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WHY IS AMERICA IN THE WAR?

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For us Swedish-born Americans nothing is more important than to clearly and without doubt know that America has entered the war of free will and with the irrevocably intent to win.

It is not the President who led us into the war nor is it wise capitalists greedy for profits, even if they would be bought with blood. It is the American people, who through their representatives in Congress, have decided to participate in the war and that after careful consideration almost unanimous. The talk, which was heard then and immediately after the declaration of war, that this war not is the people's war, since the issue not was brought to a popular vote, is not heard any longer. Wholly natural, since all at this time has had time to consider that the only and secure in such a serious crises is to act constitutionally.

Assume that when the issue was whether or not to keep the Union in the war with the South it had been brought to a vote to a worried and scared general public. Does anyone doubt that the majority of this scared general population would have neglected to vote no, with such loud voices that all insightful and responsible representatives of the people, among them Lincoln, would have found themselves in a hopeless minority with the result that the Union would be dissolved and then, maybe ten wars later between the different united states of America.? If we believe in democracy during peace times, like the constitution is giving us, would we throw it to the winds in times of war when it is needed the most?

That the American people want this war doesn't mean that they wish for this war or any war. This is, according to the American people, not a wishful war but a war of volition. That is connected to the question why we are participating in the war and does not has its emphasis on the purpose. We express both in the same way, but they are not the same thing.

The difference between this why, based on purposes, and the other, based on the end, is the borders history has drawn between emperors' wars and peoples' wars which has led to increased fights and wars, which has led to the idea of victory for great ideas and to reach new milestones for humanities' walk towards its goal on earth.

All wars, in which the American people have participated, have been of the latter kind. It was the way when Washington was leading. This, our first war, was not lit by the embers of restricted English social authorities, the taxation and other small injustices. It was lit from the fire in free men who had joined here to build a community based on independence.

The same was the case under Lincoln. He was aware that a war can be a godly punishment. He was portrayed as an executioner who enjoyed his bloody profession in the South. But he left this humbly and generously to the almighty. His human and guiding why was the goal: the keeping of the Union. He pulled his sword for what Washington had accomplished.

It is the same now. If this would be just an ordinary argument about what is mine or yours, if it was only about getting revenge for injustices and humiliations, it might be possible to see this as a virtue for the American people, who has suffered and endured more than they could before they finally

pulled the sword. But now we are not in the war mainly based on that and the terrible things that have happened to us and others. Our why is not mainly a purpose or thousands of purposes, but a goal. And the goal is not to get revenge for injustices or pay back but the goal with the war is to make an end to all these purposes, to create peace for the world, which is more than ceasefire and heal the wounds that the war has created.