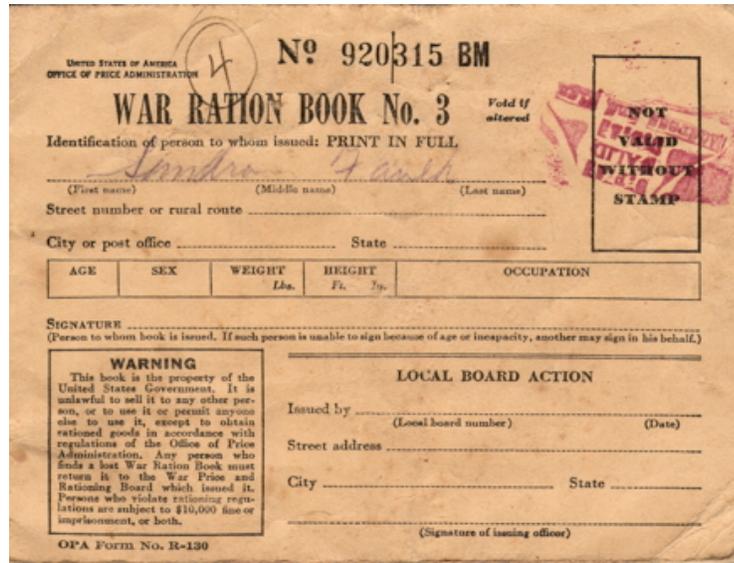


# OLLSUBJECTGUIDES



## War & Peace: <<http://oll.libertyfund.org/collection/57>>

### About the OLL

The *Online Library of Liberty* (OLL) is a project of Liberty Fund, Inc., a private educational foundation established in 1960 to encourage the study of the ideal of a society of free and responsible individuals. The OLL website has a large collection of books and study guides about individual liberty, limited constitutional government, the free market, and peace. The collection is organized into subject areas, schools of thought, topics, and historical periods. This guide provides some details about the OLL's collection on "War & Peace".

### The Collection

"War & Peace" is one of the 12 main subject areas in the OLL collection. To see all the books in this subject area see <[oll.libertyfund.org/collection/57](http://oll.libertyfund.org/collection/57)>. There is also a related Topic on "The Laws of War" <[oll.libertyfund.org/collection/62](http://oll.libertyfund.org/collection/62)> and many of the OLL's "Quotations about Liberty and Power" have dealt with the issue of "War & Peace."

### The Guide

This guide lists some of the most important books in the OLL on "War & Peace" and provides a sample of the ideas expressed by some of our authors on this topic. We hope that it will encourage to explore the OLL collection further.

**"To what baneful quarter, then, are we to look for the cause of the stagnation and misery which appear so general in human affairs? War! is the answer. There is no other cause. This is the pestilential wind which blasts the prosperity of nations. This is the devouring fiend which eats up the precious treasure of national economy, the foundation of national improvement, and of national happiness."**

*James Mill, Commerce Defended (1808)*  
<<http://oll.libertyfund.org/quote/323>>

# OLL Subject Guides

## War & Peace

### Key Works on War & Peace

[URL format: <oll.libertyfund.org/title/123>]

