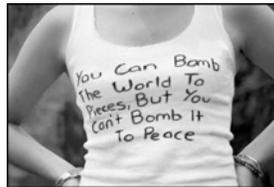


PEACE. Almost everyone wants peace. But wishing for peace and just carrying on as usual will achieve nothing - ensuring this are powerful forces with interests opposed to peace.* **U**nless it is supported by an activism that has peace at its heart, the wish for peace is insincere and will remain an empty shell.** **A**nd this push for peace must itself be peaceful. It is wrong to claim that fighting some 'righteous' war is to achieve peace. Winning this war bears in itself the seed for another war.***

see also * WEAPONRY, *** FIGHTING FOR PEACE

"You can bomb the world to pieces
But you can't bomb it to peace"

(at a Sydney peace rally in 2003)



Peace will be elusive as long as war/peace decisions are made solely using rational thought processes.

In his article 'why Never Again will never work', Ross Gittins (SMH, 25 April 2007) points to a thesis by professors Kahneman and Renshon, who argue that a bias favouring hawkish beliefs (which will lead to war) exists in the rational human mind.

The rationalism employed in the war/peace decision-making process is prone to mental dysfunctions, namely the optimism bias and a delusion of control.

In the context of rationality, when confronted with the possibility of war, consider the incident with Stanislav Petrov. In 1983 - at the height of the cold war - the Soviets had shot down a Korean Air Lines plane.

Petrov was the duty officer at the Soviet nuclear early-warning system. The system reported that a missile had been launched from the US, followed by five more.

Petrov judged the reports to be a false alarm and his intuitive but irrational decision to disobey orders is credited with having prevented a retaliatory nuclear attack on the US that would have resulted in WWII.

see also RATIONALISM

If humans ever achieve peace, it will come about when leaders also engage the subtle mind with its intuition and compassion, rather than just the ordinary mind with its conditioning, rationalisations and biases. Another aspect of peace is the concept of Reciprocal Mutual Respect:

There are probably nine components required for peace, which will materialize once they're awarded all humans: Freedom and Justice, Compassion and Understanding, Equality and Prosperity, Tolerance and Respect. As well as Love, expressed by all people for all people.

see also FREE & PROSPEROUS and Naomi Wolf's assessment of Barak Obama in TERRORISM

