
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.

This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass movement.

Sections

- Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson
- Editorial - by Tarik Kiley
- Announcements
- Happenings Gallery!

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight Diversity



“This is the Real World!”

By
DonnaMarie Woodson

What does diversity inclusion and equality mean?

Equality means offering the same rights and opportunities to all people. **Diversity** is understanding that each person is unique. It means embracing people's differences, including their beliefs, abilities, preferences, backgrounds, values, and identities. **Inclusion** is an extension of equality and diversity.



I attended a “first” for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in Chicago this past weekend, the “**Affinity**

Groups Roundtable Conference.”



And, as I looked around at all of the beautiful faces in the ballroom, I felt blessed to be part of an organization that strives to have Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the table so that Black folks, Indian, Pacific Islanders, Asian, LGBTQI+, and the Young Leaders be recognized and HEARD by the decision makers.

It was so inspiring discussing how our combined Affinity Groups talents and experiences can help ACS CAN prevent, treat, and one day end cancer.

Each of our AFFINITY Groups is disproportionately impacted by cancer and our advocacy and education of our communities is vital for more survivors rather than loss of life from inadequate or no healthcare at all!



I am proud and honored to be a part of the “REAL WORLD” where every single one of us are respected and treated with dignity.

Being cancer free and armed with quality, affordable healthcare is a right for all, and NOT just for the privileged!!

ACS CAN STATEMENT

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is committed to ensuring everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent find, treat, and survive cancer. We know that cancer impacts everyone, but it doesn't impact everyone equally, and that is why diversity, equity, and inclusion are vital to ending cancer as we know it, for everyone. ACS CAN is centering the lived experiences and voices of our diverse volunteer leaders through our affinity groups that influence, strengthen, and diversity communications, messaging, partnerships, policy initiatives, and volunteer recruitment, training, and engagement within their communities.

For more information about each affinity group, please visit their webpages, or download the ACS CAN [Affinity Group One-pager](#).

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Affinity Groups Links

- **[Black Volunteer Caucus \(BVC\)](#)**
- **[LGBTQ+ & Allies Engagement Group](#)**
- **[ACSí Se Puede Hispanic/Latino Advocacy Alliance \(English\)](#)**
- **[ACSí Se Puede Alianza de Defensa Hispana-Latina \(Español\)](#)**
- **[Asian American & Pacific Islander Volunteer Caucus](#)**
- **[Young Leaders Caucus](#)**

Works Cited:

<https://www.techtarget.com/searchhrsoftware/definition/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-DEI>

<https://www.fightcancer.org/acs-can-affinity-groups>

Editorial

Why Do We Keep Killing One Another?

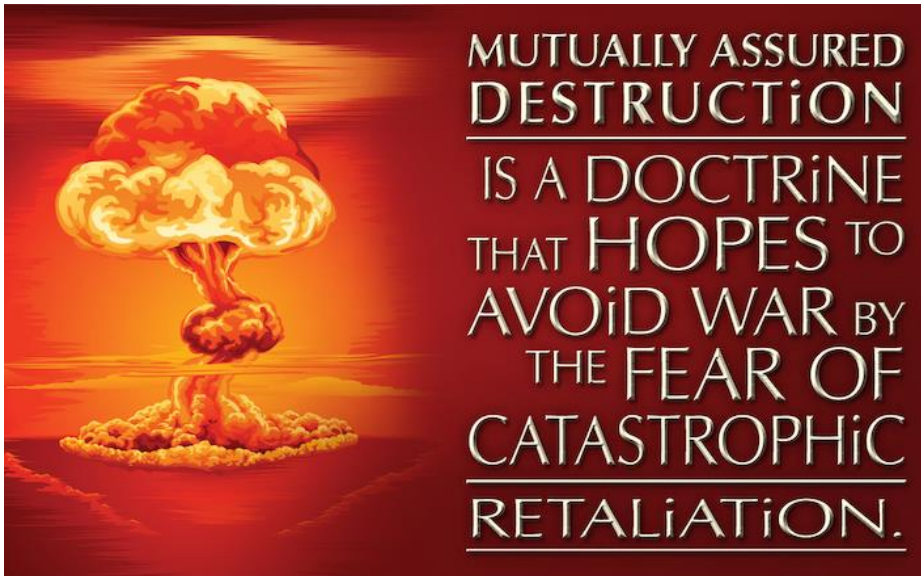
By
Tarik Kiley
2/29/2024



War happens for many reasons. It could be a fight over resources, ideology, land or competing belief systems. Whatever the reasons,

though, war is a social construct. War is essentially a violent conflict between competing societies. In other words, war is fought in groups. It is the conflict between one group of people and another group of people. In modern warfare, the groups have been organized into states. At the turn of the 20th century, and throughout the 20th century, one saw the rise of nation-states, or states organized around ethnicity and culture. The nation-state was often formed in opposition to empire—those empires being essentially western European. So, modern warfare is often based on ethnic conflict.

The inability to share power can make war more likely as well. This is why dictatorships tend to be more prone to conflict than republics. While republics aren't immune to war, the idea of being able to share power is essential to understanding the continued development of international peace.



