

# **A CARTOGRAPHY OF WAR AND ITS PHYSICAL,PSYCHOLOGICAL,POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL ABERRATION IN THE WORLD OF PROLETARIANS.**

**GEETHANJALI. J <sup>1</sup>, Dr. ARTHY R <sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D. Scholar, Department of English, Government Arts & Science College - Hosur ,

Affiliated to Periyar University -Tamil Nadu.

[geethanjaliyepaul@gmail.com](mailto:geethanjaliyepaul@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Associate professor, Department of English, Government Arts & Science College

Hosur - 635110.

## **Abstract**

C.M Joad states that, "**Man has learnt to fly like a bird, but he hasn't learnt to live like a man**". With new technological development and artificial intelligence man possesses the ability to capture the universe but he fails to be a human with empathy and emotion. That's why Mahatma Gandhi rightfully said that Nature has provided us in abundance for man's need and not for man's greed. The worst shades of man can be exposed during a war. War is immortal - Civilization changes, Technology changes, and even evolution changes but war and its consequences remain the same, since ages unmemorable.

Women and children are the first victims of war. Even today in 21st century Geopolitical war prevails between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Hamas and cold wars are going on between many other countries. War is not just the glorified cinematic projection of valour. The soldiers undergo several psychological, emotional, physical and mental trauma which has been carried throughout their life span. Psychologists diagnose these conditions as (PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). This paper projects how war is the impact of the ego clash between two weapon hungry Big Brothers and not between the two civilians of the countries.

**Key words : War literature, Vicious cycle of war, Armies of night, Catch - 22**

## **Introduction**

Today in a mechanical life, love and humanism are becoming just words in dictionaries and so is the case with civilization. We overlook the fact that a cannibal using fork and knife is not civilization. Recently man 'the crown of creation' has become most clearly and ironically machine - human machine. If by "machine" one means a physical system capable of performing certain functions, then humans are proving to be machines of a special biological kind, a soft machine made up of blood and flesh. This is high time humanity needs to be warned .

Wars between countries can arise from a complex interplay of political ,economic, social and historical factors. Conflicts over land or resources can escalate into wars. This might involve disagreements over borders, contested territories, or valuable resources like oil, water, or minerals. Clashes between countries with opposing political, economical or social ideologies can lead to hostility. This can include disputes over governance systems, human rights ,or economic models. Differences in ethnicity, religion or culture can be a source of conflict.

These tensions can be amplified by historical grievances or a lack of shared identity. Competition over limited resources such as water or arable land ,can lead to conflicts. This is especially true in regions facing environmental challenges or where resources are unevenly distributed.

## **War Literature**

Literature is the primary incubator of a nations' future. Literature's primary motto is to project positive and idealistic images and to avoid the disintegration of the inner being of man. Literature in its humble attempt inspires the society and urges the society towards self - development, inner change and universal human values. Literatures main motto is to create a hurdle - free atmosphere. Literature is a medium which enables humans to record their life journeys in the form of vivid stories memories, essays, poems & prose. Literature is a boon to mankind. There are two types of learning one is experiencing and learning and the other being experienced enough by reading a piece of literature. Many virtuous qualities and other positive attitude towards life can be learned through literature.

Today twenty first technology gives us 3D visual experience but since time immemorial on reading a novel of literature one themselves experience each and every moment with sheer pleasure and it caters way towards vivid imagination. Various other trauma and pain can be forgotten on reading a piece of work. History is filled with mere facts. Hudson claims that a nations history is its biography and the nations literature is its autobiography. Various memorable, cherish able and often frustrating incidents has its major influence in the field of literature. Literature is meant not only for pleasure but it also plays a vital role in enlightening.

English literature acts as a key towards opening the far beyond gates of globalization. Various cultures, traditions and other philosophical aspects are brought in towards the horizons of literature. The main motto of English literature is not recreating but towards recreating quality works. Various wars, sociopolitical conditions, history, legends, myths and fantasy were included in English Literature. Literature as a whole grow and changes from generation to generation. A writer of exceptionally powerful personality is certain to stamp his impressions upon his age, and influences in their thought and style.

