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Question	Part	
4		Throughout human history, war has been a constant. From the earliest squabbles over farming and food to the increasingly mechanized and complicated geopolitics of today, war has been the common denominator. For nearly as long as war has persisted, so too have movements existed to prevent or end it. This debate over war prompts the question: Should war always be the last option when countries attempt to resolve conflicts? ~~Not going to war has some immediate benefits. It saves lives by avoiding conflict,~~ Making war the last option is an appealing proposition. It ensures human lives have the utmost priority and avoids the widescale destruction synonomous with war. The Cold War is one of the best examples of when making war a last resort was the best option. From the 1950s onwards, both the U.S and U.S.S.R had nuclear weapons at their disposal. While there were many close calls like the Cuban Missile Crisis, both nations did everything possible to avoid war. This saved the planet and its inhabitants because the detonation of each side's nuclear arsenal was enough to destroy the world several times over. There have also been occasions when countries did go to war when it could or should have been avoided. World War I was one of the most devasating and deadly wars ever seen by mankind. With nationalism and political fervor running hot in Europe along with countries trying to build their armies larger and make more and more advanced technology, this led to a situation where

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Question	Part	
		the entire continent was a powder keg, waiting for a spark. That spark came when heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated in Sarajevo by Serbian nationalist, Gavrilo Princip. What should have been a small, localized conflict spread into an [illegible] war that engulfed the entire world. Had there been less tensions and more patience, the entire war could have been avoided, saving countless lives, billions of dollars, and the hopes and dreams of a generation. [illegible]
		Sometimes, war is the answer and should not be relegated to the last option. By starting a war earlier, it can avoid a larger, more destructive war from occuring. World War II and the period preceeding it exemplifies this concept. After the mass devastation of World War I, Europe was hesitant of war in general. This avoidance of war led to a policy of appeasement to dictator and egomaniac, Adolf Hitler's demands and build up of arms. Throughout the 1930's, Britain and France had myriad opportunities to stop the rise of Hitler and the growth of Nazi Germany. They could have said no to Germany's annexation of Austria, the Sudetenland, and Czechoslovakia, force Germany to relinquish its arms, or hold Germany accountable for its persecution of Jews. Instead, the Allies sat on their hands, allowing Germany to become the largest military power in Europe, all while Neville Chamberlain got off a plane, raising a piece of paper, claiming he had "achieved peace in our time." By making war a last resort the Allied Powers allowed the Axis Powers to increase in size and

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Question	Part	
		power, while persecuting ethnic, religious, racial, and other minorities. Had they started a war earlier, the Allies would have been able to nip the death and destruction of a larger war in the bud and avoid the aftermath of World War II. Some countries did not make war the last option and were ultimately successful. In 1967, Israel noticed a buildup of troops on its borders. Being an island of Judaism in a sea of Islam, it was worried, compounded with the fact that its war of independence had resulted in an uneasy peace with its neighbors. Sensing the danger, Israel launched a preemptive strike on the surrounding countries, which allowed it to win the war in only six days. Had Israel waited for its neighbors to attack first, the only Jewish nation could have been lost to the sands of time, defeated by the countries that surround it. Instead, Israel didn't make war its last option as it continues to this day. and won the war,
		While the death and destruction of war should be avoided, it should not always be the last option. In order to minimize lives lost, a measured approach must be taken to ensure that a country is not throwing itself into an unnecesary war, but also not allowing a larger war to grow. Achieving this equilibrium is much easier said than done, but necessary to avoid the pitfalls of the conflicts that occur today, like the Israel-Hamas war and the war in Ukraine. By striving for this balance of peace and war, the world can be a safer place, making sure no bully gets too big and no nation jumps headfirst into senseless war.

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