

Our
Presidents
&
Military Leaders
on
WAR
“Patriotism”
&
PEACE

Here gathered are the voices of some of our bravest and most-respected Americans. May their undoubted patriotism, courage and wisdom be heard.

Founding Fathers, famous generals from great wars, presidents, much-decorated war heroes and tough, war-hardened leather-necks. All had one thing in common: they hated, or came to hate, **WAR** and realized that **Universal PEACE** was the only way our world and civilization would survive.

They concluded that war invariably destroyed the lives of millions of innocents, as well as the world's economy; often leaving our Nation impoverished, our honor soiled, and our children deprived and debt-ridden.

**May Peace, and respect for Truth,
Justice,**

**Equality and Freedom always remain
at the foundation of our United
States of America.**

Dwight D. Eisenhower

On WAR

“Every gun that is made, every warship that is launched, every rocket that is fired, signifies--in the final sense--a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.”

“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, as only one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its STUPIDITY.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower April 16,
U.S. General and 34th president (1890-1969)

General Robert E. Lee

On WAR

“What a cruel thing is this war; to separate and destroy families and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness God has granted us in this world; to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world.”

General Robert E. Lee,
Commander of the Southern Army, 1862 (letter to his wife)
(A New Dictionary of Quotations, H.L. Mencken, Knopf 1962)

General Ulysses S. Grant

On WAR

“There never was a time, in my opinion, when a problem could not be solved without the drawing of a sword.”

“This war was a dreadful lesson and should teach us the necessity of avoiding wars in the future.”

General Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, 1885.
He had “**Let us have Peace**” inscribed on the door of his tomb.
(Turning the Tide, Noam Chomsky, South End Press, 1985)

General Smedley D. Butler

Most decorated U.S. Marine in history, 1935

“War is a racket”

For Organized
CRIME!

“I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscleman for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers.

In short I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interest in 1914.

I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street.

I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916.

I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927, I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested.”

(Speech in Philadelphia just before his death in 1940.)

General George Washington

“My first wish is to see War, this plague to mankind, banished from this earth.”

George Washington, First President of the United States,
1796.

“The constitution vests the power of declaring war in Congress, therefore no offensive expedition of importance can be undertaken until after *they* shall have deliberated upon the subject and authorized such a measure.”

George Washington, 1793

John F. Kennedy

**“If we do not end war,
war is going to end us.”**

General Omar Bradley

“We know more about war than we do about
peace. We know more about killing than we
do about living.”

“We have grasped the secret of the atom and
rejected the Sermon on the Mount.”

“The Soldier’s General” World War II. 1957
(Missile Envy, Helen Caldicott, Bantam, 1985.)

Theodore Roosevelt

U.S. President 1901-1909

“PATRIOTISM”

“To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.”

General Douglas MacArthur

Commander U.S. Forces in the Pacific, World War II, 1945.

“We should now proclaim our readiness to abolish war in concert with the great powers of the world. The results would be magical.”

“Our government has kept us in a perpetual state of fear--kept us in a continuous stampede of patriotic fever--with the cry of grave national emergency. Always there has been some terrible evil at home or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up if we did not blindly rally behind it...”

“Could I have but a line a century hence crediting a contribution to the advance of peace, I would gladly yield every honor which has been awarded me in war.”

General David M. Shoup

Former U.S. Marine Commandant, recipient of the Medal of Honor after Tarawa, 1966.

“I believe that if we had and would keep our dirty, bloody dollar-soaked fingers out of the business of these [Third World] nations so full of depressed, exploited people, they will arrive at a solution of their own...at least what they get will be their own, and not the American style, which they don't want and above all don't want crammed down their throats by Americans

Admiral Hyman Rickover

“I think we'll probably destroy ourselves.
I'm not proud of the part I played.”

General John (Black Jack) Pershing

“The lessons of the last six years should be enough to convince everybody of the danger of nations striding up and down the earth armed to the teeth.”

Col. John F. Barr, USMC 1994
Former president **Veterans For Peace**

The **STUPIDITY** of **WAR**

“I spent 30 years in the service of our nation, most of them as officer of Marines. Combat duty in Korea and Vietnam confirmed my belief that war is truly stupid behavior.

Ten years of additional duties as Nuclear Weapons Employment Officer convinced me that war is now absurd behavior....And I learned that people are much the same the world over. I can attest that the antipathy to war is as strong in Tokyo, Manila, Moscow, London and Ottawa as it is in my home town of Barrington, New Hampshire.”
