

English 1302

Professor Flannery

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Formal Paper 2

In "The Man He Killed" by Thomas Hardy, the speaker isn't too happy with his ethical decisions in war. The speaker goes on and talks about he didn't feel good about killing a man, but he had to because he was considered an enemy. If it weren't for the war, things would have been different between them too. So the speaker shows that war forces people to do horrible things contrary to their natures as social human beings. In "The End and The Beginning" by Wislawa Szymborska the speaker reflects on everything that happens after the war. She also doesn't feel good about the war because of the results of it after. She specifically talks about who has to clean up after war such as dragging bodies around or cleaning up the destruction that the war causes. The decision of going to war is a hard one and the aftermath is a horrible thing to go through so in her eyes, was war really worth it to go through.

In "The Man he killed," one side of the speaker's ethical decision he states that his enemy was an ordinary man like he was. Also says they both needed a job so they made the choice to serve their country because that was probably the right thing to do. On the other hand they could have refused to go to war on moral grounds. Both of them could have claimed the ethical good of not having to kill any human being. The ethical decision to go to war in "The End and The Beginning" shows the consequences of having to deal with the aftermath of this. She describes having to push wheelbarrows of bodies to bury them and other people having to pick up rubble

and rebuild houses and such to start over. On the other hand if they would of not went to war the speaker wouldn't of had to go through those types of things and wouldn't have to see loved ones or friends being dragged around and going through hard labor of cleaning up wars destruction.

The Speaker in "The Man He Killed" chose to go to war, he killed a man and now he has to live with this on his conscience. He thinks war is terrible and ironic in the way it forces men to kill each other, when in peaceful times they might have been friends. If the speaker had not gone to war he might have felt better because he would not have a man's death on his conscience. His conscience would still bother him, knowing that not fighting the enemy might have meant the death of his family or fellow countrymen. If the enemy had won, the new government might not have been good to the ones living there. In "The end and The Beginning" because speaker had gone through the war the people have to go through the cleanup of the war. She describes rebuilding railroads and buildings, and also having corpse filled wagons being dragged around. This shows the speaker dislikes war and doesn't think it's worth it because the sad things to come after war. Now if they didn't go to war, she wouldn't have to go through that experience of rebuilding and the loss of loved ones. These are the good things about not going to war and she could possibly live her normal life. The negatives to not going to war is they might have to live under a new government as well. They also could lose their freedom to another country and wouldn't be able to live their normal lives. In the end war is not a great decision for both speakers and they both would rather not go through war but for their freedoms it outweighs their moral decisions.

As far as my ethical beliefs I believe war should be avoided as much as possible because of the outcomes of them such as death of loved ones. The only thing to that is if war is happening we shouldn't be afraid to fight back because if we lose a war we might lose our freedom and live

in fear forever. The Positives of war is if we win then we will appear as a powerful country and my country will get resources from the enemies and this could help the country with our money issues. The negatives of going to war are the usage of nuclear weapons and destroying the earth and killing many people. Also if we lose we will be seen as weak and other countries can take advantage of us when we are down and things will snowball to disaster for us. So I believe we should go to war if the time has come to defend ourselves.

As a kid I had a personal conflict that happened in my life. I was home alone and two robbers showed up at my house and my fight or flight response kicked in. I could of defended myself with a gun or I could of hidden until they left the house. The consequences of fighting is I could have had a man's death on my conscience or maybe I could have been killed. Or If I had hidden and let them destroy the house and steal our things, I would live my life in fear to be alone at my house. These two choices were huge on me but I chose to not have a life on my hand, as a child that can be very traumatic if I had killed someone. So sometimes we just have to make the best decisions in life no matter the outcome of the consequences and will just have to live with these ethical decisions and move one.

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Work Cited

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