It must be remembered that even the original men, the men who are completely themselves have their intellectual ancestry and are often deeply indebted to other for inspiration and example. The work of literature, then must take account of all these things. It must bring out the relationship between writer and writer and group and group, it must trace the rise, growth and decline of 'Schools' and 'movements'. Each age has its own particular lines of interest and its own particular way of thinking and feeling about things, so the literature which it produces is governed by certain prevailing tastes, and these tastes lasts for period only, and that the taste of one age are sure to differ and are often found to differ enormously from those of every other. Every writer is a product of his time. War literature gives firsthand experience of war veterans in various regiments and their trauma and sufferings in war zone.

### **Impacts of War**

War has profound and far- reaching impact on individuals, communities, nations, and world at large. The impacts of war include, Humanitarian impact, Economic impact, Social impact, Environmental impact, Political impact, Cultural impact and Physical and mental health impacts. Previously conventional and guerilla war in battle fields was prevailing but with the

advancement of technology in twentieth century war has taken a new Cyber form leading to Cyber war and Bio war adding to Nuclear war.

### **Nuclear War**

Nuclear war involves the use of nuclear weapons, causing catastrophic damage and loss of life. These weapons release massive amounts of energy, radiation, and heat, devastating entire cities and ecosystems. The effects include immediate blast and radiation damage, long-term radiation poisoning, and environmental contamination. Nuclear war could lead to global nuclear winter, crippling economies and societies. The threat of nuclear war has prompted international efforts to reduce nuclear arsenals and prevent proliferation.

