

**Forum:** United Nations Environmental Programme

**Issue:** Issue #29-02: Preventing the exploitation of the environment in war and armed conflict

**Student Officer:** Juneyoung Seo

**Position:** Chair of United Nations Environmental Programme

---

## Introduction

Throughout the existence of mankind, warfare has continuously brought out serious environmental harm. Human ambitions and interference on nature through the exploitation of natural resources has degraded the quality of the environment. And, when facing threats such as war, nations tend to act in an environmentally irresponsible manner even though they know better. Deforestation, pollution, and waste of resources are common in times of war. Furthermore, as technology begins to evolve, weapons, bombs, and toxic biochemicals in which can destroy ecosystems are being developed in countries. The UNEP (United Nation Environmental Programme) reports that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of internal conflicts have been related to the exploitation of natural resources and these conflicts were twice as likely to relapse again.

An issue, relating wars/armed conflicts with environment hasn't been a great issue until now. In history, war was a necessary act to overcome difficulties, bring benefits, and also to strengthen the economy. Even today, countries fight for lands and resources, leading to unwanted armed conflicts that indirectly/directly destroys the environment. Institute for Economics and Peace states that only 11 countries in the world are not related to any conflicts. However, even these countries have to consume and exploit natural resources in order to maintain the security from the threat of possible war. In times of war, the environment suffers from the people's exploitation, and abuse in abhorrent scale. Burning of oil for fuel, deforestation, farmland destruction, biological/nuclear weapons used for contamination, and etc. have been some of the main reason for environment degradation during times of war.

The effects of war on environment is on a completely different scale compared to the ones that happened in the past. As wars have developed and technologies, the impacts on the environment are

larger and longer lasting. Carl Bruch, the co-director of international programs at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington D.C states that technologies have changed, and these changes applied to the armed conflicts, have increased the potential threat it can cause to the environment. Warfare and armed conflicts happen infrequently among independent nations, instead, conflicts usually occur between groups or factions within a country. These sort of internal conflicts are often seen as a domestic matter that are not usually checked by other international organizations such as the UN. Some of these internal conflicts cause habitat destruction, refugees, invasive species, collapse of infrastructure, hunting and poaching, and uses of biological weapons. The real problem to this is that the destruction of ecosystem through war follows a continuous cycle. Like what happened historically to resource poor areas of Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, when war occurs, environmental resources are abused. This environmental depletion will often lead countries desperate for natural resources, and this becomes another reason why the countries will have wage conflict..

Currently, actions are made towards preventing this issue, however, it is not in the extent where people can completely prevent the course of environmental destruction. Recently UN has passed a resolution that states that 6th of every November is to become an “International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict”. Through this, the UN is trying to ensure to countries that conflict prevention and peacekeeping strategies is needed for the environmental conflicts in order to maintain the livelihood of the citizens and the ecosystem. Although, organizations such as EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) are giving attention to this issue by implying State RCRA laws, and resources conservation and recovery act, conflicts related to environment and armed warfare have been affecting human society for over centuries. In order to prevent possible environmental conflicts due to human’s ambitious interference, it is a necessary duty for countries to participate in discussing and resolving these issues for a sustainable environment and ideal for the lives of arising generations.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Exploitation

Actions in using resources to obtain benefits. These actions contains possibilities of taking away certain sectors of biodiversities and could lead to future environmental issues.

### Armed Conflict:

“Use of arms in order to promote the parties’ general position in the conflict, resulting in deaths.” (FBI)

These conflicts are one of the main reason environments are often harmed in times of war due to several weaponries and exploitation.

\*note: to be defined an armed conflict, the deaths per year of these wars should be at minimum 25 deaths

### **Environmental degradation:**

Destruction and deterioration in the quality of environment due to issues such as deforestation, pollution, climate change and desertification.

### **Scorched Earth:**

A military policy in which destruction of properties and/or resources by burning are involved in order to prevent enemies from using them. This strategy highly deteriorate the environmental quality during times of war and might reduce the natural resources in great amount.

