Week magazine)***

**Congress has approved $18.6 billion in taxpayer funds for reconstruction in Iraq. Here is the breakdown of how some of it might be spent: $5 billion for new electricity generation and transmission. $4 billion each for water projects and security. $1 billion for oil sector repairs. $100 million each for gas turbine electricity plants at the northern town of Badoosh, and three in Baghdad. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 23, 2003)***

**U.S. military commanders say foreign fighters are being actively recruited by loyalists to Saddam Hussein to join the resistance against U.S. forces in Iraq, posing a new challenge to efforts to stabilize the country. Military officials say U.S. troops in Iraq have had to contend with Syrians, Saudis, Yemenis, Algerians, Lebanese, and Chechens. Many of these fighters took up arms against the United States during the U.S. thrust to Baghdad. But a significant number remain, and a new effort is underway to lure more to Iraq to join the fight against the Americans, officials say. *(Michael R. Gordon with Douglas Jehl, in The New York Times as printed in The Denver Post on June 22, 2003)***

**Reimbursement: $2,500 – Largest sum the Pentagon allows as payment to families of Iraqi civilians killed by actions of U.S. and coalition forces during combat. $100.000 – The “death gratuity payment” issued by the Department of Defense to families of U.S. service members who are killed in a combat zone or operation*. (Department of Defense, as it appeared in Time magazine, July 2, 2007)***

**For recreation, Roman boys played at war using wooden swords. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 60)**

**No one won the last war, and no one will win the next. *(Eleanor Roosevelt, letter to Harry S. Truman)***

**More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars. *(Franklin D., Roosevelt, former U.S. president)***

**War never determines who’s right, just who’s left. *(Bertrand Russell)***

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**Only the dead have seen the end of war. *(George Santayana)***

**To delight in war is a merit in the soldier, a dangerous quality in the captain, and a positive crime in the statesman. *(George Santayana)***

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**When the rich wage war, it's the poor who die. (*Jean-Paul Sartre)***

**War is a series of catastrophes that results in a victory. *(Georges Clemenceau, French statesman)***

**Dolly says to the other children: “If grownups learned to share their toys, we wouldn’t have so many wars.” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**War is at best barbarism. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell. *(U. S. Civil War General William Sherman)***

**America is sick of war: Since 1972, Republicans “have enjoyed a presumption of superiority regarding national security,” said George Will. That presumption is now gone. President Obama’s foreign policy has been aggressive and largely successful: Osama bin Laden is dead, and the drone war kills more terrorists every day. Yet Republicans bitterly complain that Obama is a wimp who made a terrible mistake by pulling out of Iraq and is making the same mistake by winding down Afghanistan. When he becomes president, Mitt Romney has vowed, we’ll fight on in Afghanistan until the Taliban is “defeated.” After 10 years of war, much of it fruitless, is this really what the American people want to hear? Clearly not. Yet some Republicans are even clamoring for two more wars, in Syria and Iran. These same hawks are in an uproar that Obama has proposed trimming the military budget by 8 percent over 10 years, even though the U.S. spends more on defense than the next 17 nations combined. Memo to the GOP: The voters have had quite enough of foreign nation-building, and want to attend to the problems at home. “Republicans who think America is being endangered by ‘appeasement’ and military parsimony have worked that pedal on their organ quite enough.” *(The Week magazine, February 24, 2012)***

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**Congress approved $82 billion in emergency spending to cover military costs in Iraq and Afghanistan. The measure brought the total bill for the wars to $290 billion, with Iraq accounting for two-thirds. The measure was intended to cover costs through September, but some analysts say the Bush administration will need to request more money in a few months. *(The Week magazine, May 20, 2005)***

**Defense spending, even with the war in Iraq, is less than you think. The Fiscal Year 2007 budget called for $572 billion for defense, 20 percent of total federal spending. Iraq accounts for about a fifth of that. During the Vietnam War, defense spending ate up about 45 percent of the budget and, in 1943, 70 percent of federal spending was devoted to the world war. *(Mike Rosen, in Rocky Mountain News, October 5, 2007)***

**The U.S. spends more on its military than the next 10 nations combined. Last year, the U.S. spent $877 billion on defense, more than 10 times the amount spent by Russia, which came in third at $86 billion. China, at No. 2, spent $292 billion. *(Axios, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 5, 2023)***

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**We’re the middle children of history … no purpose or place. We have no great war, no Great Depression. Our great war is a spiritual war. *(From the film Fight Club, screenplay by Jim Uhls)***

