

Y8 ETHICS: Is war ever just?

Just war: a war which is declared for right and noble reasons and fought in a certain way.

Righteous anger: using one's anger in a way that is thoughtful and controlled to bring about justice or to protect the weak.

Pacifism: opposition to war, militarism, or violence.

Jihad: the Islamic word for struggle. All Muslims have a daily struggle or Jihad to make society perfectly Muslim.

Greater Jihad: struggling with yourself and your desires.

Lesser Jihad: the struggle with forces outside yourself by means of war.

What are the rules/limits for Muslims?

1. It must be a **last resort**.
2. It must be authorised and led by a **Muslim authority**.
3. It must be fought in such a way as to cause the **minimum amount of suffering**.
4. **Innocent civilians** must not be attacked.
5. It must be ended as soon as **the enemy lays down arms**.



What does the Qur'an say?

The recompense for an injury is an injury equal there to in degree; but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from God. **Surah, Qur'an 42:40**

Let those fight in the way of Allah who sell the life of this world for the other. Who so fighteth in the way of Allah, be he slain or be he victorious on him, we shall bestow a vast reward. **Qur'an 4:74**

What does the Bible say?

'Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called Children of God'
Matthew 5:9

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.
Ecclesiastes 3:8

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

developed the first Christian just war theory.

Aquinas's conditions for a Just War – jus ad bellum

- The war must have a **just cause** - eg against invasion, or for self-defence - and not to acquire wealth or power.
- The war must be declared and controlled by a **proper authority**, eg the state or ruler.
- The war must be fought to **promote good or avoid evil**, with the aim of restoring peace and justice after the war is over.

Later conditions developed by other Christians - jus in bello

- The war must be a **last resort** when all peaceful solutions have been tried and failed, eg negotiation.
- The war should be fought with 'proportionality', with **just enough force** to achieve victory and only against **legitimate targets**, ie civilians should be protected.
- **The good which is achieved by the war must be greater than the evil which led to the war.**

Sawm –Fasting and piritual Discipline

- Muslims fast everyday during the month of Ramadan.
- They do not eat or drink anything during the day.
- This is to help them think of those who are less fortunate.

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