Name MODEL

Text President Barack Obama, "A Just and Lasting Peace"

In his speech, "A Just and Lasting Peace," President Obama argues that while violence can be controlled and society is progressively more peaceful, the world faces threats that inevitably require war to preserve the peace.

Despite the fact that "war, in one form or another, appeared with the first man," societies set up laws that "sought to control violence within groups." (27-27, 31). For many years these laws were not highly regarded, but after the destruction of WWII and threat of nuclear war, "it became clear to victor and vanquished alike that the world needed institutions to prevent another World War" (45-47). Even though violence continued, these institutions permitted the advancement of "the ideals of liberty, self-determination, equality and the rule of law" (55-56).

Progress has been made to achieve peace; however, Obama stresses that "we must begin by acknowledging the hard truth that we will not eradicate violent conflict in our lifetimes" (70-71). While Obama respects the actions of Gandhi and King, he argues that conflict is necessary because "a non-violent movement could not have halted Hitler's armies" (81-82). Institutions and treaties worked to an extent, but Obama asserts it was the military that "promoted peace and prosperity from Germany to Korea, and enabled democracy to take hold in places like the Balkans" (86-87, 90-92). As these actions secured a better future for children, they prove that "the instruments of war do have a role to play in preserving the peace" (96).

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