

Pope says World War III pretty much here

16th September, 2014



Pope Francis has announced that the world is pretty in the grips of its third world war. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church said the spate of conflicts being fought around the world

were effectively a "piecemeal" third world war. Speaking at a World War I memorial in Italy, the Pontiff stated: "War is madness. Even today, after the second failure of another world war, perhaps one can speak of a third war - one fought piecemeal, with crimes, massacres and destruction." He added: "War is irrational. Its only plan is to bring destruction. It seeks to grow by destroying." He said the motives behind countries or groups going to war were "greed, intolerance, the lust for power".

Pope Francis has made a number of repeated appeals for an end to the conflicts around the world. He has focused on those in Gaza, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine and many parts of Africa. Despite his anti-war stance, he has stated the use of force would be legitimate to stop "unjust aggression" by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. He called on all people to have a "conversion of heart" and stop putting selfish aims above those of humanity as a whole. Francis compared the pointless loss of life in WWI to what is happening globally today. He said: "For each one of the fallen of this senseless massacre, for all the victims of the mindless wars, in every age, humanity needs to weep, and this is the time to weep."

Sources: Reuters / USA Today / Gulf Times

Writing

There is no such thing as a just war. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

pretty much / conflicts / memorial / madness / massacres / destruction / irrational / appeal / anti-war stance / legitimate / humanity / senseless / mindless / victims / weep

True / False

- The Pope said the war in terror is World War III. T / F
- The Pope was speaking from an old World War I battlefield. T / F
- The pope said war was "madness" and "irrational". T / F
- A "lust for power" was one of the motives the Pope gave for war. T / F
- The Pope does not condone the use of force against Islamic State. T / F
- Pope Francis hopes everyone will have a change of heart. T / F
- Francis compared the suffering of WWII with the suffering of today. T / F
- The Pope said we need to weep for those who have died in all wars. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. announced | a. slaughter |
| 2. spate | b. stupid |
| 3. effectively | c. succession |
| 4. massacres | d. hunger |
| 5. lust | e. position |
| 6. appeals | f. declared |
| 7. stance | g. pleas |
| 8. conversion | h. sufferers |
| 9. pointless | i. pretty much |
| 10. victims | j. change |

Discussion – Student A

- Do you also think World War III is pretty much here?
- What do you think of the Pope's phrase, "War is madness"?
- WWI was "the war to end all wars". What went wrong?
- Is war a failure of leaders to find a non-violent solution?
- Many wars are based on religion. Can religious leaders stop them?
- Why are there so many wars nowadays?
- Is it too easy for countries to declare war on others?
- Are wars a failure of the United Nations?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. pretty much in the grips of
 2. the spate of
 3. crimes, massacres and
 4. the motives behind countries or groups
 5. greed, intolerance, the lust
 6. made a number of
 7. anti-war
 8. stop putting selfish aims above those
 9. pointless loss
 10. victims of the mindless
- a. repeated appeals
 - b. going to war
 - c. its third world war
 - d. of life
 - e. stance
 - f. destruction
 - g. wars
 - h. for power
 - i. of humanity as a whole
 - j. conflicts being fought

Discussion – Student B

- a) Is a leader a war criminal if he/she declares war or invades another country?
- b) Would there be fewer wars if leader's children fought in them?
- c) Will there ever be an end to war?
- d) Are humans naturally aggressive and intolerant?
- e) Is there ever a "just" war?
- f) Will the Pope's words have any effect?
- g) What was the worst war ever?
- h) Will weeping for the fallen change anything?

Spelling

1. lytivfecfee a "piecemeal" third world war
2. a World War I arilemmo in Italy
3. after the second lefiaru
4. War is rrnolitaia
5. Its only plan is to bring siotrdtnuec
6. greed, anerloinct, the lust for power
7. a number of repeated spalpea
8. the use of force would be egimettali
9. stop "unjust gneraiossg"
10. have a "ovnsenrico of heart"
11. the nilptseso loss of life
12. senseless smaresac

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. a	5. d
6. g	7. e	8. j	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Iraq

You think the war in Iraq is the biggest problem. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the war in their countries isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these will be resolved soonest (and why): Afghanistan, Ukraine or Syria.

Role B – Afghanistan

You think the war in Afghanistan is the biggest problem. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the war in their countries isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these will be resolved soonest (and why): Iraq, Ukraine or Syria.

Role C – Ukraine

You think the war in Ukraine is the biggest problem. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the war in their countries isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these will be resolved soonest (and why): Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria.

Role D – Syria

You think the war in Syria is the biggest problem. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the war in their countries isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these will be resolved soonest (and why): Afghanistan, Ukraine or Iraq.

Speaking – Motives for war

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest motives for war at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- oil
- territorial dispute
- assassinations
- religion
- lust for power
- water
- empire building
- ethnic tensions

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.