What is War For?

Christopher Behnky

In the months following the end of World War II, the United States was one of the few nations that possessed nuclear weapons. The Cold War began, and the United States and the Soviet Union competed in a global arms race. The threat of nuclear war loomed large, and the world was on the brink of nuclear annihilation.

During this time, the United States was also involved in several conflicts around the world. In Korea, the United States fought a war against North Korea and China. In Vietnam, the United States fought a war against North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. These conflicts were costly and bloody, and they strained the relationship between the United States and its allies.

Today, the United States is still involved in several conflicts around the world. In Afghanistan, the United States has been fighting a war against the Taliban and al-Qaeda for over two decades. In Iraq, the United States has been fighting a war against ISIS and other extremist groups. These conflicts have been costly and bloody, and they continue to strain the relationship between the United States and its allies.

The question of what is war for continues to be debated. Some people argue that war is necessary to defending freedom and democracy, while others argue that war is a brutal and destructive force that should be avoided at all costs.

One thing is certain: the United States will continue to be involved in conflicts around the world. Whether these conflicts are won or lost, they will have a profound impact on the United States and its allies. It is up to us to decide what role war plays in our world.

Sources:


Questions:

1. What is the main cause of the Cold War?
   - The Cold War was caused by the ideological differences between the United States and the Soviet Union.

2. What were the main objectives of the United States in the Cold War?
   - The main objectives of the United States in the Cold War were to contain the spread of communism and to support anti-communist governments around the world.

3. What were the main objectives of the Soviet Union in the Cold War?
   - The main objectives of the Soviet Union in the Cold War were to spread communism and to control other countries in Europe and Asia.

4. What are the main objectives of the United States in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq?
   - The main objectives of the United States in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq are to protect American interests, to promote democracy, and to prevent the spread of terrorism.
PROPAGANDA WAR AND URBAN MYTHS

Philip Taylor

'Spin Laden'

In the aftermath of September 11, there was much agonising in the United States as to why the attacks happened, and why the perpetrators appeared to 'hate us so much'. This realisation, in itself, was described in various quarters as a wake-up call for the US and its image in the wider world. Having woken up at last to the need to conduct an information war, and on the principle that it is far better to know your enemy if such a 'war' is to be won, we need to understand the main themes of anti-American propaganda prior to the attacks, not least because they are sufficiently deep-rooted to provide fertile ground today for refutations about America as 'a force for good in the world'.

The principal source of anger is, of course, US support for Israeli state-sponsored terrorism against the Palestinians. Although Bin Laden is a comparatively recent convert to this cause, he fully understands how effectively this resentment can be translated into support for his jihad against the west.

One early manifestation of this occurred in the form of a rumour reported by jamestowne.com that it was, in fact, the Israeli Secret Service Mossad which was behind the attacks because it failed to turn up for work at the World Trade Center on September 11. Another rumour, which went round the world like wildfire on the internet, www.snoopers.com.bmp.htm, was that the TV footage of celebrating Palestinians on the West Bank was in fact taken during the Gulf War. The Palestinian authorities certainly understood media a lot to talk about, and distorted it from other aspects of the integrated campaign where its attention would be less welcome. Bkasts literary into their account-holders' sources of income. Mobile phone companies listening into users' cells. Intelligence services at work, analysing fencers, and talking to other services where they are unused to dealing. All this is presumably going on. But it does not make great television. Pictures of aircraft taking off from carriers and bombs hitting the night targets are being used both to appease public anger in the US and divert attention from other aspects of the war.

In spite of the west's media experience, there is a risk it may be losing the propaganda war. The initial shock and horror of September 11 has given way to a real questioning of the appropriateness of a military response. America has lost its victim status. Instead, that has been gained by Afghanistan and Bin Laden. In spite of the efforts of western governments, most notably the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, support for the conventional, military aspects of the war does appear to be declining, both in the west and in Islamic countries where it was never very strong.

London and Washington knew that public appetite for a long war was limited. They also knew that intense diplomatic activity was required to identify and assemble a viable successor government they might have waited until it was ready before starting.