

	Definition
Conflict	Dispute between sides, can be between individuals, groups or nations.
Forgiveness	Letting go of blame against a person for wrongs they have done; moving on.
Holy War	War that is believed to be sanctioned by God.
Justice	Bringing fairness back to a situation.
Just War	Set of rules for fighting a war in a way believed to be justified and acceptable to God.
Nuclear weapons/war	A weapon of mass destruction which causes widespread damage and loss of life. Nuclear war would be a war fought using these weapons.
Pacifism	Belief that all violence is wrong, which then affects all behaviours.
Peace	The opposite of war; harmony between all in society.
Peace-making	Working to bring about peace and reconciliation.
Protest	A statement or action to express disagreement; can be an organised event to demonstrate disagreement with a policy or political action
Reconciliation	Making up and rebuilding relationships between two groups/sides after disagreement.
Retaliation	To pay someone back for their harmful actions.
Terrorism	Use of violence and threats to intimidate others; used for political purposes to build fear in the ordinary population and to secure demands from Government.
Violence	Behaviour involving physical force which intends to hurt, kill or cause damage.
Weapons of Mass Destruction	Weapons which cause widespread, indiscriminate damage (e.g. nuclear, chemical, biological)

War


War is an organised conflict usually consisting of intense violence carried out by one state or states against another state or states.

What are the **causes** of conflict?

The causes of any war are complex. Wars are rarely about just one thing. Often they are declared because:



- A country seeks to **gain more land or resources**
- A country needs to **defend itself** against an invader
- A country is honouring an **alliance** agreement they have with another country
- A country needs to **overthrow a dictator**
- A country is seeking domination or **political control**

War can also occur internally within a state between organised groups. This is known as **civil war**.




Peace

Freedom from war and violence, especially when people live and work together happily without disagreements.

Peace is valued and is treated as a goal for most religions. Jesus in the Bible is referred to as the 'Prince of Peace'. He aimed to heal divisions between communities and exemplified a non-violent approach towards conflict.

Weapons of Mass Destruction





A weapon of mass destruction is a weapon designed to cause mass destruction; e.g. to kill thousands of people. There are three types of weapons of mass destruction:

- 1- Chemical Weapons:** a toxic chemical designed to injure/kill people. (e.g. mustard gas used in WWII)
- 2- Biological weapons:** harmful viruses and bacterial diseases that are cultivated to cause destruction to populations, animals and crops. (e.g. anthrax)
- 3- Nuclear weapons:** a bomb or missile that uses nuclear energy to cause an explosion. (e.g. the atomic bomb)

In 1945 the first nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. This one small bomb killed about 150,000 people within the first four months. The immediate impact was 60,000 deaths but the rest were a result of radiation sickness. A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki nine days later and Japan surrendered, ending World War Two. Since then, no power has used an atomic bomb in war, though many tests have been carried out on them. The smallest nuclear bomb now produced is about 20 times more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima.

Just War Theory

What is the Just War theory?

The **Just War theory** was first developed by **St Thomas Aquinas**. Aquinas was one of the most influential **theologians** of the last 1,000 years. The theory set out conditions against which to judge whether or not a war should be waged (**ius ad bellum**) and if it could be justified, and how it should be waged (**ius in bello**).

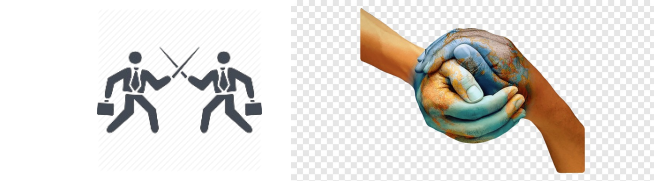
1. The war must have a **just cause** – e.g. against invasion, or for self-defence - and not to acquire wealth or power.
2. The war must be declared and controlled by a **proper authority**, e.g. the state or ruler.
3. The war must be fought to **promote good** or avoid evil, with the aim of restoring peace and justice after the war is over.
4. The war must be a **last resort** when all peaceful solutions have been tried and failed, e.g. negotiation.
5. The war should be fought with '**proportionality**', with just enough force to achieve victory and only against legitimate targets, i.e. civilians should be protected.
6. The **good which is achieved** by the war **must be greater than the evil** which led to the war.