**Submersion in war does not necessarily qualify a man to be the master of the peace. *(Ernie Pyle, war correspondent)***

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**Wars teach us not to love our enemies but to hate our allies. *(W. L. George, author)***

**Most of the early teachers in this country were men. But that started to turn around in 1850. Then death on the Civil War battlefields changed it most drastically. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers. *(Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister)***

**Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves. *(William Hazlitt)***

**$900.000 is how much the Pentagon is paying a contractor to destroy old F-14s rather than sell the spares at the risk of their falling into the wrong hands, including Iran’s. The Tomcat was a strike fighter with a price tag of roughly $38 million. By the 1980s it was a movie star with a leading role in the Tom Cruise classic Top Gun. The Pentagon retired its F-14s last fall. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News on September 3, 2007)***

**There is no instance of a nation benefiting from prolonged warfare. *(Sun Tzu, in The Art of War)***

**Wars begin in the minds of man, and in those minds, love and compassion would have built the defenses of peace. *(Former United Nations Secretary General U Thant)***

**War is the unfolding of miscalculations. *(Barbara Tuchman, historian)***

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**The United States has fought nine major wars in nine generations. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The U.S. has been at war for 47 of the 230 years it has existed, or 20 percent of its history. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 6, 2010)***

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**It is useless to send armies against ideas. *(George Brandes)***

**There are no warlike peoples – just warlike leaders. *(Ralph J. Bunche, American diplomat)***

**The true warrior is ‘one who conquers oneself’. *(T. Harv Eker)***

**We have wars when at least one of the parties to a conflict wants something more than it wants peace. *(Jeane J. Kirtpatrick)***

**Weapons are like money; no one knows the meaning of enough. *(Martin Amis)***

**The military don’t start wars. Politicians start wars. *(General William C. Westmoreland, American military commander)***

**Who won World War I? Many countries achieved independence in that great war. But only one, Finland, remains a western-style democracy. *(L.M. Boyd)***

**As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**Few Americans realize it, but our leaders who lack military experience tend to be more hawkish than leaders who have served in the military. In recent decades, we've had fewer veterans in the executive and legislative branches than at any point since World War II. As a result, we've grow increasingly willing to use military force abroad, and for a broader range of reasons. For example, we're more willing today to intervene to prevent human-rights abuses. Leaders who are military veterans have been, on the whole, more reluctant to intervene in places like Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Haiti, Iraq, and now Libya." *(Former Marine Capt. Matt Pottinger, in The DailyBeast.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 1, 2011)***

**Woodrow Wilson thought winning World War I could make it the war to end all wars. Instead, it gave Hitler issues on which to lead Germany into World War II. Now comes George W. Bush with a “vision” to impose freedom and Democracy on the Middle East. *(Bill Wortman, in Denver Post)***

**Winning the peace is a far greater challenge than winning the war . . . how we respond to the challenges of peace will determine our survival as a species, the well-being of the planet, and the possibility of true justice around the world. *(Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson)***

**Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves. *(William Hazlitt)***

**Reader writes: “Veterans of the American Revolutionary War witnessed the War of 1812, and veterans of 1812 witnessed the Civil War. You can similarly cycle the backward linkage from the Spanish-American War and World War I and World War II and the Korean War and the Vietnam War. We are impatient, restless, eager. We do not wait for the passing of the old to start the killing of the young, never have.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Wolves seem to understand combat, but not old age, an expert says. If one dies fighting, they pay little attention. If one just dies, they circle the body, then alternately howl and sit silently. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The word “war” is spoken far more frequently than the word “peace,” according to language experts. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Fifty-seven countries were involved in World War II. (Noel Botham, in *The Book of Useless Information, p. 164)***

**The world will be at war as long as the mind is at war with itself … If we can’t find peace within ourselves, where is the hope for peace in the world? *(Byron Katie, life coach, in Origin)***

**Worldwide during 2005, there were 28 full-fledged wars and 11 other armed conflicts. *(Vital Signs 2006-2007, Worldwatch Institute)***

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**You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake. *(Jeannette Rankin)***

**If a thing be disagreeable in contemplation, cease to contemplate it, go out to meet it, serenely nonresistant. In any warfare in which you find yourself engaged you are the one who wars and the one who is warred against. You war against your own thoughts of nature, of people, of life. The universe is at peace. If you think that you hate others you hate merely what your imperfect vision claims to see in others. If you resist anything, you but resist the opinion that you have formed in relation to that thing. If you do not resist, the act is not unjust to you, because you do not receive it. *(Imelda Shanklin, in What Are You?)***

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