### **Eco-terrorism:**

Defined by FBI: “use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or property by an environmentally-oriented, subnational group for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature.”

### **Herbicide:**

Toxic chemicals that is usually used to destroy plants. These chemicals are usually used in parts of the wars in which is usually associated with biochemical weapons.

## **General Overview**

There have been several conflicts that have been associated with the exploitation of natural resources post wars. Throughout history, wars continuously occurred for the need of resources as well as power. The disastrous result of these wars on environment has clearly indicated the indecision of the participants in the war, as well as the necessity of the regulation in terms of resourceful needs and warfare technologies in a grand scale. Below are examples of armed conflicts/wars that have in diverse ways have degraded the environment and resources.

### ***The Persian Gulf War and Chemical Hazards***

The Gulf War incident dates back to 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2nd. Iraqi leader

Saddam Hussein proclaimed an invasion on Kuwait for its large oil production as well as the expansion in Iraq's power. On August 3rd, United Nations Security Council insisted for Iraq's withdrawal and on 6th of August, they've sanctioned Iraq through banning the trade. Soon United States and the Western European NATO allies sent troops in order to prevent the possibilities of another attack on Saudi Arabia (One of the largest oil producer/exporter). Other countries including Egypt, contributed through forming a military operation called, "Operation Desert Shield". By February 27th most of the Iraqi forces collapsed and on 28th, president George Bush claimed cease fire.

Post Gulf war, including the two major operations (Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm), the soldiers had been exposed to hazardous chemicals and weapons. Some of the major exposures in the war were the biological weapons, depleted uranium (estimated 290-800 tonnes), fires caused from oils, pesticides, diseases (usually infectious diseases), and incorrect use of vaccinations. Several veterans during the war have been exposed to depleted uranium that have penetrated the vehicles, in which have caused potential health damage such as wound contamination/infection. Rockets, containing chemicals such as cyclosporine and sarin have contaminated the air in which exposed over 100,000 veterans in the war, leading to health hazards. Not only weapons, but soldier's over-exposure to vaccines, and pills such as Pyridostigmine bromide have caused multisymptom illnesses and toxicated the Veterans.

### ***Iraq War (Second Persian Gulf War)***

Continuing from the First Persian Gulf War, The Second Persian Gulf War occurred due to Saddam Hussein's refusal of leaving Iraq. On March 20th of 2003, the U.S and allied country attacked Iraq and was able to successfully invade Iraq from Kuwait in the south without having to take major damages. U.S aircrafts/ air forces bombarded the Iraqi Republican guards and constantly advanced towards Baghdad the capital of Iraq. On April 4th, the troops took control over the international airport of Baghdad. Continuing their advancement, on April 9th, the Iraqi resistance force collapsed and U.S troops were able to take over the city. Soon on April 13, Saddam's home town (one of the major fort of the regime) collapsed without much resistance. Saddam Hussein was captured from fleeing on December 13th of 2003 and was accused of several immoral crimes against humanity. He was executed on December 30th, of 2006.

Post war, in several cities of Iraq, crimes, and lootings were all over the place soon leading to guerrilla warfares. These conflicts worsened and later led to civil war in Iraq. With further negotiations on the condition of Iraq, U.S president, Barack Obama claimed 39,000 soldiers' withdrawal at the end of

2011. Huge scale of bombardment in Iraq war and hazardous waste disposals from several factories post war have led to massive environmental consequences in Iraq. Certain facilities being burned down during the conflict burned several toxic chemicals into the air. World Conservation Monitoring Centre claims that approximately 26 different chemicals are widely exposed in the region and these chemicals are affecting the environment through solar radiation, change in food chain, and change in weather/climate. Post-war, Iraqi doctors have concluded that the increase in child cancer rate was mainly due to the depleted uranium fragments. Not only did the War affect health, but it also led to a huge need for funds in order to clean up the mess. About 79 billion dollars was requested from dozens of countries who have participated in the war.

