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“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower echoed the thoughts and sentiments of many when he verbalized these words in “The Chance for Peace” speech delivered in 1953. Though they were intended as a plea for calmer thinking by the participants in the Cold War, they were also said as a warning of what another world war could do to an already overwrought society. The financial cost of war takes much away from the citizens of a country, and it is especially hard on those who have no control over the direction of the war or the destruction left by it. These are the “innocents” of war; the poor, the children, and the citizens without a voice.

At the time of his speech, the Iron Curtain had been drawn. Most Americans were living in fear of an atomic war with Russia and the horror of being overrun with communism. I believe that the above quote illustrates Eisenhower attempt to persuade Russia and other world leaders to consider the financial and emotional toll war has on us all. He’s asking them “is it really worth it”? The speech advocates for peace and with this quote Eisenhower articulates that he considers the world would be better off using our energy, talents and money for the betterment of all men through peace. He urges the Soviets to consider this.

This belief translates well into our modern world. Wouldn’t our society be better served by working together in peace rather than in the utter destruction of each other? Think of the things that could be accomplished if war and weapons budgets could be spent on education, food programs, and research of new technologies and medical breakthroughs. As Americans, I feel we should be shocked that we spend \$663 billion on military defense each year and just \$46 billion on education. Eisenhower was one of the greatest military leaders of our nation, but after many years of war he saw the emotional and physical costs it put on not only Americans but other the devastated countries of the world. His idea was for diplomacy throughout the world. I believe that he felt it was key for changing the tides of war to those of peace.

This still stands true for today. In today’s world, nations must come together and work hard to ensure peace so that the economic welfare of all the worlds citizens will be absent of any war or conflict in the future.