

Source: Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, 1726

Sometimes the ambition of princes, who never think they have land or people enough to govern: sometimes the corruption of ministers, who engage their master in a war, in order to stifle or divert the clamour of the subjects against their evil administration. Difference in opinions has cost many millions of lives: for instance, whether *flesh* be *bread*, or *bread* be *flesh*; whether the juice of a certain berry be *blood* or *wine*; whether *whistling* be a vice or a virtue ... what is the best colour for a coat, whether *black*, *white*, *red*, or *grey*; and whether it should be *long* or *short*, *narrow* or *wide*, *dirty* or *clean*

Sometimes one prince quarrels with another for fear the other should quarrel with him. ... Sometimes our neighbours want the things which we *have*, or have the things which we *want*, and we both fight, till they take ours, or give up theirs. It is a very justifiable cause of a war, to invade a country after the people have been wasted by famine, destroyed by pestilence, or embroiled by factions among themselves. It is justifiable to enter into against our nearest ally, when one of his towns lies convenient for us ... If a prince sends forces into a nation, where the people are poor and ignorant, he may lawfully put half of them to death, and make slaves of the rest, in order to civilize and reduce them for their barbarous way of living.