### *Vietnam War*

Vietnam War in which lasted for about 20 years was a very long term conflict between communist government of North Vietnam and the allied countries of South Vietnam (Viet Cong) against the government of South Vietnam with its major ally, U.S. Internally, the Vietnam War was largely part of the Cold War between U.S, Soviet Union and their allies. North Vietnam desired the country's unification through communist regime like the ones of Soviet Union and China. However, the South Vietnamese government fought against in order to obtain closer relationship with U.S. On 1969, more than 500,000 U.S troops were placed in Vietnam while Soviet Union, and China supplied North Vietnam with weapons and advisors for an advanced guide on political direction and combat. The war casualties were enormous. 200,000 - 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers died in war. Approximately, 2 million soldiers died throughout the Vietnam War. Thousands of soldiers from other allied countries also had to suffer from war casualties.

One of the major environmental conflict Vietnam had to go through was the spread of "Agent Orange". Agent Orange a chemical containing dioxin TCDD led to a grand herbicide, exterminating living organisms. Forests affected by herbicide began to erode and massive decrease in trees and birds population came along. The dioxins were more stable in terms of decomposing and were persistently existent for decades in Vietnam. It was also confirmed that dioxins from Agent Orange has been affecting the food chain/cycle in certain regions of Vietnam. Due to the major herbicide, approximately 60-70 percent of major food plantations were destroyed in which was worth feeding over 2 million people. Today, Vietnam is still suffering from environmental consequences since rebuilding of 10 million homes,

schools, hospitals, and other facilities have been reducing 200,000 hectares of land every year. Several sections of the countries in Vietnam called, “Agent Orange Museums” are in form of wastelands.

### ***Rwandan Genocide***

Rwandan Genocide one of the destructive genocides in history occurred through the death of Rwandan president, Juvenal Habyarimana on 6th of April 1994. French Judges blamed on Paul Kagame (current Rwandan president) for the rocket attack that killed Habyarimana. However, Mr. Kagame, denied this and blamed it upon Hutu extremists. Without having to care, who was responsible for the situation, campaigns with violences spread through the country. The leaders of the political oppositions were slayed, and after, Tutsis and Hutus began to slaughter people. Soon different kinds of people including, businessmen, politicians, and military officials joined the slaughter. The extremists Hutu in 1994 was seen to believe that the only way to obtain and keep the power to themselves were to slaughter off the ethnic Tutsis. Soon, the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Force) of Hutus captured Kigali and decided to ceasefire.

The result of war on environment was also massive compared to the casualties on soldiers. The biological hotspot of Rwanda was in pressure due to the refugees and the need for more natural resources for basic survival. Forests in which covered 36 percent of Rwanda was left with 22 percent of what originally existed. Due to the genocide and loss in agricultural regions/lands, wetlands were converted into agricultural fields leading to decrease in purification capacity, which was highly important for living species. Also in houses people began to exploit more resources such as charcoal and woods for fuel. According to the households in Rwanda, the rate of the use of charcoal increased from 28% before genocide to 49%. Not only there were problems with facilities, but post-genocide, diseases such as Malaria has spread even in places where it previously was rare. The disease rate has significantly increased from 3.5 percent in 1982 to 48 percent in 2003. Currently, National Malaria Control programme has been acting to reduce the circumstances.

### ***World War II, Nuclear bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan***

During the World War II, the event where U.S released an atomic bomb on Japan, Hiroshima on August of 1945 was one of the ending events of World War II. 80,000 people died almost instantly after the first atomic bomb (code name: Little Boy) was used on August 6th of 1945. In total due to radiations, 192,020 people died out. Meanwhile, in Nagasaki, more than 70,000 people were instantly killed by the

atomic bomb (codenamed: Fat Man).

This event's casualties were massive since the bomb instantly burned 70 percent of the towns and cities. The bomb increasingly heated the temperature of the ground up to 4000 degrees celsius leading to 74,000 deaths of the civilians. In long terms, it affected children through radioactive exposures and diseases together with cancer roamed around the country. According to U.S strategic bombing survey, several combustible materials such as dark cloth, paper, and dry rotted woods were highly exposed to radiation within the 4000 feet of detonation increasing the possible cancer rate. Diseases such as leukemia (48% in which were affected by radiation) roamed around the cities increasing death rates among cities of Japan.

