



CUARTO EJERCICIO TURNO LIBRE

PARTE A

HOW DOES WAR DAMAGE THE ENVIRONMENT

The environmental impact of wars begins long before they do. Building and sustaining military forces consumes vast quantities of resources. These might be common metals or rare earth elements, water or hydrocarbons. Maintaining military readiness means training, and training consumes resources. Military vehicles, aircraft, vessels, buildings and infrastructure all require energy, and more often than not that energy is oil, and energy efficiency is low. The CO₂ emissions of the largest militaries are greater than many of the world's countries combined. We estimate that militaries are responsible for 5.5 % of all greenhouse gas emissions globally, however military emissions reporting to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is poor.

Militaries also need large areas of land and sea, whether for bases and facilities, or for testing and training. Military lands are believed to cover between 1-6% of the global land surface. In many cases these are ecologically important areas. While excluding public development from these areas can benefit biodiversity, the question of whether they could be better managed as civil protected areas is rarely discussed. Military training creates emissions, disruption to landscapes and terrestrial and marine habitats, and creates chemical and noise pollution from the use of weapons, aircraft and vehicles.

Sustaining and renewing military equipment and materiel means ongoing disposal costs, with implications for the environment. It is not just the most hazardous nuclear and chemical weapons that create environmental problems throughout their lifecycle. The same is also true for conventional weapons, particularly where they are disposed of through open burning or detonation. Historically, vast quantities of surplus munitions were also dumped at sea.

A history of weak environmental supervision has left many countries with serious environmental legacies linked to military pollution, with impacts on public health and vast costs for environmental remediation.

Indirectly, high levels of military spending diverts resources away from solving environmental problems and away from sustainable development. International tensions



fed by high levels of military spending also reduce opportunities for international cooperation on global environmental threats, such as the climate emergency. It is also important to consider how security policies and militarism are tailored to ensuring access to, and control of, natural resources like oil, gas, water and metals.

Environmental damage during conflicts

The environmental impact of conflicts themselves vary greatly. Some international armed conflicts may be brief but highly destructive. Some civil wars may last for decades but be fought at low intensity. Many contemporary conflicts have blurred the lines, lasting years but with sustained periods of high intensity warfare. Who is fighting, where they're fighting and how they're fighting all strongly influence the environmental impact of a conflict.

High intensity conflicts require and consume vast quantities of fuel, leading to massive CO₂ emissions and contributing to climate change. Large scale vehicle movements can lead to widespread physical damage to sensitive landscapes and geodiversity, as can the intensive use of explosive ordnance. The use of explosive weapons in urban areas creates vast quantities of debris and rubble, which can cause air and soil pollution.

The loss of energy supplies can have reverberating effects that are detrimental to the environment, shutting down treatment plants or pumping systems, or can lead to the use of more polluting fuels or domestic generators.

Severe pollution incidents can be caused when industrial, oil or energy facilities are deliberately attacked, inadvertently damaged or disrupted. In some cases, deliberate attacks on oil or industrial facilities are used as a weapon of war, to pollute large areas and spread terror. Other damaging techniques include the destruction of agricultural infrastructure like canals, wells and pumps and the burning of crops. Tactics like these threaten food security and livelihoods, increasing the vulnerability of rural communities. Whether unintended or deliberate, these large-scale pollution incidents can lead to transboundary impacts from air pollution or through the contamination of rivers, aquifers or the sea. In some instances, these even have the potential to affect weather or the global climate.



1. When does war start damaging the environment?
 - A. When the fight is in the battlefield.
 - B. Well before the war itself takes place.
 - C. Once the training is over.
 - D. When military troops are equipped.

2. How does the war impact on the environment?
 - A. It impacts on the military activities.
 - B. It impacts because of the military energy consumption.
 - C. It impacts as a result of resources gathered.
 - D. It impacts on account of energy, and resources needed.

3. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. Most military infrastructures and means of transport consume low energy.
 - B. Many of the world's countries together emit less CO₂ than some of the biggest militaries.
 - C. The UN Framework Convention on Climate change receives an accurate annual report of military emissions.
 - D. Greenhouse gas emissions from the military are estimated to be up to 6%.

4. Military facilities require huge extensions of land and sea _____
 - A. For several purposes.
 - B. For training their weapons.
 - C. Only for training their troops.
 - D. For providing shelter to their soldiers.

5. Military lands are _____ important ecological areas.
 - A. Always placed in
 - B. Never located in
 - C. Hardly ever restricted from
 - D. Often forbidden from

6. The use of weapons, aircraft and vehicles _____ for both marine and land habitats.
 - A. Are harmful
 - B. Are harmless
 - C. Are naïve
 - D. Are paired



7. Military equipment and materiel ____
 - A. Is usually recycled.
 - B. Can be reused.
 - C. Is disposable.
 - D. Tend to be repurposed.

8. Most environmental problems are caused by ____
 - A. Both the most hazardous nuclear and chemical weapons
 - B. The most hazardous nuclear and chemical weapons as well as conventional ones alike.
 - C. Conventional weapons lifecycle.
 - D. weapons storage and leakage throughout their lifecycle.

9. What did militaries do with the surplus of munitions?
 - A. They burnt them.
 - B. They exploded them.
 - C. They dropped them into the sea.
 - D. All the above answers are correct.

10. What is the closest in meaning to “remediation” in paragraph 4?
 - A. Compensation.
 - B. Damages.
 - C. Sanitation.
 - D. Recovery.

11. Sustainable development has ____ because of the military spending.
 - A. Decreased.
 - B. Increased.
 - C. Grown.
 - D. Diverted.

12. _____, international cooperation on global environmental threats is reduced.
 - A. Likewise
 - B. Alike
 - C. Unlike
 - D. Likely



13. Armed conflicts _____ from short and destructive _____ long but low intense.
- May range / to
 - May lengthen / from
 - May last /to
 - May continue /from
14. How are high intensity conflicts contributing to climate change?
- Because their large consumption of fuel.
 - Due to they consume large amounts of fuel.
 - Because they consume large amounts of fuel.
 - On account of they consume large amounts of fuel.
15. _____ large scale vehicle movements _____ the intensive use of explosive weapons can lead to damage to sensitive landscapes and geodiversity.
- Not only/but also
 - Both /and
 - Neither /nor
 - Whether /if
16. Air pollution and soil pollution in urban areas can be caused by ____
- The debris and rubble when bombarded.
 - The transportation of explosive weapons through them.
 - Large scale vehicle movements within them.
 - The chaos caused by the destruction.
17. Which statement is false?
- The loss of energy supplies can have long-lasting negative effects to the environment.
 - Population may use more polluting fuels or domestic generators as a result of the loss of energy supplies.
 - Treatment plants or pumping systems are polluting fuel systems.
 - Domestic energy generators could generate a higher amount of pollution.
18. What is the opposite word in meaning to “inadvertently”?
- Accidentally.
 - Intentionally.
 - Casually.
 - By chance.



19. Wells, canals and pumps are mentioned as examples of:
- A. Likely military objectives.
 - B. Sources of livelihood for rural communities.
 - C. Industrial facilities used as weapon of war.
 - D. Military techniques to spread terror and pollute large areas.
20. Transboundary environmental impacts result from:
- A. Damaging sensitive landscapes.
 - B. Air pollution.
 - C. Agricultural infrastructures.
 - D. Pumping systems.