**How Can We Obey the Law Against War?**

How can we obey the law against war? In my opinion, it is a very rhetorical question to ask and to an extent, a wrong question to start with. I say this wrong because we are letting war happen at the first place. Time and again history has taught us one most important thing, “war is not going to last forever but peace is”. So why not focus on prevention of war rather than coping with its repercussions. With this intention in mind, the President of United States, German Reich signed a treaty with several other power nations providing for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy. Kellogg-Briand Pact, also known as Pact of Paris was signed on August 27, 1928, “condemning resource to war for the solution international controversies”.

One question always cross my mind Will we be able to stop a war only on the basis of a treaty when one country is adamant on war? Looking at the present situation where US is invading any country on the pretext of establishing peace or setting up democracy, this questions seems very pertinent. Examples of such invasions can be Iran, Iraq and recently Syria. It is my humble submission that, most of the treaties including Kellogg Briand have failed to prevent battles at international plane though the principles have survived.

The most significant reason why we have continuously failed to prevent wars is because we have always focused on how to stop the war and not how to prevent it. It is only after some calamity occurs, international focus shifts to negotiation. Is it a hope against hope that wars cannot be prevented? Or humankind is destined to indulge in such bloodbaths and then feel sorry about it?

Our history textbooks are filled with minute details of World War I, II and about every other major war. In my opinion, if this much attention were paid to the techniques of avoiding war, our history would have manifested itself in all together a different way. May be in a way, where when one could have looked up to history books for solutions to resolve their problems in their private life.

In today’s world where everything is depended on something or the other, occurrence of war has decreased to considerable extent. To my understanding, economic integration of nations can be a powerful tool in dissuading war or war like conditions. This was one of the principles of Pact of Paris where it stated that “everyone should join hands in the renunciation of war…”

If we make it a rule that every nation has to indulge in negotiations at the time of enmity between the two countries then I think we will be able to put off war in almost all the cases if not all.[[1]](#footnote-1)

We need to bring a change in the ideology of the people that war cannot be only stopped but can be prevented also. In my opinion, adding some texts in textbooks can be a mile stone in this regard. I am not saying that one should not teach about war but if we also teach the ways in which it could have been avoided that would fulfill the objective of studying history. If that cannot be done or if it is very cumbersome for people, a complimentary course on “Solutions” should be added to the curriculum. This course can comprise of teachings of Nelson Mandela or M.K. Gandhi or both. Both were followers of Ahimsa (Non-violence). Modern techniques of resolving disputes can also be incorporated in this course like Arbitration, negotiations, diplomatic talks, mediation conciliation etc.

Kellogg Briand Pact should be taught whenever we talk about wars. It is because of the principles enunciated in this pact were the basis of many treatises to come by.

1. Inspiration from Principles of Kellogg Briand Pact [↑](#footnote-ref-1)