

## How To Stop War

Universal disarmament? Everyone becoming peaceful simultaneously and without any ability to revert to violence. One nation or a coalition of nations disarming all other nations?

All of these strategies have been attempted, and they have failed. No nation will unilaterally disarm, and all nations have never been prepared to disarm, so no universal disarmament has happened. There is no religion or drug that has been or is ever likely to be adopted globally that would convert everyone to non-violence at the same time. The conversion of part of the world's population to non-violence would result in the eradication of the non-violent by the violent. The disarmament of all nations by one nation or coalition of nations has been attempted by several empires, including the Roman Empire, and it has not resulted in peace. Eventually one Empire will falter, and nations will once again wage war against one another.

Baha'u'llah proposed a solution, one He called the "Lesser Peace". Here it is, in His own words:

O kings of the earth! **We see you increasing every year your expenditures, and laying the burden thereof on your subjects. This, verily, is wholly and grossly unjust. Fear the sighs and tears of this Wronged One, and lay not excessive burdens on your peoples.** Do not rob them to rear palaces for yourselves; nay rather choose for them that which ye choose for yourselves. Thus We unfold to your eyes that which profiteth you, if ye but perceive. Your people are your treasures. Beware lest your rule violate the commandments of God, and ye deliver your wards to the hands of the robber. By them ye rule, by their means ye subsist, by their aid ye conquer. Yet, how disdainfully ye look upon them! How strange, how very strange!

(The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

[www.bahai.org/r/303590083](http://www.bahai.org/r/303590083)

Now that ye have refused the Most Great Peace, **hold ye fast unto this, the Lesser Peace**, that haply ye may in some degree better your own condition and that of your dependents. O rulers of the earth! **Be reconciled among yourselves, that ye may need no more armaments save in a measure to safeguard your territories and dominions.** Beware lest ye disregard the counsel of the All-Knowing, the Faithful.

(The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

[www.bahai.org/r/818546104](http://www.bahai.org/r/818546104)

Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst

you, and your peoples find rest, if ye be of them that comprehend. **Should any one among you take up arms against another, rise ye all against him, for this is naught but manifest justice.** Thus did We exhort you in the Tablet sent down aforetime,<sup>7</sup> and We admonish you once again to follow that which hath been revealed by Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Wise.

(The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

[www.bahai.org/r/819970785](http://www.bahai.org/r/819970785)

**Should anyone seek refuge with you, extend unto him your protection and betray him not.** Thus doth the Pen of the Most High counsel you, as bidden by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

(The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

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First: **It is incumbent upon the ministers of the House of Justice to promote the Lesser Peace so that the people of the earth may be relieved from the burden of exorbitant expenditures.** This matter is imperative and absolutely essential, inasmuch as hostilities and conflict lie at the root of affliction and calamity.

(Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh)

[www.bahai.org/r/452861545](http://www.bahai.org/r/452861545)

**We pray God—exalted be His glory—and cherish the hope that He may graciously assist the manifestations of affluence and power and the daysprings of sovereignty and glory, the kings of the earth—may God aid them through His strengthening grace—to establish the Lesser Peace. This, indeed, is the greatest means for insuring the tranquillity of the nations. It is incumbent upon the Sovereigns of the world—may God assist them—unitedly to hold fast unto this Peace, which is the chief instrument for the protection of all mankind.** It is Our hope that they will arise to achieve what will be conducive to the well-being of man. It is their duty to convene an all-inclusive assembly, which either they themselves or their ministers will attend, and to enforce whatever measures are required to establish unity and concord amongst men. **They must put away the weapons of war, and turn to the instruments of universal reconstruction. Should one king rise up against another, all the other kings must arise to deter him. Arms and armaments will, then, be no more needed beyond that which is necessary to insure the internal security of their respective countries.** If they attain unto this all-surpassing blessing, the people of each nation will pursue, with tranquillity and contentment, their own occupations, and the groanings and lamentations of most men would be silenced. We beseech God to aid them to do His will and pleasure. He, verily, is the Lord of the throne on high and of earth below, and the Lord of this world and of the world to come. It would be preferable and more fitting that the highly honored kings themselves should attend such an assembly, and proclaim their edicts. Any king who will arise and carry out this

task, he verily will, in the sight of God, become the cynosure of all kings. Happy is he, and great is his blessedness!

**In this land, every time men are conscripted for the army, a great terror seizeth the people. Every nation augmenteth, each year, its forces, for their ministers of war are insatiable in their desire to add fresh recruits to their battalions.** We have learned that the government of Persia—may God assist them—have, likewise decided to reinforce their army. **In the opinion of this Wronged One a force of one hundred thousand fully-equipped and well-disciplined men would suffice.** We hope that thou wilt cause the light of justice to shine more brightly. By the righteousness of God! Justice is a powerful force. It is, above all else, the conqueror of the citadels of the hearts and souls of men, and the revealer of the secrets of the world of being, and the standard-bearer of love and bounty.

(Epistle to the Son of the Wolf)

[www.bahai.org/r/828930852](http://www.bahai.org/r/828930852)

Baha'u'llah's plan to end war is for the rulers of all nations to meet together and agree to unitedly prevent any one among them from invading another. It is the ruler who is to be held responsible, not his armed forces, not the people of his country. "Rise ye all against him" and should "one king rise up against another, all the other kings must arise to deter him." Generally, the armies and the people have been slaughtered in wars, and the rulers have been well protected from harm. Baha'u'llah would reverse this, holding the leader responsible for making the decision to commit aggression.

As a result of this united opposition to aggression, nations will be able to halt the augmentation of military forces, and reduce them to the number needed "to insure the internal security of their respective countries" and furnish "no more armaments save in a measure to safeguard your territories and dominions". This would lighten the burden upon the peoples of the nations, both in terms of taxation and the recruitment of men to serve in the military.

Inasmuch as "internal security" is regarded as necessary, a police force is needed. And inasmuch as each nation is responsible to "safeguard" its "territories and dominions", boundaries are recognized and respected.

What do we see at this very moment in time? The leader of one country makes a unilateral decision to invade another country, and he has not yet paid the price for this decision. The soldiers under his command who have died have paid that price. The people of his nation whose livelihoods are threatened by the boycott of many sectors of their economy are paying that price. Those who dare to speak up against this war are arrested and condemned to prison. In response to this war, nations are expanding their

military spending, resulting in higher taxes, and likely more conscripts, burdening their subjects. Of course, many of the wealthy will become richer, as they will invest in the production of arms, which will be sold to the opposing armies. And at this very moment, there is a call to reduce and even to eradicate the police who are assigned to safeguard the “internal security” of one nation...and this call may well be taken up in other nations.

The solution that Baha'u'llah counsels the heads of government to implement is not to allow tyrants to invade, conquer and destroy other nations, not to provide new homes for millions of refugees, not to punish the powerless subjects of the aggressive tyrants, but to hold those rulers accountable for their actions. It may sound brutal, but if under certain conditions it is just for a murderer to be executed, then surely it is just for the ruler of a nation who is responsible for thousands of deaths to be executed. And executed as quickly as possible, to bring war to a conclusion, and save the lives of many innocent adults and children.

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