### *South Sudan Civil War*

South Sudan, a country in which have just recently gained independence away from Sudan in 2011 had concerns regarding to disagreements in oil production between Khartoum. There were small conflicts as well as rebellions in politics, however it soon worsened into becoming an ethnic violence. Currently, including the president, several politicians are blaming each other for not being able to handle corruption leading to factions breaking up. Mass killings due to armies and supporters between Mr. Kiir the president, and Mr. Machar the politician has clashed around the city. Due to international pressure the conflicts and rebellions have ceased and truce was made in May for new election and new constitution. Later, the truce breaks and warfare proceeds into mass destruction, but UN have reinforced with 7500 troops for the civilians.

Currently, South Sudan is in a state where oil fields are burned down severely as well as farmlands. Since the end of civil war, from Angola to Chad, Nigeria to Equatorial Guinea, oil as well as other natural resources were mostly gone creating corruption and leading to several people's poverty. Continuous attacks from both sides' troops have destabilized several regions where it once contained one of the greatest oil reserves. Later, South Sudan had to shut down their entire oil production in which costed 350,000 barrels a day. For farmlands, the civil caused thousands of people to abandon their farmlands as well as the villages to escape the violence. Due to the destruction in farmlands and their housings, 2.8 million people are in a state of hunger and starvation. U.N camps have supported these civilians with food supplies and aids, however food

insecurity and starvation still exists in parts of South Sudan.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### United States

As one of the most active and powerful country, United States have participated in many warfare as well as internal armed conflicts such as civil war and terrorisms. U.S participated in World War II in which they had to fire an atomic bomb on Japan (Hiroshima, Nagasaki). They've also participated in Cold war where they stocked up and created nuclear power. In terms of internal conflicts, according to FBI, there has been several people arrested for preparing eco-terrorism. U.S internationally participated in several wars such as the Gulf war, War of Falluja, and etc. in which were all related to environmental destruction or exploitation. The country has contributed and also observed various of different armed conflicts through United Nation actions also.

### Iraq

Iraq in which is currently one of the most environmentally damaged country is suffering from issues such as oil spills, sanitation, pollution, land degradation, lack of river basin management. United Nation Environmental Program states that the major threat to the Iraqi people would be the physical damage of environmental infrastructure. The damages and environmental problems are so devastating that the plans and actions should be held urgently. Also the lack of investments on these poor factors are leading to pollution and health risks. UNEP also states that the continuous bombings and vast use of vehicles and troops have degraded the ecosystem. UNEP urges Iraq to remove all the contamination from depleted uranium from the Gulf War and current war.

### China

China in which is one of the mightiest and biggest country is in conflicts due to environmental pollutants and climate changes. Continuously fighting over south china sea, the country participates in various of issues related to sovereignty and natural resources. Currently China, one of the fastest developing countries is suffering from major pollutions due to exploitation of natural resources. Historically the dynastic leaders of China have expanded the territory in which to exploit and consume far more natural resource to the extent where it led to famine and natural disasters. The reformation of industries in



countries during 1970s for development further degraded the environmental quality. Not only is China one of the largest green gas emitter but also one of the largest energy consumer. Today, China's economy is also suffering from environmental burdens since China has to extract resources abroad.

### **South Korea/North Korea**

South Korea and North Korea are currently separated by an area called DMZ (demilitarized zone) where it is known for the most peaceful and well preserved ecosystem. Depopulated area of DMZ created the haven for wildlife where currently 67 of world's endangered species are existent. However, there have been issues related to this area since mines implanted by the soldiers still exist across the field of the zone. Animal species by mistake often steps on one of the mines and injures themselves. Not only this, but, currently North and South Korea are trying to further develop into this region for agricultural development. These actions are destroying biodiversity and habitats in which reduced the population of several animal species.

