

From Nitrogen Fixation to Water Splitting

In the nineteenth century, Chile, Bolivian and Peruvian got involved in a war (the Saltpeter War) which led to tens of thousands of casualties for something hard to believe nowadays, the Guano. This mineral is mostly composed of animal excrement and was the major source of nitrogen compounds at that time. Such a war is ridiculous for us nowadays since we can use the Haber-Bosch process to harvest nitrogen compounds by fixing nitrogen gas in the air. This case shows us how chemists make our world peaceful. • • •