



Physicians for Social Responsibility
10 Dumfries Court
Sacramento, California 95831
www.sacpsr.org • info@sacpsr.org
916-955-6333

2020 High School Scholarship Essay Contest \$1,000 Award Winner

Atticus Driver
Yuba City High School, Yuba City

One could say that history is made by great men such as generals and politicians. One could also say that history is defined by instances of greatness: valiant battles; brutal wars; and glorious conquests exalted in poems and odes. But the truly great moments in time are not the dates educators make students memorize in a history class. They are instead the daily minutes and hours of honest work by farmers, miners and other faceless laborers, for an army cannot march if there is no grain for bread or iron for swords. Regardless, civilization is not created and defended for glory. It is sustained, rather, for the most basic purpose of all: to guarantee the welfare of children. Therefore, the primary motivation for courage, effort and sacrifice lies in parenthood.

The majority of parents would do anything for their children. If parents are convinced that their toil will result in a better future for their children, they will endure almost anything. However, when poverty starves and deprives their children, when racism, discrimination, and exclusion bar their children from a better life, the working parents will become infuriated and rebellious. Peace will cease to become an option.

I agree with Ms. Menchu Tum. The absence of war does not fully equate to peace. Conformity and obedience may mask itself as a peaceful society, but true peace comes from the internal contentment of the common folk when their society has provided equality, opportunity, and hope for the next generation. These circumstances can only be produced through the eradication of poverty, racism, discrimination and exclusion. It is time for the history books to be rewritten. The historical dates children should remember are the dates when they saw their parents working alongside people of all races, creeds, colors and opinions; the times when they were celebrated for their differences, not disregarded; the moments when they looked into their parents' eyes and saw not the pain of hunger, but their own bright future.