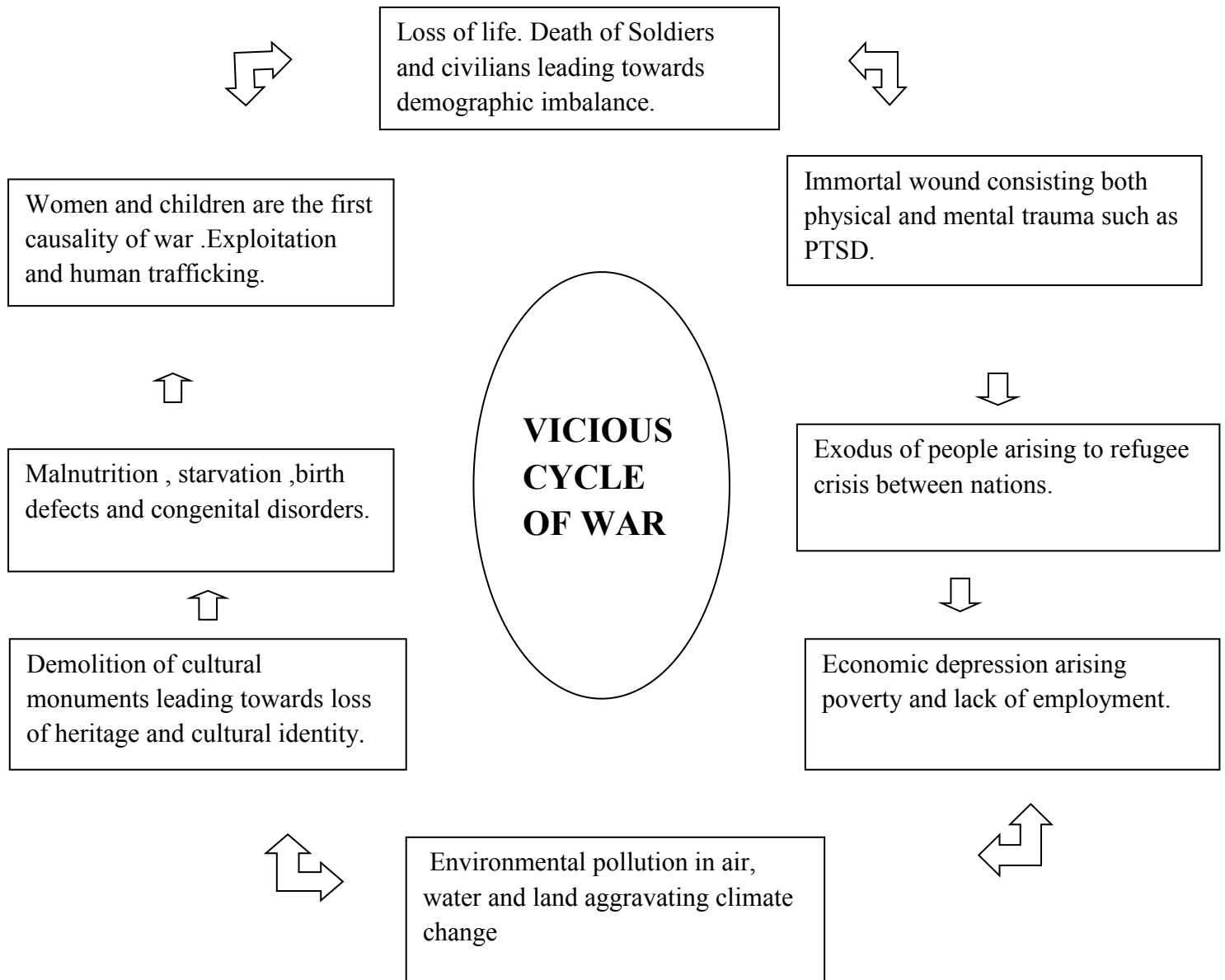
### **Biological War**

Biological warfare (BW) involves using pathogens, toxins, or other biological agents to harm or kill humans, animals, or plants. BW agents can spread rapidly, causing widespread illness and death. Types of BW agents include bacteria , viruses , and toxins . Biological warfare can be difficult to detect and respond to, making it a potentially devastating threat. International agreements, such as the Biological Weapons Convention, aim to prevent BW development and use.

### **Cyber War**

Cyber warfare involves using digital technologies to disrupt, damage, or steal information from computer systems, networks, or infrastructure. Cyber attacks can compromise national security, economy, and individual privacy. Types of cyber threats include hacking, malware, phishing, and distributed denial-of-service attacks. Cyber warfare can cripple critical infrastructure, such as power grids, financial systems, and healthcare services. Nations and organizations are developing cyber defense strategies and international norms to prevent and respond to cyber threats.

### Vicious cycle of war



## **Geneva Conventions**

To reduce the negative impact of war Geneva convention was being created. The key principles of Geneva conventions include,

**HUMANITY** - Protecting human life and dignity, especially in situations of armed conflicts.

**NEUTRALITY** - Ensuring medical and humanitarian aid to those in need, regardless of nationality or affiliation.

**IMPARTIALITY** - Providing assistance based solely on need, without discrimination.

**INDEPENDENCE** - Ensuring humanitarian organizations operate independently of political, economic or military interests.

## **The Armies of the Night**

"The Armies of the Night" by Norman Mailer is a non-fiction book that recounts the author's experiences during the 1967 Pentagon anti-war protest against the Vietnam War. Mailer, a prominent author and journalist, participated in the protest and was arrested. The book blends reportage, memoir, and philosophical reflection to explore the events and themes surrounding the protest. Mailer's narrative begins with his decision to join the protest, driven by his moral opposition to the war. He describes the events leading up to the protest, the march itself, and the clashes between protesters and authorities. Through his personal account, Mailer provides a unique perspective on the protest, its organizers, and its participants.

The book also explores the broader cultural and historical context of the counterculture movement. Mailer reflects on the tension between politics and art, the role of the individual in shaping history, and the moral implications of the war. He weaves together philosophical musings, personal anecdotes, and historical analysis to create a complex and nuanced narrative. Throughout the book, Mailer grapples with the complexities of protest, activism, and social change. He questions the effectiveness of the protest and the motivations of its participants. Mailer's introspection and self-criticism add depth to the narrative, making "The Armies of the

Night" a thought-provoking exploration of individual responsibility and collective action. The book's innovative narrative structure, which blends journalism, memoir, and philosophical reflection, has been praised for its originality. Mailer's prose is lyrical, deep, and intellectually rigorous, making "The Armies of the Night" a landmark work of Mailer, won the Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction in 1969. The book remains a significant work on the 1960s counterculture, social movements, and American identity, continuing to inspire reflection on activism, morality, and the human condition.

### **The catch in '*Catch 22*'**

'*Catch 22*' is a satirical novel set in WWII , where the protagonist Yossarian is serving in a U.S. Army force B-25 as a bombardier , stationed on the Mediterranean base on Pianosa during second world war. The novel brilliantly explores the absurdity and chaos of war while delving in to the complexities of human behavior and the struggles of human mind. '*Catch -22*' is a paradoxical military regulation that becomes a symbol of the novels absurdity. This catch situation traps soldiers in to a nightmarish loop, making it seemingly impossible for them to escape their perilous situations.

The keynote of catch is projected in chapter one where Youssarian's temperature is too high to send him back into combat, but too low to be a real fever. Youssarian's ailments keep him in a situation of suspended animation : "too sick to be well, and too well to be sick".