- **Desiderius Erasmus**, *The Complaint of Peace* (1521) <title/87 >.
- **Hugo Grotius**, *The Rights of War and Peace* (1625) <title/1877>.
- **John Trenchard**, *An Argument, shewing that a Standing Army is inconsistent with a Free Government, and absolutely destructive to the Constitution of the English Monarchy* (1697). <title/2315/220983>.
- **Thomas Gordon**, *A Discourse of Standing Armies; shewing the Folly, Uselessness, and Danger of Standing Armies in Great Britain* (1722) <title/1719>.
- **Immanuel Kant**, *Perpetual Peace* (1795) <title/357>.
- **Vicesimus Knox**, "The Spirit of Despotism" (1795) in *The Works of Vicesimus Knox* <title/630/210883>.
- **John Millar**, *Letters of Crito, on the Causes, Objects, and Consequences, of the Present War* (1796) <title/288>
- **Thomas Hodgskin**, *An Essay on Naval Discipline, Shewing Part of its evil Effects on the Minds of the Officers, on the Minds of the Men, and on the Community* (1813) <title/322>.
- **Daniel Webster**, "Speech on the Draft" (1814) <title/2070>.
- **James Mill**, "Law of Nations" (1825) <title/1763>
- **Frédéric Bastiat**, "Demobilization" (1850) in *Selected Essays on Political Economy* <title/956/35428>.
- **Herbert Spencer**, "The Militant Type of Society" in *Principles of Sociology* (1876) <title/1336/54831 >.
- *Free Trade and Other Fundamental Doctrines of the Manchester School*, ed. Francis W. Hirst (1903) <title/94>.
- *The Political Writings of Richard Cobden* (1903) <title/173>.
- **Ludwig von Mises**, *Nation, State, and Economy* (1919) <title/1819>.
- **William Graham Sumner**, *War and Other Essays* (1919) <title/345>.
- **Ludwig von Mises**, *Omnipotent Government: The Rise of the Total State and Total War* (1944) <title/2399>.
- **Ludwig von Mises**, *Liberalism: The Classical Tradition* (1962) <title/1463/67427>.
- **Frank Chodorov**, "When War Comes" in *Fugitive Essays: Selected Writings of Frank Chodorov* (1980) <title/1730/141945>.

### Other Resources on War and Peace

There are also several "illustrated essays" on war related topics in the "Images of Liberty" section of the OLL.

Topic: The Laws of War <<http://oll.libertyfund.org/collection/62>>

### Quotations about War and Peace

**"In no part of the constitution is more wisdom to be found than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislature, and not to the executive department. Beside the objection to such a mixture of heterogeneous powers: the trust and the temptation would be too great for any one man: not such as nature may offer as the prodigy of many centuries, but such as may be expected in the ordinary successions of magistracy. War is in fact the true nurse of executive aggrandizement."**

*James Madison, "Helvidius IV" (1793)*

<<http://oll.libertyfund.org/quote/236>>

Here is a selection of the quotations about War & Peace which have appeared on the front page of the OLL [URL format: <oll.libertyfund.org/quote/123>]:

- for Christmas 2012 there was a series for the "12 Days of Christmas" on the theme of "peace on earth, good will towards men" <quote/414>
- **Hugo Grotius** on Moderation in Despoiling the Country of one's Enemies (1625) <quote/315>
- **John Trenchard** on the dangers posed by a standing army (1698) <quote/292>
- **Adam Smith** observes that the true costs of war remain hidden from the taxpayers because they are sheltered in the metropole (1776) <quote/160>
- **John Jay** on the pretended as well as the just causes of war (1787) <quote/288>
- **Alexander Hamilton** warns of the danger to civil society and liberty from a standing army since "the military state becomes elevated above the civil" (1787) <quote/192>
- **James Madison** argued that war is the major way by which the executive office increases its power, patronage, and taxing power (1793) <quote/236>
- **Vicesimus Knox** on how the aristocracy and the "spirit of despotism" use the commemoration of the war dead for their own aims (1795) <quote/279>
- **Thomas Hodgskin** on the Suffering of those who had been Impressed or Conscripted into the British Navy (1813) <quote/17>
- **Daniel Webster** says that the introduction of conscription would be a violation of the constitution, an affront to individual liberty, & an act of unrivaled despotism (1814) <quote/205>
- **Richard Cobden** urges the British Parliament not to be the "Don Quixotes of Europe" using military force to right the wrongs of the world (1854) <quote/322>
- **Herbert Spencer** argued that in a militant type of society the state would become more centralised and administrative (1882) <quote/58>
- **Robert Nisbet** on the Shock the Founding Fathers would feel if they could see the current size of the Military & the Government (1988) <quote/255>