### **Japan**

Japan known for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki event, has suffered from environmental and radiation problems for years. By the end of World War II, Japan was left with with terrible environmental consequences. About 50 million people became refugees and displaced people also 66 percent of the cities had to go through major damage. The irrigation systems as well as forests and ecosystem was hugely damaged. According to the evidence from post 2 wars in Japan, Japan had to suffer from food shortages in which led to starvation and malnutrition.

### **Vietnam**

Vietnam has went through a considerable damage through the environmental warfare in Vietnam war. The use of "Agent Orange", in which is a chemical weapon used by Americans destroyed 1,034,300 hectares of the forest. Due to this chemical, many disabled children were born and infants were severely killed. During the Vietnam war, U.S's plan of using advanced technology worked through turning vietnam into a massive destructive zone of explosives, and herbicides.

### **Rwanda**

Rwanda a tiny republic lying in East, central Africa has suffered hugely from the Rwandan Genocide one of the most violent, and horrific event in which killed several people. The country Rwanda in 20th

century went through several issues such as civil war, genocides, mass migrations, diseases, economic crisis and environmental destruction. The genocide in Rwanda took away not only human resources but also natural resources, infrastructures, and facilities leading to overall negative environmental impact. According to UNEP (United Nation Environmental Programme), 36 percent of Rwanda was covered in forest, however, after 1990s 78 percent of the forest declined. Rwandan genocide also led to environmental impact in biodiversity. Rwanda, famous for its biological hotspot was soon used for minings and agriculture. Furthermore, constructing new facilities, diseases, and exploitation of fuel and energy source degraded the environment.

## Timeline

Date	Description of event
Middle Ages	Christopher Columbus discovers the New World. He exterminates the indigenous people and spreads “the great pox”.
Mid 17th century	“Little Ice Age” cold weather, and rebellions took away millions of lives. Harvesting was terrible and rioting broke out around cities and countries when bread prices spiked up. Global crisis was happening due to severe climate change and wars.
1942	When World War started, rubber supplies were cut off by the Japanese and so the synthetic rubber from oil was blocked. British intelligence calls the standard oil as a dangerous element of the enemy.
1945	U.S drops atomic bombs on the Japanese major cities (Hiroshima and Nagasaki)
1950 August 5	B-29 bomber carrying a nuclear weapon crashed. 18 people were killed, 60

people were injured (first dozen of nuclear weapon accidents, “Broken Arrow incidents)

1955 November	Vietnamese war (Ending in 1975 of April)
1990-1991	War in Kuwait and Iraq created environmental disaster through oil spill and depleted uranium bullets. Asthma and childhood cancer rose up high. (Gulf war)
1994 April	Rwandan Genocide (until July of 1994)
2003 April	U.S bombarded Iraq in war Fallujah and depleted uranium increase amount of disabled children in Iraq (Iraq war)
2010 August 9	Amnesty International noted that Indigenous people are seen as standing in the way of commercial interests and are usually harassed, abused and killed to exploit natural resources
2013 December	South Sudanese Civil war began when President Kiir incriminated the former deputy Riek Machaar for planning coup d'état.

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations in trying to approach this issue. It has set up various of programmes and has passed resolution in terms of setting up a specific day where countries are able to raise awareness of the damages armed conflicts are giving to the environment. The current United Nations Environmental Programme is seeking to reduce the environmental threats from conflicts and disaster through the use of “Disasters and Conflicts Programme”. With the technical support from United Nations Environmental Programme, several other peacebuilding and peacekeeping agencies are cooperating into preventing exploitations of natural resources. However, the international programmes, set forward by the UN are not enough for this issue to finalize its problems.

- November 5th of 2001, the UN General assembly has declared November 6th of each year to be

an “International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict”. As explained before, this day was set to raise the awareness of the damages on the environment during and after the armed conflicts and how these damages can extend to affecting our next generations **(A/RES/56/4)**

- On May 27th of 2016, The United Nations Environmental Assembly adopted the resolution of **(UNEP/EA.2/Res.15)** in which made a strong commitment for the full application of General Assembly resolution 70/1, called “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
- United Nations Environment Programme through the use of “Disaster and Conflicts Programme” produces environmental assessments and tries to increase the national environmental management capacity of the countries. From 1999, UNEP has cooperated with over 35 countries and assessed 20 environmental assessment reports. Through this they are continuously providing technical supports to UN and international groups in which includes, Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department Field Support (DFS), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission.

