Is there really a Winner?

As much as I think we would all like world peace, that's just not a reality. As a world we are constantly in the state of war, and unfortunately, there are no clear winners in war. There are many reasons for this, it kills too many people, it has many psychological effects and wastes much time. With all of these factors that come along with war it is nearly impossible for there to be a winner. So instead of simply telling you why these points are correct I will be using real life experiences from my uncle, Nicolas Ildenfonso Perez (Sergeant in the US Army) and his time spent in Iraq to expand on this belief.

War is a very unfortunate thing for everyone, it kills many innocent people whether they chose to be involved in war or not. It was 2008 in Iraq and my uncle, Sergeant Perez was in a small convoy travelling by armed trucks. The convoy was passing by a small village and soon enough, an attack began. Many rebel soldiers were firing at the trucks. The trucks tried to escape the attack, but were cornered by someone throwing grenades at the convoy. For a while they could not identify who was throwing the grenades, but soon a small shadow emerged from behind two buildings. It was a young child around the age of 9 or 10. The convoy begged the child to stop, and for whatever reason the child would not stop. They were forced to shoot the child. After the child was shot, they searched his pockets and found $20. The rebels had paid the young innocent child to throw grenades at the convoy. We have to understand that this child and many other people really never had the intention to get involved in war. The unfortunate part is they end up losing their lives in the process. Although the convoy

seemed to have won the attack, did they really? They had to shoot an innocent child with no intention of getting involved in war. That is going to be something they will be forced to live with for the rest of their lives and will continue to affect the way they think for the rest of their lives.

Just because a war is "over", doesn't always mean you can just forget about it and move on in life. The psychological effects continue to affect people even after the war is finished. After fifteen long months spent in Iraq, my Uncle Nick returned to his home in Miami, Florida. That night my cousins and aunt had plans to take him out to dinner. As they got to the restaurant my uncle was feeling misplaced. He had tried to dismiss his thoughts, but his feelings kept getting harder and harder to ignore. He was having a difficult time differentiating what was back in Iraq and what was at home. Whenever a waiter or customer would walk or stand behind him, he thought he had to defend himself. Although he was home, his mind was still in Iraq. All of a sudden, my uncle quickly exited the restaurant. After that night, he decided to avoid public areas until he learned how to control the psychological effects that came with his time spent in Iraq. Coming back from war is a difficult thing for many people. Even though the US supposedly won this war. Many people will live their lives with horrific memories of their time spent at war. Not only that but much of that time spent at war was really a waste of time.

As important as war is, it is also a huge waste of time. My uncle was recently telling me about the history of the war he was apart of. In 2003, the USA began their invasion of Iraq to dismantle weapons of mass destruction, which led to the fall of the Iraqi government led by Saddam Hussein. In order to stabilize the Iraqi government, the US army helped establish a democratic government. Although, the US seemed to be successful in the end, they were not. Really if you look at the Iraqi government right now, they are not following the ways of a democratic government. They are right back where they started, and are also supporting and protecting ISIS. Which means a whole lot of time was wasted trying to accomplish something that was never really accomplished in the end. So really, how could the US have won this war?

The definition of a winner is someone that feels they have succeeded over someone else. With all of the innocent people killed, with all of the psychological effects and all the wasted time, I wonder how someone can truly win a war. So I've come to the conclusion that you simply cannot win a war, no matter what side you're on, no matter what side wins, there is no clear winner in war.