

BROOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

1. Primarily, it will be educational and research by utilizing material at the library to make the public aware of the consequences of war, which are nothing except death and destruction. This can be accomplished by developing programs for this purpose and utilizing collected materials and visual aids to emphasize this need.
2. To make aware internationally, that the futility of utilizing wars to settle disputes between nations, needs emphasized so that hostilities would be outmoded in solving international disputes.
3. To recognize and honor those individuals that have been sacrifice while defending their nations in past wars.

The objective of this project is based on documents, photos, artifacts, visual aids and reports housed in a repository at the Brooke County Public Library, 945 Main Street, Wellsburg, West Virginia. This can only lead to the conclusion that war is nothing but “death and destruction” and should be

eliminated as a means of settling differences between nations of this world. This conclusion is supported by a statement by none other than General Douglas MacArthur as follows: “I have known war as few men now living know it. It is very destructive on both friend and foe and is useless as a means of settling international disputes.”

This is further outlined in International Human Right Laws which state that the “right to life, prohibition of torture and inhuman punishment or treatment, slavery and servitude, and the principle of legality and non-retroactivity of the law must be respected in all circumstances.” It also stipulates that states must guarantee rights to self-determination, property, due process, fair working conditions, access to health care, and education.

There will always be disputes among nations, which, at time will inflame the public and threaten conflicts, but the main thing is to educate the people of the world, to be ever mindful that there are better ways of settling disputes than by war. The failure of collective security of the League of Nations led to the realization that a universal system of security be effective if nations agreed to some limitation of their national sovereignty with their regard to their right to belligerence.

We need only to follow the purposes of the United Nations as outlined in Article 1 of its charter which

states: “To maintain international peace and security, and to that end, to take effective collective measures for the preventions and removal of threats to the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace. So far, the United Nations has been ineffective in following the true meaning of its purpose. The United Nations organization needs to find some method of enforcing its rules and regulations of the body and eliminate self-serving political ideals, which hamper its effectiveness.

There has been a true effort by Germany to follow the purpose of the United Nations charter by creating the REMEMBRANCE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND FUTURE FOUNDATION in August 2000. The foundation testifies to the political and responsibility of the state, industry, and society of the injustice of National Socialism. It contributes to the task of facing the crimes of National Socialism. It contributes to the task of facing the crimes of National Socialism, and above all, the history of slave and forced labor, in that it supports documentation of the diverse life stories of its survivors. It will encourage projects that will commit the young generation to focus on the issues in a lasting way. It will also focus on encouraging the

practice of democracy, shared responsibility for community and respect for human rights, and will contribute toward development of an understanding of history that touches on human values. Its intention is to rebuild relationship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the people in Germany and other nations.

Five billion dollars was funded for the Foundation through a joint initiative of industry, state and society. At the same time the Foundation seek cooperation with other foundations and organizations, which will keep alive the memory of the victims of National Socialism for future generations—particularly through projects of the survivors. It also, through international networks of citizens' initiatives and through support of civic society, provides important guarantees for democracy, human rights, and understanding between peoples, thereby creating a civil society that stands for concrete cooperation and understanding between peoples.

History cannot be erased. Commemoration and truth telling through history, education, and related aspects of the relations process should be the goal of the citizenry of all nations. Japan initiated a start in this direction by looking forward to a peaceful means in solving international issues by amending its Constitution by adding Article 9 which provides as

follows: Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of its nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes. Having gone through an era of hostilities and atrocities, the Japanese government and its citizenry should be a leader in this field.

An expansion of the Brooke County Public Library project with its tremendous selection of visual aids, artifacts, photos and documents should be the goal to encompass potential educational projects in cooperation with the United Nations, the German Remembrance And Responsibility Foundation, and following the wording of Japan's Article 9 of its Constitution.

This project is following the remarks of some of America's greatest heroes as follows:

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT: "More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginning of all wars—yes, and an end to brutal, inhuman and thoroughly impractical method of settling differences between government."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only one who has seen brutality, its futility and stupidity."

LINUS PAULING (Nobel Peace Prize Winner):
"We must have research for peace—it would

embrace the outstanding problems of morality. The time has come for man's intellect, his scientific method, to win over the immorality and irrationality of war and militarism. Now we are forced to eliminate forever the vestige of prehistoric barbarism, this curse to the human race."

GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR: "I have known war as few men now living know it. It's very destruction on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a means of settling international disputes."

JOHN F. KENNEDY: "Unconditional war can no longer lead to an unconditional victory. It can no longer serve to settle disputes. It can no longer be of concern to great powers alone. For a nuclear disaster; spread by winds and waters and fears, could well engulf the great and small, the rich and poor, the committed and uncommitted alike. Human kind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind."

GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY: "Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon On The Mount."

These thoughts and words of these heroes encompass the very theme of this Educational Project while we seek assistance and endorsement of this

project to manifest a greater and safer world to live in.

WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT—CONTACT US AT BROOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, Jane Kraina, 945 Main Street—Wellsburg, WV 26070, phone 304-737-1551

By Edward Jackfert

THE FUTILITY OF WAR IN SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES



**WORLD WAR I—1,721,937 MILITARY DEATHS
6,521,248 CIVILIAN DEATHS
COST 588 BILLION DOLLARS**



**WORLD WAR II—24,456,700 MILITARY DEATHS
32,228,100 CIVILIAN DEATHS
COST 4.8 TRILLION DOLLARS**



There is a great need for a stronger, nonpartisan, nonpolitical United Nations to mediate and resolve international disputes.