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From young ages, whenever there is a dispute, we as humans always expect the strong to be victorious. From playground fights to corporate trials, it is always assumed that the stronger, more feared side will come out on top. This mindset of “stronger is better” has translated into our world’s government in tremendous ways. Governments have sought to bring their nation to the top, not by intellectual or economical advancements, but by military strength. However, while basking in the light of their strength and glory, the leaders of our world remain ignorant to the true costs of their actions.

In a speech given to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, President Eisenhower stated "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".

At first glance, this statement seems out of place coming from the Supreme Commander of Allied forces in Europe during World War II; after all, to many Americans, General Eisenhower personified the war like no one else. When people think about Eisenhower they remember the great warrior he was; however, because of his experience he held an intimate relationship with warfare. This connection allowed him to fully empathize with all of war’s cruelties and the victims who fell from its monstrosity.

Eisenhower was adamant in not allowing this beast to steal more from a world it had already so deeply affected. He understood the true brutality of war, not only in soldiers who never made it home, but also in the homes of citizens. Eisenhower lived during the Cold War, a time filled with imminent fear during which peace seemed unattainable. Despite this feeling, Eisenhower recognized the importance of creating a peaceful land and the fruits this effort would bring.

The dominant mindset is to be armed for war in order to defend a nation; however, a more beneficial way is to create a peace in which fear of unexpected war is eliminated. In such a world the billions of dollars wasted on weapons to destroy the “enemy” can instead be used to create, expand, and inspire the people. Instead of fighting over oil, our money should be used for eco friendly alternatives to oil. Instead of killing the people of foreign nations, our resources need to be used to improve the liveliness of our people who are left cold, hungry and sick. Imagine the progress possible if every scientist working on weaponry focussed instead on curing diseases such as AIDS and cancer which take the lives of millions yearly. As Eisenhower knew, a world focussed around a lasting peace would open the door to unimaginable progress and national strength. This worldwide unity, efficient and safe, can be possible in the future when the world leaders can realize that “bigger and stronger” isn't always better, and that true strength lies in the peaceful well being of the economy, the environment, and the people.