But war today isn't like war prior to the 20th century. Nuclear weapons are now on the table, as exemplified during the Cold War.

Not being able to share power is detrimental to all these days. In fact, the idea of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) teaches us that a nuclear war would only destroy the whole planet itself, if waged between mutually hostile nation-states. So, when is war justified then? In this age of mass destruction, is waging war ever justified?

According to an article by the National Geographic:

In Western tradition, there is a sense that the reasons for war must be just. This idea dates back to ancient times but is most clearly traced to the writings of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. They attempted to justify war and reconcile it with the Christian belief that taking a human life is wrong. To Aquinas, a war must be just in both the reasons for going to war and how war is fought.

For what reasons do countries go to war?

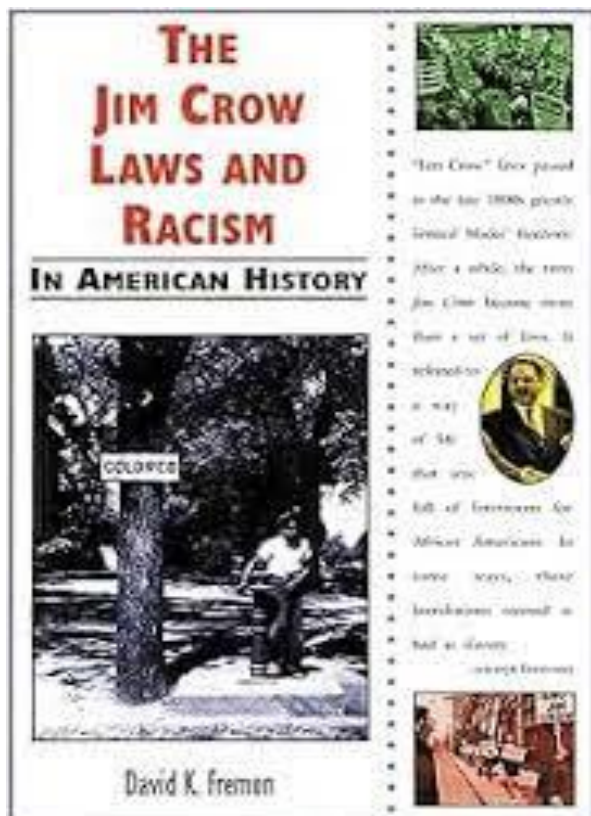
You have two minutes to come up with as many reasons as possible.

Reasons for going to war—*jus ad bellum*—are just if (1) war is declared by an appropriate authority; (2) the war is waged for a just cause; and (3) the war is waged for just intentions. An appropriate authority is a

proper, governing authority. A “just cause” may include self-defense or a response to injustice. “Just intentions” mean that it must not be fought for self-interest, but for justice or a common good. In addition, (4) there must be a reasonable chance of success; (5) the good that will be achieved must outweigh the bad; and (6) war must be a last resort.

So, let’s glean from this, the idea of self-defense. Is the idea of reciprocation of violence ever justified? Christian teachings include the idea of “turning the other cheek,” which means that forgiveness is more important than retributive justice. While, in Islam the idea of jihad, or the idea of a just war against oppression takes hold. Continuing with Biblical teachings, “Thought Shalt Kill (murder)” is ingrained deeply into the lessons taught in the Old Testament. Given the dominance of the monotheistic teachings of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam throughout the world today, are we in the 21st century held to the standards of these teachings literally?

In modern times, in order to see past the nation-state, one has to see past one's ethnicity. People raised apart may be unable to see past their ethnicity into adulthood, and as a result will think in an insular manner and will be unable to "share" with others. While children who have been socialized to immerse themselves into multiple cultures, will ultimately, come to appreciate these various cultures, and will less likely be blinded by prejudice towards others.



Also, people have to understand how bias and prejudice can be codified into law and acted out in customs. The practices of Jim Crow are a quite pertinent example of this. During the era of Jim Crow, African Americans were subjugated to draconian laws, termed segregation, that kept African Americans in a state of existence as second-class citizens. The law in the case of Jim Crow, was extremely unjust. So, we have to also consider the fact that power can be utilized in unfair and unjust ways.

According to Aquinas, war against Jim Crow would have been justified, but because of Christian tradition, leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., found a newer, non-violent manner, of resisting the unjust laws. In this manner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., found a way of standing against injustice without resorting to armed conflict.

Given the modern-day reality of total war, or whole populations being mobilized to fight other populations, often based on ethnicity, and given the reality of other dire consequences such as genocide, and Mutual Assured Destruction, perhaps we can learn lessons from non-violence?

While self-defense has its own justifications, perhaps we may need to broaden our palette when defining what self-defense means, and what specific tactics people should use to defend themselves? While saying this, I believe that aggression is never justified. While, we have to examine how we defend ourselves against aggression, aggression itself, is a form of evil.



