

## A Loving Message to America



People keep telling me that I am wrong to constantly harp about the faults of America. I am sorry that they feel that my harping comes from a hatred of America. On the contrary, I love America just as much as I love the rest of the countries of the world. However, if I truly love America I must try and make it happier.

I have met many very sad people in America despite it being the materially richest country in the world. I believe the reason Americans are not as happy as most people in the world is because we do not recognize our faults and try to correct them.

Our greed and violence lead to our sadness. We want more and more material wealth and will sacrifice our young to get it.



The U.S. has violently invaded other countries 200 times since 1976 (*Killing Hope* by William Blum).

The [Department of Navy Historical Center](#) states that the U.S. used its armed forces abroad 230 times, and 60 of these occurred after WWII.

Most Americans know of the deaths in WWI when 116,000 U.S. soldiers were killed, but how many know that over 8 million soldiers from other countries and perhaps another 8 million civilians also died? Most know that 408,000 U.S. soldiers were killed in WWII, but world-wide at least another 20 million soldiers and civilians died.

The number of U.S. soldiers is given quite often on the news, but never is there given the number or Iraqis and Afghans who were killed. Some estimate the

number to be in the millions, far more than were killed by Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden combined.

According to the [Global Peace Index](#), the U.S. ranks 85th among 149 nations in the world in being the most peaceful nation.

We have yet to learn that invading other countries for wealth, power and protection does not bring us peace and happiness. It only leads to sadness and fear.

That is my reason for being critical of the U.S. constant emphasis on building up its military force. It only depletes the economy, reduces the U.S. means to help the indigent and causes more death and destruction here and abroad.

Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) stated once again that every American has the right to weapons, including machine guns. It said that people have the right to self-defense. What they are basically saying is that the only way to defend yourself is through violence, the use or threat of a weapon. People have the right to kill or maim another if and when they feel threatened by someone.

People who walk the streets do not have the right to do so without worrying that someone with a concealed weapon will attack them. America has more murders with guns than any other industrialized nation. Did the murder victims have any right to life?

America continues to teach violence rather than nonviolence. Our chance of successfully defending ourselves is through nonviolence, not violence. If we want to be happier, we must start teaching nonviolence.

I criticize America because I love it and want it to be better.