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

As seen through UN involvement, the UN has just recently created attempts into solving the issues associated with the environment and armed conflicts. However, there hasn’t been much of previous attempts that were made to resolve the issue. Most of these programmes have been made to “prevent” the environmental consequences before the armed conflicts even take place; meaning U.N will have to focus more on making resolutions towards approaching the situation once the war or conflicts breaks off. Programmes and resolutions that have made to increase awareness as well as preventing possible disastrous outcomes have been set to minimize casualties, however, it is still necessary for delegates and countries to think of a better ideas to approach the situation once a physical conflict occurs.

## Possible Solutions

Issue like this has a possibility of getting easily ignored since armed conflicts and wars are future events; preemptive action is always harder to take place, as opposed to responsive action. The most obvious and simple way to prevent this would be to show the countries the consequences and the result, wars and armed conflicts might cause to the environment in which would increase the awareness among countries. However, as stated before, solutions are needed to not only prevent these conflicts and wars from happening in the first place, but also to create effective ideas that could be applied during the actual situation of the conflicts.

One simple solution that could help cease the environmental exploitations and conflicts during the time of the war and armed conflicts would be to create a section or factions of the army that would protect and keep the environment separated apart from where the actual physical conflict is happening. These forces, unlike other factions, of the army would have to stay close to the major environmental locations of the country in order to prevent any explosive and chemical weapons from degrading the forests and biodiversity. The army of forces made to protect these locations would have to be consisted of armed air forces, as well as land forces to keep away from the actual harm. The forces will have to consider the environment of the country as their number one priority in terms of securing the country.

Another long-term solution for this issue is implementing a system within countries in UN that restricts the development of biochemical and nuclear weapons and regulates the use of natural resources during the time of conflict. By implementing this, countries within UN would not be able to apply any more of deadly chemicals during armed conflicts in which reduces the environmental stresses and harms to the biodiversity. Also by providing minimized resources and aids from organizations, operations and agencies, countries would no longer have to exploit much from the country's natural resources. This solution may take a long time in terms of forming a right system without any flaws since armed conflicts may consume a lot of resources for the sake of soldiers protecting the country.

## Bibliography

United Nations. "Damage, Exploitation, Armed, Conflict, War, Environment." *United Nations*. United

Nations, n.d. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/>>

Mathiesen, Karl. "What's the Environmental Impact of Modern War?" *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 06 Nov. 2014. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/06/whats-the-environmental-impact-of-modern-war>>

Evans, Michael. "The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict." *The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict | Politics | The Earth Times*. Earth Times, 06 Nov. 2012. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<http://www.earthtimes.org/politics/preventing-exploitation-environment-war-armed-conflict/2239/>>

"War Destroys Environment." *World Beyond War*. . . Worldbeyondwar.org, 22 Apr. 2014. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<http://worldbeyondwar.org/war-destroys-environment/>>

Publications, Environment Magazine - Heldref. "January/February 2008." *Environment Magazine - Bytes of Note - War and Sustainability: The Economic and Environmental Costs*. Environment Science and Policy for Sustainable Development, 26 Aug. 2008. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<http://www.environmentmagazine.org/Archives/Back%20Issues/January-February%202008/Bytes-jf08.html>>

Lallanilla, Marc. "How Does War Affect the Environment?" *The Spruce*. The Spruce, 23 May 2017. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<https://www.thespruce.com/the-effects-of-war-on-environment-1708787>>

"War and Conflict–Related Environmental Destruction." *Environmental Science: In Context*. Encyclopedia.com, n.d. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<http://www.encyclopedia.com/environment/energy-government-and-defense-magazines/war-and-conflict-related-environmental-destruction>>

Patrick, Erin. "When War Stops, the Impact on the Environment Lives On." *The Huffington Post*.

