***Gifts of War***

War! Even the word sounds terrifying. Thousands and millions of men died during battles and many women were forced to live in hell-like conditions. Kids, poor little kids, what did they have to do with all this grown up nonsense. This essay’s form is to point out the good sides and the bad sides of a subject or an event. I chose WAR! Could there be any good side of war? Well I have never thought that there would be, but there are some gifts that war gave to the world.

Let us start with the bad side. I don’t know where to start. War is a very good way to kill, to destroy, to harm, to upset, and to injure. It’s all bad, it’s all horrible. War is a period of time when people are motivated to kill. Some soldiers kill enemies, some of them kill the innocent, some do it by mistake, some do it by purpose. Some countries use nuclear weapons, some use chemical, and some of them use biological ones. A nuclear weapon has the power to kill millions of people in a blink of an eye. It is so powerful that it does not leave a single thing behind , everything in its range melts and disappears, even many years after the use, its effects can be seen. It causes genetic disorders in human beings and animals. Even plants can not grow at that area. Chemical weapons are extremely toxic. They cause very unusual harm, there is no treatment for most of the chemical weapons. And they won’t let you die quickly like nuclear weapons either. It’s a one way ticket to a slow and painful death. Biological weapons; they use diseases to kill. Viruses and bacteria sicken thousands and millions of people. Civilians suffer from outbreaks. Moreover, war badly affects economy, shortages show up, it causes bitter ends and people starve to death because of it. We almost forgot about guns. They have killed astronomical numbers of people and they still do. Even owning one puts you in a different class. That authority you hold in your hands makes you feel powerful.To make the decision of sparing a life or not...If something goes wrong you basically aim and pull the trigger and no one will blame you for that because you’re in war. And the rest of the world; they just watch, that is all they do. I think this is the worst of all. These days people die for something called “oil”, which makes governments go mad. And we all live in a world where people are more upset when the football team they support loses while innocent die just because their governments want to provide cheaper fuel for the cars they drive. And I want you to know how sorry I feel about the shortness of this paragraph.

After all those terrible things we have talked about, you might hesitate. Could there possibly be any good side of war? But terror is not the only thing war gave us. War brought many problems with it, forcing humankind to solve them. And yes! They did find some solutions. Plastic surgery for instance... After all those wars, thousands of people were left with scars on their faces and other parts of their bodies. That is when plastic surgery developed. Rockets, they were built for long-range bombing; today they are used in planes to fill the evacuation slide quickly. Once its purpose was to kill, now it saves lives. And Nuclear energy; it was used for mass destruction. Now we use it to produce electricity without burning coal which causes global warming and climate change. War also gave us the opportunity to discover our universe. Soviet Union and United States were in a race to conquer the space. Space shuttles, satellites, telescopes and more were built, but the war did not last forever. Now we use them for different purposes. We use space shuttles to discover other planets and we have space stations to study the effects of space environment on human body. We can find our way easily thanks to the GPS system which satellites provides us with. We save a lot of time and fuel when we use it in our cars. Saving fuel also means cleaner air. It is nearly impossible to get lost with this gadget, even if you get lost, it helps others to find you. Many lives were saved using this device. And telescopes; they are great toys and more importantly, they showed us how tiny we are in the universe. We search for new planets which we can live on if something happens to our one. We scan the universe to see if there are any meteorites coming toward us so we can pray before we die. Many new materials were found during war time such as titanium, kevlar, carbon fiber etc. These are very strong and useful materials. Carbon fiber is four times lighter and two times stronger than steel. It is used in cars, planes and ships. Today we use kevlar at emergencies, stopping planes in short distances when needed. And it can even stop a bullet. These are not the only things war left us. During a war an army needs loads of weapons, vehicles, food supplies, medical care and they need it fast. This forced us to mass production and war is the reason why mass production is so developed today. The atmosphere of the war drove thousands of soldiers and civilians insane. This was the time when psychological therapies developed. And the song “all you need is love” written by John Lennon(Beatles) would not even exist if there were no war. So, yes! There are some good things war has left us. I never thought it this way but most of the inventions we use today were invented in war time.

It is a fact which I cannot ignore; we only do our best work when we are trying to kill each other. Yes! We did benefit from war. This does not mean that I support war. I think peace makes world a lovely place to live. It has the power of changing the world to Shangri-La. Yes, war may have led us to some inventions that made our lives better to live, but I would not even think of choosing a better life to millions of lives. I wish there were no war at the first place. Then we would not have problems to solve.

Before I made some research, I thought that there were no good sides of war, but I was wrong. We all know war is a bad thing. Nobody would want to take part in it. We all know war is never fair and that the innocent die in wars, but the benefits we made out of it cannot be ignored. I know this is hard to accept but war does have a good side.