#### Types of Wars

##### **1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Wars can be aggressive-one country attacks another, or defensive, a country is attacked by another. Of course, these terms are relative to which country you are in. For example, when Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Germany was the aggressor and the Soviet Union the defender. However, when the Soviet Red Army invaded Germany in 1945, they were still fighting a defensive war and Germany was still fighting an aggressive war. These terms apply only to the start of a war; in this case, the war was started by the Germans when they attacked the Soviet Union, which they ultimately lost. Generally, it is harder to justify a war in which you are the one attacking; the defender is often seen as a victim of aggression, less dangerous to others, and therefore has the moral "high ground".

##### **2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

In the case where a country is not directly attacked by an aggressor it may still decide to enter the war on behalf of someone who has been attacked-it intervenes. An example would be Canada's declaration of war on Germany in 1939. Canada had not been attacked by Germany, but Poland had been and Canada joined other nations in opposing German aggression on behalf of Poland. Intervention describes the reason why a country is at war. Canada's participation on the NATO attack on Serbia in 1999 is a second example of an intervention for humanitarian reasons.

##### **3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Pre-emptive war is one in which you expect to be attacked and decide to attack first: you pre-empt your opponent. You take on the role of aggressor, while if you waited you would be in the role of defender. You may decide to enter into war because you think you could achieve victory and believe that if you postponed the attacked you might lose. An example of this type of war is the Six Day War of 1967, when Israel, fearing attack, struck first and won quickly. The First World War can also be viewed in this way. The Germans went to war because they believed war was inevitable, and that they would lose if they waited. The justification of pre-emptive war was used in 2003 when the United States attacked Iraq to eliminate weapons of mass destruction that the American Government stated were going to be used against the US.

##### **4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

There's an adage that preventive war is like committing suicide to avoid dying. Preventive war follows the theory that "a little war now will prevent a larger war later". This would happen because you would make a show of force and scare your opponent off, or you might be able to catch them off guard before they were better prepared. An example of this was the Austrian attack on Serbia in 1914 that opened the First World War. The Austrians hoped that a small war against Serbia would avoid a larger war against Russia. The logic of preventing a larger conflict can often be misjudged, as the Austrians discovered.

##### **5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

This involves combatants from within one political state or nation fighting each other. It still must meet the criteria for war given above, and not be random fighting. Revolutions - attempts to violently reform the government-often involve a civil war. Examples include the American and Russian Revolutions, as well as the Spanish Civil War. The Canadian Rebellions of 1837-8 also fall into this category, as do the Red River and Northwest Rebellions, though not all were successful. Civil wars are often quite brutal, and the cliché of "brother against brother" is the literal truth, frequently. The distinction between a rebellion, a revolution, and a civil war is often difficult to define.

##### **6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Guerrilla warfare is a term that arose from the French occupation of Spain by Napoleon, and means "little war". Guerrillas operate in small groups and often "hide" in the civilian population, fighting a foreign occupation of their country. They are irregular soldiers, in that they usually don't have uniforms or a strict command structure, but do have some organization. Their disguise as civilians makes it difficult and frustrating for military forces to discover them, and it blurs the distinction between non-combatant and combatant. Guerrilla can describe both the soldier and the type of warfare. Partisan is a synonym for guerrilla.

Insurgents are irregular soldiers in conflict with their government. They use guerrilla warfare as part of an armed struggle against the government, in a revolution or civil war. They may operate from within a country's borders or from a nearby friendly country, striking across borders. During the 1980's, the United States sponsored the Contra insurgents in Nicaragua; and in the 2000's the United States is fighting Iraqi insurgents.

##### **7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

A total war is one where the entire society is mobilized to fight in the war. This involves a large armed force, which is often conscripted, the mobilization of industrial resources, and considerable financial outlay. During the war, this is the main activity with which the country is involved. The Second World War was a total war, as was the American Civil War. In this type of war, civilian production workers are vital to the war effort, and are thus seen as valid targets. For example, during the Second World War, Canadian aircrafts attacked German cities in an effort to kill civilian factory workers and cripple war industries. Total war, however, does not mean a war without rules; the term applies to the total effort of the combatants.

A limited war is one that is not total. It might involve only a part of the society or be limited in area to a small region. The American effort in the Vietnam War was a limited war, as only a small portion of American society was involved.