

Study Guide for the Australian Collaboration Fact and Issue Sheet

PEACE, ARMED CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

FOR REVIEW

1. What are some of the major potential effects and consequences of violent conflict (including war, genocide and terrorism)?
2. What are the interconnected clusters of threats, as identified by the United Nations?
3. Do civilians make up a large or small percentage of the total casualties of armed conflict? (Give evidence for your answer.)
4. Is there a link between violent conflict and low development or income? (Give evidence for your answer.)
5. Name four relatively recent conflicts and the estimated number of deaths in each case.
6. Is there a link between armed conflict and sexual violence, violence against children, and poor sexual health?
7. How many people in the world are currently displaced as a result of conflict or human rights violations?
8. Why are cluster bombs seen as being particularly dangerous to civilians?
9. Name two countries in which the effects of cluster bombing in the past are still being felt today.
10. What is one definition of terrorism and what are some of the common tactics used by terrorists?
11. When did the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty come into effect, and what does it require of the five internationally recognised “nuclear weapon states”?
12. Name three states which are not currently signatories to the treaty.
13. Which two states currently hold the largest share of the world’s nuclear weapons?
14. In addition to nuclear weapons, what are some other kinds of weapons of mass destruction?
15. With which country does Australia currently have an agreement to transfer nuclear material?
16. What are the three core objectives of peace-building, as identified by the UN?
17. In which countries has Australia played a significant role in peace-building? Can you think of any reasons why this would be the case?

FOR DISCUSSION

For each of the statements below, work in pairs or as a class to decide whether you agree or disagree, and to explain why:

1. “It is in the interests of all nations (not just those being directly affected by violent conflict) to pursue the goals of global security and human rights protection.”
2. “The relationship between poverty and violent conflict is a complex one, with poverty acting to exacerbate the risk of violent conflict, and violent conflict acting to exacerbate the risk of poverty.”

3. “The problem of global warming means that previous arguments against uranium exports in Australia are null and void, for global warming demands that Australia sell its uranium so that both the developed and the rapidly developing countries (such as China, for example) can develop their use of nuclear energy, and thus reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.”

FOR RESEARCH

1a. Use the internet and/or any of the works on the list provided under Useful Sources to compile a list of the major violent conflicts occurring in the world today.

1b. Choose one of these conflicts to research in more detail. What are the origins of this conflict? Who does it involve and what have been its effects so far? Is anything being done to stop this conflict, and if so, what? Does the situation require any further intervention, and if so, by whom? Who are the people currently working to bring information about this conflict to light?

2. Use the internet and/or any of the works on the list provided under Useful Sources to investigate the treaty to ban the use of cluster bombs which was signed on 30 May 2008. Which countries are currently signatories to the treaty? How does the treaty work, or what are its various elements? How did the decision to create this treaty come about, and who was involved in campaigning for it?

3. Use the internet and/or any of the works on the list provided under Useful Sources to investigate further the challenge of collective security, as it is defined by the UN. What is currently being done to address this issue, and what more needs to be done? Which countries are contributing the most and which countries need to do more?