

# The Power to Think: Humanity's Greatest Weapon

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Weapons can be used to kill and destroy, to threaten and control, and to start and end conflicts. As society has progressed, weapons have become much more powerful and destructive, and innumerable lives have been saved and lost due to instruments of aggression. More formidable than any physical weapon could ever be, however, is the weapon of education. Education has the power to change how people think, and therefore how people act. If utilized effectively, education is powerful enough to eliminate violence within our own society, foster peace between nations, and change the world.

Poverty and irrational hate are two of the root causes of violence in our society. Education has the power to lift a person out of poverty by equipping them with the tools needed to be a competent, contributing member of society. The learning process is not concerned with anyone's financial background, but rewards anyone who takes the time to invest in it. Furthermore, wholesome teaching dispels unfounded hatred based on gender, religion, sexual orientation, or race. Education has the power to reduce societal violence by equipping the current generation for success and informing them of the social progress our country has made.

These same principles of educating to pacify can be applied on a global scale. There is truly no global conflict that is motivated by anything entirely new. Over thousands of years, humans have changed what we fight with, but not what we fight for. By cultivating an understanding of why our ancestors fought and died, we as the human race can take steps to prevent similar battles in the future. If we can learn to set aside our nationalistic prejudices and act in accordance to the good of civilization, wars founded on greed and hate will cease to exist, along with the need for weapons for weapons of mass destruction. By bringing education to the world, we have the power to prolong the existence of humanity.

Education truly is the most powerful weapon that humankind possesses. While conventional weapons can end a life, education can change a life, which is far more impactful. If a life ends, then so does its influence. If a life is changed, that transformation has the potential to spread and make a real difference. Education is so potent because it is not a single act, but an attitude, a process, a mindset, and a paradigm. In order to learn, one must first become humble and admit that they do not know everything. Once one learns humility, they begin to grow and cause good in the world. Education informs, guides, promotes, encourages, and disciplines. Education is truly the human race's crowning achievement, and our fate is intertwined with the longevity of its survival.