Catch-22s often result from rules, regulations, or procedures that an individual is subject to, but has no control over, because to fight the rule is to accept it. Another example is a situation in which someone is in need of something that can only be had by not being in need of it. One connotation of the term is that the creators of the "*catch-22*" situation have created arbitrary rules in order to justify and conceal their own abuse of power.

" Sure there's a catch... Catch 22. Anyone who wants to get out of combat duty isn't really crazy"

## Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

PTSD is defined as “the development of characteristic and persistent symptoms along with difficulty functioning after exposure to a life-threatening experience or to an event that either involves a threat to life or serious injury.” In addition to military combat, PTSD can result from the experience or witnessing of a terrorist attack, violent crime and abuse, natural disasters, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults.

In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association revised the PTSD diagnostic criteria in the fifth edition of its *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)*, moving PTSD from the class of “anxiety disorders” into a new class of “trauma and stress or related disorders.” DSM-5 categorizes the symptoms that accompany PTSD into four “clusters”:

**Intrusion**—spontaneous memories of the traumatic event, recurrent dreams related to it, flashbacks, or other intense or prolonged psychological distress

**Avoidance**—distressing memories, thoughts, feelings, or external reminders of the event

**Negative cognitions and mood**—myriad feelings including a distorted sense of blame of self or others, persistent negative emotions (e.g., fear, guilt, shame), feelings of detachment or alienation, and constricted affect (e.g., inability to experience positive emotions)

**Arousal**—aggressive, reckless, or self-destructive behavior; sleep disturbances; hyper vigilance or related problems.

PTSD can be either acute or chronic. The symptoms of acute PTSD last for at least one month but less than three months after the traumatic event. In chronic PTSD, symptoms last for more than three months after exposure to trauma. Youssarian's internal conflict becomes the focal point, illustrating the psychological toll of war on an individual. He grapples with the constant fear of death and a profound desire to survive, highlighting the impact of war on mental health such as post traumatic stress disorder in soldiers.



" As far as Yossarian could recall, he explained to Clevinger with a patient smile,  
Somebody was always hatching a plot to kill him and You are inches away from  
death every time you go on a mission ."

## **ID, EGO,AND SUPEREGO**

### **"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely"**

According to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, the human personality consists of three distinct components: the Id, Ego, and Superego. The Id, the primitive and instinctual part, operates on the "pleasure principle," seeking immediate gratification and satisfaction of basic needs and desires, regardless of social norms or consequences. It is present from birth and drives impulses, emotions, and unconscious thoughts.

The Ego, developing during childhood, mediates between the Id and reality, operating on the "reality principle." It rationalizes and balances the Id's demands with societal expectations, enabling adaptive behavior and decision-making.

The Superego, emerging later, incorporates moral principles and societal values, striving for perfection and self-idealization. It consists of two parts: the Conscience, which internalizes moral norms, and the Ego Ideal, representing aspirations and values.

Freud believed these components interact dynamically, influencing personality development and behavior. Conflict between Id and Superego is mediated by the Ego, which balances desires with moral and social constraints. Healthy personality development requires balance among these components.

Id = "Want" (primitive desires)

Ego = "Reason" (rational balance)

Superego = "Should" (moral guidance)

During war Id becomes primary and Ego and Super ego subsides paving way towards absolute corruption and war crimes.

## Conclusion

" The best way to defeat a catastrophe is to take actions to prevent it long before it happens ..... To do that one must fore see the catastrophe in time and literature helps one to do so" - Isaac Asimov.

The catastrophe primitive man faced was war and frown of nature such as flood, famine, fire and cyclone. Added to all these today, modern man is subjected to mental illness a catastrophe which is more subtle and is capable of affecting both physique and psyche of humanity. The consequences is man - the so called "Beauty of the world, the paragon of animals", is slowly retrogressing towards machine hood. Modern world has become large body of Dystopia, where horror, boredom or dehumanization of the planet is accelerated by intelligent machines - We human beings.

Literature, with its authentic and distinct portrayal of the multi-facetedness of life, comes to his aid. The birth of great literature marks the turning point in the history of mankind. The noble ideals and ignoble concepts, lofty aspirations and loathing attempts, sacrificing saviors and scheming traitors are delineated in plenty in literature. Man has both a role model and a wrong model to clearly learn how to be and how not to be. Hence, literature cannot be simply brushed aside as a mere amalgamation of fictitious characters and incidents. It is in fact, the invaluable legacy left for the perusal of humanity to mould and shape their destiny and lead a contended life.