Vanessa N. Rico Martínez*
Illustrations by Bifo Daniel Alejandro**

A History of War and (Peace?) Treaties

War has been a part of human history since time immemorial, but as the saying goes, "time heals all wounds." Several wars are followed by a treaty or promise of peace, a way to resolve disputes diplomatically and bring back stillness. Let us present a few highlights, as a timeline.

Battle of Kadesh (1274 BC).

The military forces of the New Kingdom of Egypt, commanded by Ramesses II, and the Hittite Empire of Muwatalli II vied for control of the city of Kadesh. The peace treaty that followed was the first to be documented.

The Peloponnesian War (460 BC).

Athenians and Spartans signed their peace with the treaty known as "The Thirty Years' Peace" in 446 or 445 BC, ending the war between the Delian League and the Peloponnesian League.

First Punic War (264-241 BC).

In this series of conflicts, Rome and Carthage fought for control over the Mediterranean. The Treaty of Lutatius put an end to it.

Carolingian Civil War (840 AD).

For three years, the sons of Louis the Pious warred over the Carolingian Empire. The Treaty of Verdun divided the empire among Pious's three sons.

Triple Alliance (1428 AD).

As a response to the shift in power in the lake area of central Mexico, the Mexicas (also known as Aztecs) struck an alliance with the peoples of Tetzcoco and Tlacopan: The Triple Alliance.

*Vanessa studies Hispanic Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the National Autonomous University of Mexico; you can contact her at natalyrico33@gmail.com.
**Bifo studies Art at the Faculty of Arts and Design of the National Autonomous University of Mexico; you can contact him at birocse_aup@hotmail.com.
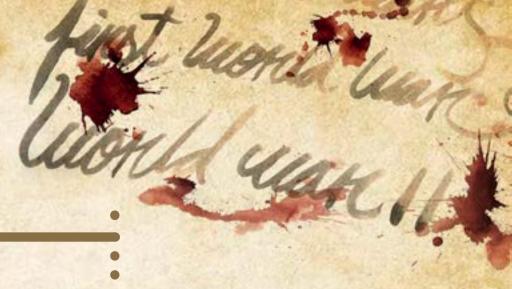
Anglo-Spanish War (1585-1604).

The main battles of this armed conflict between Elizabethan England and Spain under Philip II took place by sea. The war ended with the Treaty of London, after both monarchs had died.

Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).

Numerous kingdoms took part in this battle fought in central Europe. The conflict led to a new geographical distribution and ended with the treaties of the Peace of Westphalia.

War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714):

The death of Charles II originated the conflict of succession to the Spanish throne. The war ceased with the signing of the treaties of the Peace of Utrecht (1713). One of its collateral effects included a dispute between France and England over Canadian territories. France ceded Hudson Bay and Newfoundland to the British in 1715.

American Revolutionary War (1775-1783).

This fight for independence between the Thirteen Colonies on the Atlantic coast of America and the Kingdom of Great Britain culminated with the signing of the Treaty of Paris (1783) and its ratification with Jay's Treaty (1794).

Mexican War of Independence (1810-1821).

The Treaty of Córdoba led to Mexico's independence from Spain. However, Spain made several attempts at reconquest. The conflict didn't cease until 1835, when Spain recognized Mexico as a sovereign nation.

Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815).

These wars encompassed a series of conflicts during the empire of Napoleon I. The Treaty of Paris (1814) put an end to them. The Congress of Vienna following this treaty set a precedent for international law.

War of the Pacific (1879-1883).

This was a war between Chile and the Bolivian-Peruvian alliance after Chile failed to uphold its border Treaty with Bolivia. Although the war ended much earlier, it was not until 1904 that the Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed.

First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895):

The Qing dynasty and Japan fought over control of Korea. This conflict mainly unfolded in the Yellow Sea. The Treaty of Shimonoseki ended this conflict on April 17, 1895.

First World War (1914-1919).

The Great War was the first large-scale international conflict, with four continents involved in the theater. The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

World War II (1939-1945).

Numerous nations from different countries were involved in this conflict. The World was divided in two military alliances: the Allies and the Axis powers. In 1947, the Treaty of Paris, signed by delegates from 21 countries, brought back the peace.

Korean War
(1950-1953).

After a war in Korea, the peninsula was divided into two states, South Korea and North Korea. The conflict ceased with the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953, although disputes continue to this day.

War of the Pacific
(1879-1883).

This was a war between Chile and the Bolivian-Peruvian alliance after Chile failed to uphold its border Treaty with Bolivia. Although the war ended much earlier, it was not until 1904 that the Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed.

National Peace Accord
(1994).

After the South African Border War and the dismantling of the Apartheid, a referendum held in 1993 ended South Africa's racial segregation. In 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected president through South Africa's first democratic elections.

War of the Pacific
(1879-1883).

This was a war between Chile and the Bolivian-Peruvian alliance after Chile failed to uphold its border Treaty with Bolivia. Although the war ended much earlier, it was not until 1904 that the Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed.

Annexation of Crimea
by the Russian Federation
(2014).

Military tensions between Russia and Ukraine led to the annexation of Crimea. This is one of the most impactful conflicts unfolding today, leading to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Minsk agreements temporarily halted the confrontation, but conflict has unfortunately resumed between the two nations today.