

3. A Peaceful World for Our Children

The 20th century was referred to as the century of wars. We have now moved into the 21st century but wars and disputes continue unabated. What can we do for the world now?

● **Numbers of Victims**

Since World War II, there have been disputes and internal wars in 151 locations around the world, resulting in a large number of victims. In wars today, more non-combatant civilians than troops are killed and hurt. The story has repeated itself in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and the invasion of Afghanistan.

10 million people died in World War I.

40 to 60 million people died in World War II.

More than 100 million people have died in wars since World War II.

● **Landmines**

- Landmines are **indiscriminate**. They hurt women and children.
- Landmines are **cruel**. Victims lose their limbs. The impact is not only physical but financial as well as psychological.
- Landmines are **long lasting**. They remain for decades.
- There are 70 victims per day, more than 25,000 per year or 1 victim every 20 minutes. Half of the victims die.

⇒ Landmines are called as “weapon of devil”.

- 120 million landmines are buried around the world.

- 100,000 landmines are removed every year.

⇒ It will take 1200 years to remove all landmines.

There are 2 to 5 million landmines manufactured each year.

⇒ We will never be able to remove all landmines.

- Landmines are very cheap to manufacture (\$2 to \$3 each)

⇒ They bring benefits to the military, defense industry and tax revenue.

- The cost of removing one landmine is approximately \$300.

⇒ Removal of landmines is dependent on volunteers, good will and donations.

● **Nuclear Weapons**

- A metropolis of 10 million people can be completely destroyed by one nuclear warhead (1 megaton)

⇒ Any large city in the world can be wiped out by a one-megaton class nuclear weapon.

- There are more than 10,000 nuclear warheads in the world (⇒).

⇒ There are enough nuclear warheads to kill all mankind on earth (approximately 6 billion people) ten times over.

- Once one nuclear warhead is launched, there is possibility of an all-out nuclear war.

⇒ Total abolishment of nuclear weapons is essential to avoid destruction of the world.

Number of strategic nuclear warheads held by nuclear powers (SIPRI 2001)

U S A	7206
RUSSIA	5606
FRANCE	348
CHINA	290
U K	185

【Disputes and Wars】

● Causes of Conflicts

There are various causes for wars and disputes including ideological, religious, territorial and ethnic confrontation but poverty is also a major factor.

- 1 billion people are suffering from starvation while another billion including us are living in gluttony.
- 1.2 billion people are suffering due to water shortage while people in developed countries use 100 times more water in comparison to such people.
- 1.2 billion people live for less than one dollar a day while people in the North spend more than 100 times than that amount each day.

● Disparity between the Rich and the Poor

The gap between the rich and the poor have been widening since the industrial revolution and because of market economy.

⇒ The gap is expanding further due to the globalization of the economy (See right table.)

Differential between the richest and poorest nations of the world

1820	3 : 1
1920	11 : 1
1960	30 : 1
1980	60 : 1
1997	74 : 1

UNDP Human Development Report '99

● 800 billion dollars each year on military expenditure

Does the defense industry exist for wars?

Or do wars exist for the defense industry?

*The relationship is similar to that between the civil construction industry and public works in Japan.

Peace can be realized if military expenditure is used for peace.

Removal of all landmines: \$33 billion

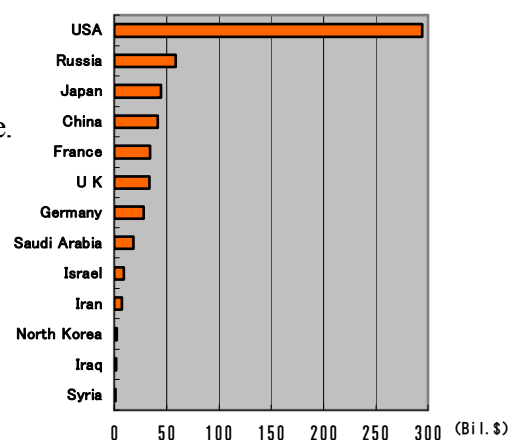
Dismantle all nuclear weapons: \$60 billion

Food aid for the 1 billion starving people: \$98 billion

Write-off all debts for the heavily indebted countries: \$401 billion

(Source: Monterey Institute of International Studies, UN FAO, World Resource Institute, etc.)

Annual Military Budget in the World



(IISS: International Institute for Strategic Studies)

● Limited to the United Nations

Due to national interests as well as economic and military pressures from the superpowers

⇒ it is now difficult to achieve peace under current forms of government and the UN.

But what the governments cannot do, citizens can! ⇒ It is vital that we bring together the citizens' voices and bring change to public opinion around the world.

● **A large majority of the people in the world want peaceful societies.**

The percentage of people wanting to abolish nuclear weapons for example is very high. (⇒)

Percentage of the population wanting to abolish nuclear weapons	
Japan	97%
Canada	91%
Germany	93%
Russia	91%
France	90%
UK	84%
USA	76%
India	78%

(World Research Centre, University of BC, Canada)

● **“United Global Citizens”**

If people from all over the world are able to find out about the current situation and understand that there is a way of solving the issues, we can bring together the power of global citizens and realize peace.

⇒ Let us establish the “United Global Citizens”, a global network of citizens! Citizens from around the world can work together to solve problems such as environmental destruction, starvation and poverty and start a movement against terrorism, war and nuclear weapons by expressing our opposition to such destructive practices and by exerting pressure on those responsible through boycotts and other movements.

All wars come from the heart but all peace also comes from the heart
UNESCO Charter