Why do wars happen?

Starter: Unscramble the words and use them to correctly finish the phrases below.



Complete the task here as you cannot write above.

Key words

Religion – The belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power (God/Gods).

Nationalism – Belief that a country should be independent (allowed to run themselves and not depend on other countries)

Ethnicity – Belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition

Economy – The resources or money a country has

Politics – How a country is governed (run/ruled). Who is in charge

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| **Religion** | **Nationalism and ethnicity** |
| **Economy (money)** | **Politics** |

Although the last world war ended over 60 years ago, wars are still occurring all over the world. There are generally four main reasons for wars happening; there are in the coloured boxes above.

Task 1: Look at the different statements and categorise them by ‘reason for war’.

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| A war might happen when one country feels that another country is treating the followers of their religion badly so they invade the country to protect their fellow religious people | A war might happen when the majority of a city is one religion but the country as a whole is a different religion |
| A war might happen when there are differences within a religion and one religious group attacks the other for having different beliefs | A war might happen when some people believe that a country should only contain people of a certain race/ethnicity |
| A war might happen when one country has resources (items e.g. oil) that another country wants or needs. | A war might happen when countries have had/are having money problems |
| A war might happen when people are unhappy about who is in charge of a country | A war might happen when people are unhappy about how a country is being run |

Task 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Which do you think is the most *common* reason for going to war and why?
2. Can you name any wars/give examples to support your answer?

Plenary

Note down 5 facts that you learnt during this lesson

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