

Political Talk on Ukraine War

(Sorry for my poor English)

Comments to Kuhn's "What war is and what to do and what not"

<https://michael-kuhn.net/2022/05/07/what-war-is-and-what-to-do-and-what-not/>

I applaud the idea of starting to discussion what war is.

I share the idea that war is not about economics. War is an interruption of economic reasoning used as explanation and propaganda in normal times. War is interrupt life habits using soldiers and fighting to death citizens. Economy uses workers, bureaucrats, and professionals to build private firms. It is impossible to concentrate on that during war, except for those people who have infinite credit produced by their position in imperial networks.

I do not follow the analysis that uses Ukraine war as a common example of war. War has a very long tradition in humankind lives. It starts serving reproductive proposes (genocide of the enemy and taking from other people reproductive power) and productive proposes (taking slaves). Till Ukraine war, there is a long history of war studied by military and specialized scholars.

War is the ultimate hierarchy fabric, both on soldiers' side (organized armies) and on citizens' side (organized societies – production firms and professional offer side of labor markets). War is a huge blackmail to societies involved and war produce Stockholm syndrome that covers it. Starting a war turn people into war supporters, for a while. War separate people in two parties: the winners and the losers. Each side forcibly following different social identities for the future.

Decision making to start and maintain a war is not democratic. No people ever decided to go to war in a democratic way. Every people do support their leadership on war. That social laws are used by leaders in danger of following from their position of power to win time and fight for a place in history.

Destruction is selective in war. War studies show different war strategies, depending on different war doctrines, war goals and war power. Since the WW II citizens become legitime targets – collateral damage. With new weapons, technological soldiers become isolated from the war theater. That are huge recent changes in warfare.

I agree that Ukraine war has a special relevance because it deals with changing imperial paradigm, from globalization to a plural global order. It is the end of imperial propaganda of the unique hegemon that will bring peace for economic fair, non-discriminative, and caring competition all over the world. From now on, the global infrastructures – energy, transportation, food supplies, policing war interventions – should be redesigned. That is what this war already changed the world. Imperial fight to change the world organization aims to continue imperial domination over the exploitation of the Earth and its resources, including human resources.

This situation shows that states (Ukraine and Russia) and economies (German and EU, and worldwide contraction of cereal, energy, and transportation) are only instruments to imperial war (and peace). Soldiers and citizens know that democracy and national economies stay out of the way, waiting for a war decision, an ordeal decision. Weaponry industries are the only rising for a while.

Your conclusion that the citizens is an institution that serves the state, and not the other around, is very much welcomed and necessary. I will add that imperial organization, and the economic success of its main semi millennial mission – exploitation of the Earth and its human resources – must be questioned. To act to abolish war it helps to discuss what war is about, and what Empire is about.

Empire is discrimination of people under different citizenship, under different prestige of hierarchical organization, as if this was the way to avoid violence and war, like Norbert Elias shows. The personal identification of scholars, teachers, students, to civilization as Empire servants must stop, to open ground to peaceful future.

Some critical comments on passages of Kuhn's "What war is and what to do and what not"
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a) Right: the war propaganda is stupid. How it works? It works enforced by putting all citizens under military law, and censorship condemning people as traitors, including those who do not want to engage on warfare.

b) identity – One know by experience that nationals and even foreigners under a state identify themselves with nationality. It works as a background to national political racism. As you rightly name it. Polls show that public opinion before war are against it. After starting the war, opinion change. The state decision to engage on war is never democratic. That is always a top decision of main leaders that every parties, and everyone, do follow in fear and cowardness if needed. No one claim against lack of democracy in such a situation. That is why is odd that USA and European states pushing the war use democratic and anti-imperial propaganda to support anti-democratic and imperial activities.

c) racism – racism is always a political activity. Xenophobia is spontaneous identification process, regarding those who are not identifiable with us, and especially those social identities used as contrast to draw the specificity of social national or other kind of identities. Racism is the inflation and use of this xenophobia for political proposes.

d) citizens do not go to war: military goes to war. Citizens are called to support war saying nothing against it. Some of them support war actively knowing no one can oppose them. Some of them use war for their individual or political proposes.

e) states are about war, since they are built on sovereignty and class struggles. War is just the continuation of state politics, or vice-versa.

f) citizens do not support war to self-protection of their lives. They do it sacrificing their lives, as they also do it working in peace times. They do it for social identity's sake, for national identity protection of their sense of living in solidarity.

g) you are right, and few accompanies you, when you denounce that war is about sovereignty. It is about conceding the monopoly of violence, not about economy or ideology. The power to decide for him or herself, and about controlling the land. This subject asks for in-depth analysis.

h) Worries about survival are not the cause of citizens complicity with war. If it were the case, how to explain the ordeal cult of the heroes, those who sacrifice for the states? How to explain workers sacrifice of their lives in peace times?

i) It does not follow from your paper any particular and individual action. It follows one must end with social solidarity around the states. The question is how do that. My recommendation is to use democratic means (including those imposed on the states) to fight semi-millennial imperial mission. Doing it can be done by anyone alone against the world, as we are here in this conversation. One must find out how war and Empire works. How they seduce people in a religious sacrificial way? How schools and universities are used to develop, and spread knowledge, and to spread and develop social and sacrificial solidarity with imperial missions.