

Is it Possible to Obtain World Peace in the 21st Century?

World peace is a grand ideal and perhaps also a grand illusion. Is it possible? Unfortunately, my answer would be “no,” at least not in the near future. Let me explain why.

Mankind has never shown much propensity to truly live peacefully. When discussing world peace, we often are referring to peace between nations. But how can there be peace between nations when, in many cases, peace within a country's own borders is difficult to attain? Even among so-called advanced nations, murder and other acts of senseless violence are a common, everyday occurrence. If we cannot even live peacefully among ourselves, how can we live peacefully with others?

Second, war and conflict have a long history, undoubtedly from the beginning of man's existence. If you compared today's world with that of centuries ago, one could argue that the tendency towards violence has decreased. After the horrific events of World War II and the subsequent formation of the United Nations, many hoped that the world had turned a corner and that a semblance of global peace was attainable. Instead, we experienced Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and a never-ending list of wars and conflicts. And we all know what is happening on this very day in Ukraine.

Third, I believe the above proves that mankind possesses an innate propensity towards conflict. It seems part of our DNA, propelled by a host of self-inflicted motivations: greed, power, insecurity, pride, and the need to protect one's tribe.

My conclusion, as with my introduction, is that world peace is a fanciful idea that is not possible within this century. However, my hope is that, over time, technology and an evolution of the human brain will help us to finally transcend the violence and hatred in this world.

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