Activity 3 – The Creation of the International Order

War remains one of the most challenging events that a society can encounter. It threatens the identity, culture and even the very survival of a society; it is accompanied by violence, destruction and suffering. Wars have, however, also created the international order based, as it is, on the idea of the state and the unviability of a state’s borders: what occurs within a state is the responsibility of that state and to interfere with its internal workings has traditionally been seen as tantamount to an act of war.

War has not only created the international order, but wars are fought today both within the constraints that the order has created, and to uphold - or occasionally challenge - the order itself. War is no longer clearly delimited from peace, as peace-building, state-building, reconstruction and democratisation indicate. Revolutions have been fought and suppressed within this order, and today security is maintained at the level of an individual state by both membership of multinational defence and security alliances, such as NATO, and by maintaining sufficient military capability to deter other states from becoming aggressive. Although broadly across history wars have been exceptional occurrences, they were clearly limited in both time (“times of war”) and space (“the battlefield”); contemporary wars, by contrast, are increasingly becoming more extensive in both duration and scale.

Task

Read the following:


http://www.globalresearch.ca/war-and-the-new-world-order/6577

1. What alternatives are there to war to address contemporary political issues?
2. In what ways is war easier to use as a tool within the international order than peace?
3. Is war an institution in crisis?