



The notion that
weapons of mass
destruction can ever be
eliminated without a
complete rejection of
the war system is

DEAD WRONG!

In the 20th Century, humankind developed technologies that could be used to destroy all civilization as we know it. The awesome powers of these Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) come with an equally awesome responsibility — to ensure that they will never be used.

Most people agree that it is critically important to prevent a nuclear war or the use of other WMDs. But few people take the idea of a world without war seriously. As a result, most activism is aimed not on steps to abolish all war, but just on measures to ban particular weapons.

Implicit in the efforts to control the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons is the idea that war must be limited. But is it possible to limit warfare? Can we have a ban on nuclear and other WMDs that will always be respected by nations at war? Some people think not:

"We cannot ban one single weapon without abolishing war. ... War is no parlor game played by definite rules. When nations are fighting for their survival, they will use whatever weapons they can to avoid defeat." — Albert Einstein

"War cannot be limited. It can only be abolished."
— General Douglas MacArthur

"It seems to us a delusion to believe that small conflicts could in the future always be decided by traditional weapons. In extreme danger no nation will deny itself the use of any weapons that scientific technology can produce."

— from the Mainau Declaration signed by 52 Nobel scientists

The science behind the technologies of WMD's can't be *unlearned*. The burden of ensuring its correct use is one humanity will forever have to bear. Unless we manage to create a global political climate in which there is no need for weapons of war, it is simply a matter of time before catastrophe strikes.

The only way to make the world safe from the threat of WMDs is to end the war system and the international anarchy which allows it to exist. To do that, we need to create a legitimate and effective system of world law.

The Democratic World Federalists

are working to build public awareness of this need and advocating efforts to take action in response.

"Science has made unrestricted national sovereignty incompatible with human survival. The only possibilities now are world government or death." -- Bertrand Russell

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