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PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES   
PCS 306  
ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT  
ASSIGNMENT.

Question

Discuss the history and development of arms control as a mechanism to preserve international peace and security.

ANSWER

Arms control can be defined as the mutual agreement signed by potential adversaries to reduce the likelihood of war. While disarmament is a physical reduction in the number of weapons and troops maintained by a state. The major goal of arms control was as a mains to maintain the balance of power in the international system by taking away the means and incentives to fight and wage war   
Arms control came to exist out of the impasse which had developed after world war 1(1914-1918), the league of nations was formed by the great powers to maintain international peace and security between 1934-1945 world war 2 took place due to the failure of the league of nations to prevent German aggression. The united nations took over from the league of nations in 1945 to achieve the aim of maintaining international peace and security, world leaders discovered that to achieve the level of disarmament and arms control they were key arguments that had to be made in the support for arms control

1.The idea of trying to achieve military superiority is pointless in the age of overkill whilst striving for it might provoke dangerous arms race

2. the major effectiveness of arms control agreement is based on mutual self-interest that is it is a win win situation unlike disarmament

3. the major effectiveness of arms control agreement even if slow and uneven this record has been cumulative so that prospects are for further progress.

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5.the supporters of arms control say through proper planning economic difficulties can be easily overcome whilst the vast resources released as a result of arms control can be put into productive use e.g build a hospital

6.it is good propaganda and brings status and respect in the world.

Arms control focuses its goals on all classes of weapons from light weapons to chemical and even nuclear and to achieve the goals of arms control certain agreements where made:

1. Prohibition of use and production of weapons of certain classes and in certain areas e.g civilian areas
2. The hotline agreement of 1962
3. The restraint of qualitative and qualitative growth of nuclear weapons .
4. The Atlantic treaty of 1959 it prohibits the use and deployment of weapons in the arctic region.
5. The outer space treaty of February 1967 it prohibits use and deployments of nuclear weapons in space but prohibits military communication equipment and satellite.

CONCLUSION

Arms control is able to maintain global peace and stability though the use of strategic treaties and agreements, however these are only possible if all parties share a mutual agreement and have a certain level of trust towards each other.