TheHuffingtonPost.com, 04 Nov. 2011. Web. 04 June 2017.

<[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/erin-patrick/when-war-stops-the-impact\\_b\\_1076658.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/erin-patrick/when-war-stops-the-impact_b_1076658.html)>

Francis, Diane. "Environmental Warfare in 10 Years." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 22 Sept. 2009. Web. 04 June 2017.

<[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diane-francis/environmental-warfare-in\\_b\\_295012.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diane-francis/environmental-warfare-in_b_295012.html)>

Cosgrove-Mather, Bootie. "Iraq Faces 'Alarming' Enviro Problems." *CBS News*. CBS Interactive, 24 Apr. 2003. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/iraq-faces-alarming-enviro-problems/>>

Wheeland, Matthew. "Russia: The Unsustainable Superpower." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 04 May 2015. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/may/04/russia-climate-change-vladimir-putin-s-ochi-olympics-gay-pride>>.

United Nations Environment Programme. *Protecting the Environment during Armed Conflict: An Inventory and Analysis of International Law*. Nairobi, Kenya: United Nations Environment Programme, 2009. *Protecting the Environment During Armed Conflict*. Un.org, Nov. 2009. Web. 04 June 2017.

<[http://www.un.org/zh/events/environmentconflictday/pdfs/int\\_law.pdf](http://www.un.org/zh/events/environmentconflictday/pdfs/int_law.pdf)>.

Albert, Eleanor, and Beina Xu. "China's Environmental Crisis." *Council on Foreign Relations*. Council on Foreign Relations, 18 Jan. 2016. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-environmental-crisis>>.

Harvey, Fiona. "Wildlife Haven in the Korean DMZ under Threat." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 06 Sept. 2012. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/sep/06/wildlife-haven-korean-dmz-threat>>.

Leaning, Jennifer. "Environment and Health: 5. Impact of War." *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal*. U.S. National Library of Medicine, 31 Oct. 2000. Web. 04 June 2017.

<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC80251/>>.

C N Trueman "The Impact of War on Vietnam" [historylearningsite.co.uk](http://historylearningsite.co.uk). The History Learning Site, 27

Mar 2015. 16 Aug 2016.

<<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/vietnam-war/the-impact-of-war-on-vietnam/>>

"Vietnam: War and the Environment." *Green Left Weekly*. Green Left Weekly, 05 Sept. 2016. Web. 04 June 2017. <<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/vietnam-war-and-environment>>.

"Public Health." *Gulf War Exposures - Public Health*. US Department of Veterans Affairs, 09 Dec. 2013. Web. 04 June 2017. <<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/sources/index.asp>>.

The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Persian Gulf War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., n.d. Web. 04 June 2017. <<https://www.britannica.com/event/Persian-Gulf-War>>.

Taddonio, Patrice. "Go Inside South Sudan's Hunger Crisis -- in 360° Video." *PBS*. Public Broadcasting Service, 3 Mar. 2016. Web. 13 July 2017.

< <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/go-inside-south-sudans-hunger-crisis-in-360-video/> >

Bruch, Carl , and Michael Bothe. "Armed Conflict and the Environment." *IUCN*. IUCN, 14 Feb. 2017. Web. 13 July 2017.

<<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-environmental-law/our-work/specialist-groups/armed-conflict-and-environment>>.

## Appendix or Appendices

- Brief background information about the UN's international day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/>

- UNEP analysis of current UN international laws

[http://www.un.org/zh/events/environmentconflictday/pdfs/int\\_law.pdf](http://www.un.org/zh/events/environmentconflictday/pdfs/int_law.pdf)

- Histories of recent wars and impacts on the environment



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/06/whats-the-environmental-impact-of-modern-war>

- Video example of a specific war (Colombian War) that have affected the environment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2bkc4xYe2M>

- Accomplishments of organizations reported from two SG co-chair: Michael Bothe, Carl Bruch

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-environmental-law/our-work/specialist-groups/armed-conflict-and-environment>