

## **The Wound That Never Closes**

Are wars and conflicts the true source of our collective illness? Not only for the dead, but for the living. Not only in the moment of violence, but in the decades that follow. Every war leaves behind more than rubble. It leaves a pattern. There are the obvious costs: bodies buried, cities burned, histories erased in a single generation. But beneath the surface, something more enduring is created—a social wound that never fully closes. Trauma does not end when the weapons fall silent. It migrates into families, into institutions, into the way a nation learns to survive. Children grow up without parents. Parents grow old without stability. Entire populations inherit fear as a form of education. And then comes the rebuilding. Reconstruction is presented as hope, yet it often arrives wrapped in debt. Loans replace bombs. Conditions replace occupation. A country that has been shattered is told it must now repay its own destruction—beg, borrow, privatize, and exchange what remains of its resources for the thin permission to continue existing. Survival becomes transactional. This is how conflict extends beyond the battlefield. What was once seized by force is later extracted through contracts. What could not be conquered militarily is claimed economically. The war ends, but the hierarchy remains. With hierarchy comes dehumanization. People cease to be citizens and become “refugees.” Nations cease to be sovereign and become “developing markets.” Communities cease to be human and become “reconstruction zones.” The language is clean. The consequences are not. War teaches the world that life is negotiable. That borders are temporary, suffering is strategic, and death can be justified if framed as necessary. Once that lesson is absorbed, it does not stay confined to conflict. It bleeds into policing, into economics, into environmental policy, into how power justifies harm in every other domain. Violence becomes normalized as governance. If trauma were only emotional, perhaps it could heal. But war embeds itself structurally: in debt systems, in political instability, in generational poverty, in the quiet acceptance that some populations will always be sacrificed for “security,” “growth,” or “order.” What remains after the smoke clears is not peace—it is managed survival. So we must ask: Is war merely a tragic event in history? Or is it the operating system beneath the modern world? A mechanism that produces death, justifies extraction, destabilizes identity, and then offers recovery only through dependence? If this is true, then our greatest dystopia is not found in technology, surveillance, or control. It is found in the normalization of conflict as a tool. A civilization that solves problems through destruction will eventually structure itself around rebuilding—endlessly cycling between collapse and control, while calling it progress. And in that cycle, the greatest casualty is not territory. It is meaning. Because when suffering becomes strategy, and survival becomes a transaction, humanity is no longer the purpose of the system. It is simply the cost.