

Of War And Peace The Truth Just Twists

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These are, not for the first time, difficult times for a pacifist. The war that started with Russia's invasion of Ukraine illustrates once again that as an idealist, or utopian if you like, you are left empty-handed.

If we can learn anything from history, it is this: war is of all times, violence is a part of human existence. Most people will answer in the negative when asked if they want war. For an idealist, that is a hopeful sign. They think they can draw the conclusion that humankind is naturally inclined to the good.

But alas, Stanley Kubrick is right: *You're an idealist, and I pity you as I would the village idiot.* An idealist has no weapons. They only have words and dreams. And those are no match for a hail of bullets. Hope is a bankrupt concept in times of war.

Nevertheless, Willem de Haan writes in his contribution (see below):

Pacifism is not a popular concept in times of war, but among the people who believed in it and practiced it were Jesus of Nazareth and Albert Einstein, John Lennon and Mother Theresa. Call them idealists, but the world would be a far worse place without them.

Kubrick would shake his head if he read this.

Still, it doesn't hurt to make these kinds of voices heard as well.

The shaking of my head a little pityingly happens to me too, however.

But I don't want to give up on all dreams.

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