The hope of the discussion here, is that people will understand the beauty and necessity of human cooperation. As social creatures, we are hard-wired to cooperate with one another. Unfortunately, we often do not realize the need for cooperation beyond the level of the tribe. There are levels of political organization that could

possibly extend human cooperation beyond the level of the tribe, though. Federalism is one. Also, the economic federalism of the European Union is another. Federalism is a unique form of government which allows for regional integration of states. Another term for this as used in the European Union is the word, “supranationalism.”



Lastly, this author argues, that the dream of the United Nations, as birthed out of World War II, will have its place in history. But, through observation, it seems that regional integration will have to occur before any integration can occur on a global scale. So, the next step in human social evolution will be one of regional integration. We may still have the propensity to kill one another in social groups, but hopefully we will be able to take this next step towards human peace.

Works Cited

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/the-five-reasons-wars-happen/>
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/war/>
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/war>

Announcements



N. Meck Progressives

Monday, March 11th at 6:00 pm

Speaker starting at around 6:30pm

**Birkdale clubhouse, 8915 Devonshire Drive,
Huntersville, NC**

**Speaker: Johnelle Causwell, 1st Regional Vice Chair
of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party**

Zoom alternative: starting at around 6:45pm

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4352796919?pwd=SUY2bEtpTThJTVROTUp...>

- o Meeting ID: 435 279 6919
- o Passcode: NMP031124 (It's the date)

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th, 2024

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

Hope Community Center

1609 E. Fifth St. Charlotte 28204

Meet & Greet – 6:30 pm

Program - 7:00 pm

Announcements



Democracy NC

Coalition Meeting

Thursday, March 7th, 6-7:30pm

Hybrid Meeting (Zoom or in person)

In-person location: Hygge, 330

Camp Road in Charlotte

(wheelchair accessible)

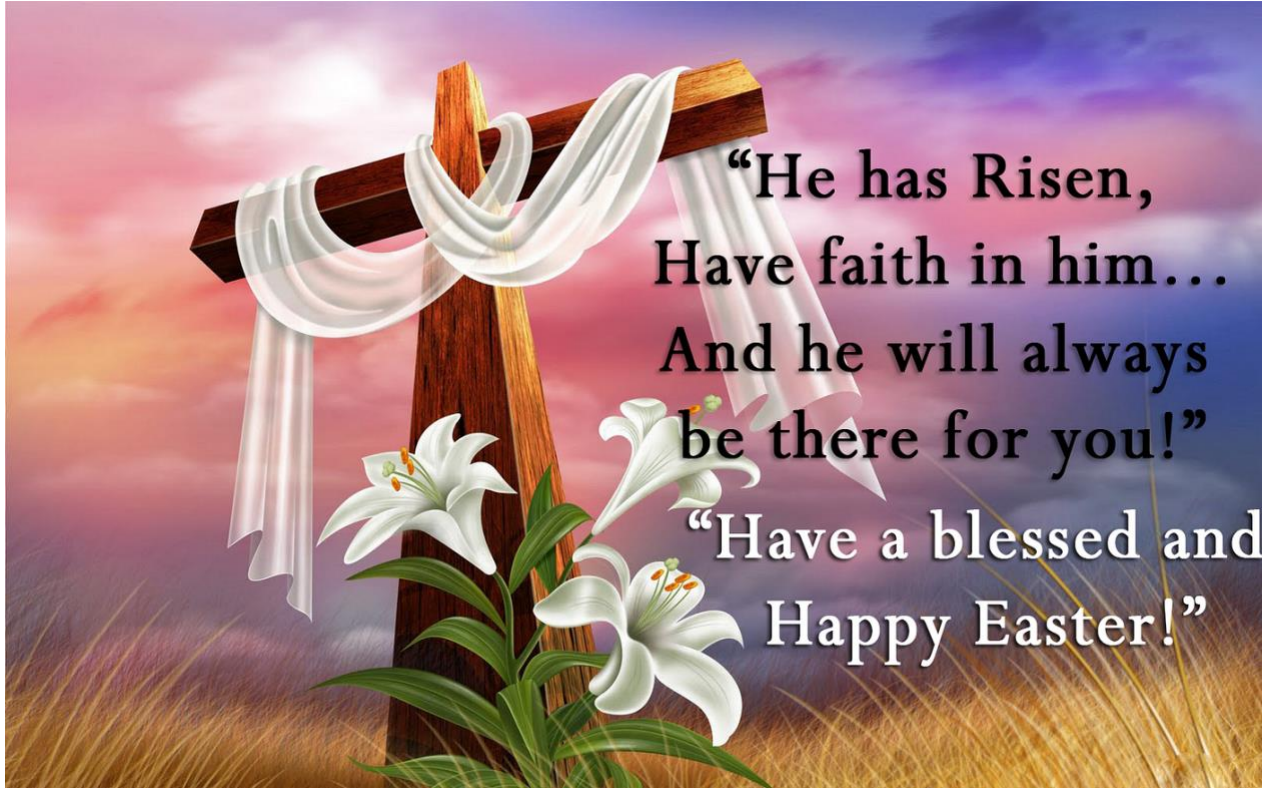
Refreshments will be served.

- **[RSVP here](#)**



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

HAPPENINGS!



The Executive Corner:

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson
Rev Glencie Rhedrick