

9. Peace

Q1. Do you think that a change towards a peaceful world, needs a change in the way people think? Can mind promote peace and is it enough to focus only on the human mind?

Answer:

A thought process of persons requires a positive attitude to promote peace because mind controls the way of thinking and behaviour of human beings.

(a) Mind promotes peace but a wrong mind or attitude can create war.

(b) Gautam Buddha also states that all wrong doing arises because of mind. If mind is transformed can wrong doing remain?

(c) The UNESCO also observed since wars begin in minds of humans, it is also in the mind of men to make an approach in a peaceful manner.

(d) To facilitate such an endeavour various spiritual principles like compassion and practices like meditation perform peaceful approaches.

(e) Though violence does not originate only in individual psyche but deep-rooted also in certain social structures.

(f) Peace is process involving an active pursuit of the moral and material resources needed to establish human welfare.

Q2. A State must protect the lives and rights of its citizens. However, at times its own actions are a source of violence against some of its citizens. Comment with the help of some examples.

Answer:

- Human beings created state for one's own protection of honour and property
- State maintains law and order
- State protects the rights of its citizens by providing them a constitution, laws, police, judiciary and armed forces.
- State make efforts to end any type of violence created by social injustice and inequality based discriminations like untouchability, etc.
- A state should avoid those actions which may be source of violence against some particular groups.

• Some examples are:

1. In 1984, a huge massacre of nearly 4,000 Sikhs took place in Delhi and the government could do nothing and even today, the victims feel that the guilty were not punished.
2. Khalistan movement also forced Hindus to leave Punjab, Haryana and Delhi and Sikhs were forced to move to Punjab. Similarly, Hindu Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs were also forced to leave Kashmir valley. And they could not return their home.
3. Several Hindus and Muslims were massacred in Gujarat in 2002 and still today these

members could not go back to the villages in which they lived.

4. During the communist rule in USSR, people faced violence not to like the authoritarian policies of state.

Q3. Peace can be best realised when there is freedom, equality and justice. Do you agree?

Answer:

The given statement is true because:

- Peace is a central theme in the original teachings of religions which has been advocated by various philosophers like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama, etc.

- **Peace is an essential ingredient to establish democracy with two basic principles –**

1. Freedom and equality

2. Justice and human rights.

- Social inequalities and wrong practices of caste, religion, and language may produce large scale evil consequences.

a. Sometimes, traditional caste system treats some people as untouchables, hence peace is meaningless for those people.

b. Discrimination against women also given birth to female foeticides, inadequate nourishment and education to girl child, child marriage, dowry, sexual harassment at the workplace, rape and honour killing.

c. Racial discrimination also continues in the west and directed against immigrants from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

d. The labour class which always struggle due to the low wages and ill working conditions also has no meaning for peace.

Q4. Use of violence does not achieve just ends in the long run. What do you think about this statement?

Answer:

- Sometimes violence is justified to be used as liberation struggles to bring a peace.

- But once violence is resorted it tends to spin out control, leaving behind a trail of death and destruction.

- The pacifists advocate mobilization of love and truth to win hearts and minds of the oppressors.

- Sometimes people consider non-violence to be the methods of weak which has been rejected by Mahatma Gandhi who articulated different philosophy of non-violence.

- Gandhiji gave an idea of non-violence in a positive way which required an element of conscious compassion.

- Violence should not be used to counter violence because peace can only be brought with the stress of peaceful means.

- Non-violence does not refer just from referring from causing physical harm, mental harm or loss of livelihood and it also meant giving up even thought of harming someone.

Q5. Differentiate between the major approaches, discussed in the chapter, to the establishment of peace in the world.

Answer:

The major approaches to the establishment of peace in the world have been differentiated as follows:

1. First Approach:

- Different strategies have been used for the pursuit and maintenance of peace. These have been shaped by three distinct approaches.
- The first approach with centrality to the states, respects their sovereignty and treats competition among them as a fact of life.
- Its chief concern is with the proper management of this competition and with the containment of possible conflict through interstate arrangements like balance of power.
- Such a balance is said to have prevailed in the 19th century when the major European countries turned their struggle for power by forming alliances that deferred potential aggressors and checked the outbreak of a great war.
- The second approach too grants the deep rooted nature of interstate rivalry. But it stresses the positive presence and possibilities of interdependence.
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