

# What game theory teaches us about war

## by Simon Sinek

### WARM-UP

#### 1. Discuss the following questions:

- Are there many ongoing conflicts happening in the world?
- Which fight do you think might be the most dangerous right now?
- To what extent does the USA impact conflicts around the world?
- Do you believe we should have a Global Sheriff?

finite game has a definite beginning and ending, goal and is governed by rules

infinite game has no ending and is played with the goal of continuing to play, rules exist to ensure the game is infinite



### VOCABULARY

#### 2. Fill in the gaps below with one word from the box below:

CAUGHT                      COMMENT                      RUN                      DRAIN  
IMPOSE                      BEAR                      CATS                      TURMOIL

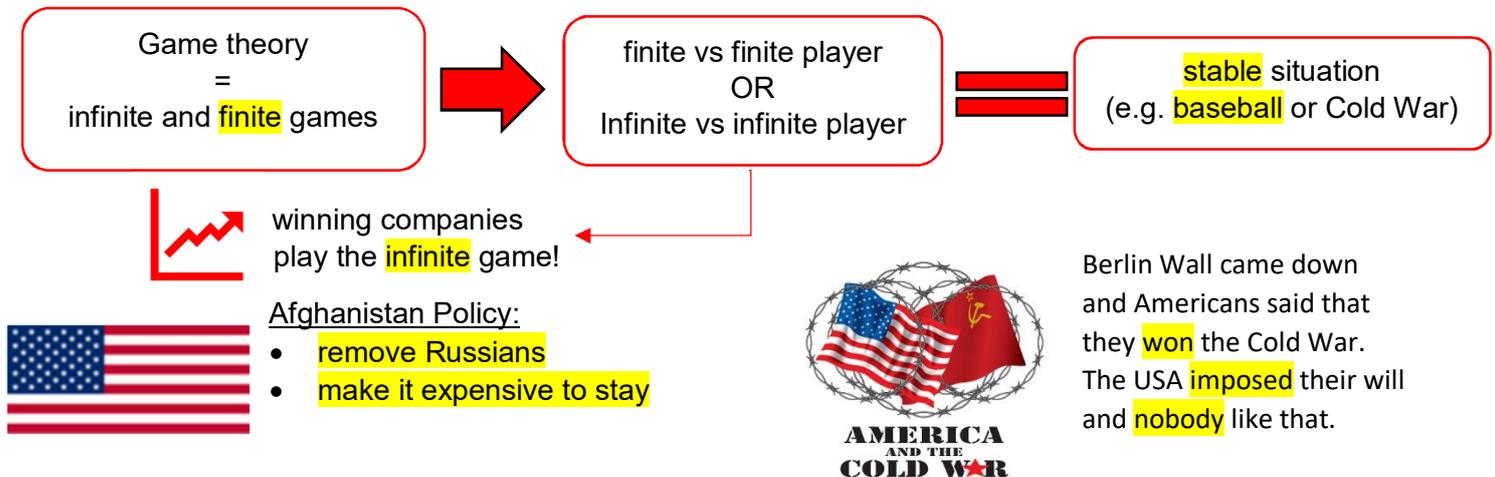
1. In the TURMOIL and chaos of the 1960s, his years in office brought a period of calm, peace, and prosperity.
2. Conditions are getting worse and we might RUN out of food soon.
3. Why should a taxpayer have to BEAR the burden of supporting the unemployed with their hard-earned money.
4. Spain was CAUGHT in an economic quagmire yesterday after its central bank predicted that growth would stop in the third quarter.
5. Americans are sometimes considered to be too aggressive as many other nations feel that they want to IMPOSE their will on them.
6. He shouldn't have made that offhand COMMENT about the host's house. I think it was just not a good time.
7. You cannot wage a war forever because they are a big DRAIN of resources and nobody can afford them for long.
8. We get on very well as adults but as kids we fought like CATS and dogs.

#### 3. Match the definitions to the underlined parts from exercise 2.

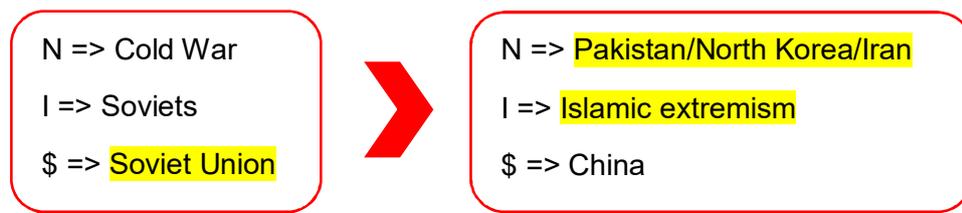
to argue violently all the time (8)	remark expressed without thought/preparation (6)
a gradual outflow or loss; consumption or depletion (7)	to endure something distressing, painful, etc. for the sake of others (3)
to use up the supply of (2)	to get into a difficult/awkward situation (4)
to force sb's opinion/views on sb else (5)	a state of great anxiety and confusion (1)

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## 4. Watch the video and complete the notes from the speech below:



### Tensions



### Run decisions through values and interests:

- healing injured enemies (values > interests)
- torturing (values < interests)

## 5. Retell the speech using the information above.

### DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. What would happen if 'win' and 'lose' are no longer the only options when fighting a war? Do you agree with Sinek's comparison of war as an infinite game.
2. The Americans are losing the War on Terror because their enemies know what they are fighting for while Americans don't.
3. How do you understand Sinek's term Cold War 2.0?
4. Humans will continue to fight and we are coming closer towards another global war.
5. People should run their lives and business decisions first through values rather than interests.