Holy War

Holy War: fighting for a religious cause or God, often inspired by a religious leader.

- Fought for God or faith
- Must be the last resort – the enemy must have the opportunity to make peace.
- Believers are obligated to fight.
- Must be conducted fairly – just treatment of the enemy.
- Justice and peace should be restored.

Religion, Peace and Conflict



<u>For Nuclear Weapons</u> ✓	<u>Against Nuclear Weapons</u> ✗
The possession of nuclear weapons has kept the major world powers from coming to war since 1955, out of fear of what might happen (mutually assured destruction).	Their destructive power is immense and long lasting. Even countries that have nothing to do with the war will be badly affected. Some people estimate that a small nuclear war could wipe out human life on Earth.
The knowledge of nuclear weapons cannot be removed. It is preferable for the major powers to have these bombs for deterrence than for an unstable dictator to use them in war.	They are very costly to develop and maintain. The money could be spent on raising everybody's quality of life
Justifiable to use them in retaliation: <i>"an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life."</i>	<i>"Thou shall not kill"</i>

Pacifism

Pacifists reject all violence. They do not think that conflict should be dealt with by resorting to war. They think that other peaceful methods should be used. Biblically, there is a lot of support for pacifism.

The early Christians interpreted Jesus' **commandments** to mean that they could not fight in wars or be violent. In the Gospel of **Matthew**, Jesus said:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

In addition to this, the ten commandments clearly state:

"Thou shall not Kill"

If ALL human life is God-given and sacred, then, clearly to take human life would be wrong. [Sanctity of Life]

The **QUAKERS** are a pacifist denomination of Christianity.

HINDUISM:
AHIMSA- non-violence
 Killing = **bad karma**
 Ghandi- an example of pacifism



Victims of War

The main victims of war include:

- servicemen and women who lose their lives or are injured
- civilians who lose their lives or are injured
- civilians who have their families, homes and way of life damaged or destroyed
- damage to the country's infrastructure, e.g. roads and bridges destroyed
- refugees who have to flee their country of birth to find safety



How Christians help victims of war

Many Christian charities work around the world in countries affected by war. **CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)** is an example of a Christian charity that helps people in countries affected by war and natural disasters.

Some of the things that CAFOD does to help victims of war include:

- helping to **rehabilitate** children who have fought as soldiers in war, offering them education, counselling and support
- attempting to bring together warring groups to find alternative ways of dealing with conflict
- providing **refugees** fleeing conflict with emergency aid, such as food, shelter and cooking equipment

CAFOD
Just one world

Religion, Peace and Conflict



Terrorism

Acts that are intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organisation.

Reasons **FOR**:

Terrorists often claim they are:

- Fighting for God ✓
- Fighting for social injustice
- Fighting because their wishes aren't heard any other way.

Reasons **AGAINST**:

- Target innocent people ✗
- Murder is wrong under all religious law
- Their causes are illegitimate

Most Christians are against terrorism and prefer more peaceful ways of resolving issues

- *'Do not kill'*
- *'Blessed are the peacemakers'*
- *'Love your enemies and pray for them'*



Peace-making

The action of trying to establish peace, and a peacemaker is someone who works to establish peace in the world or in a certain part of it.

Christian pacifists follow Jesus example and teaching:

- *'blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.'*
- Mairhead Corrigan and Betty Williams – A Catholic and Protestant from Northern Ireland who formed the 'Peace People' organisation in 1976.
- Organised peace marches and other events throughout the UK to bring Catholics and Protestants together to call for peace between both sides in Northern Ireland.
 - Awarded the 1976 Nobel peace prize.



United Nations

The United Nations

What is the role of the United Nations?

- The **United Nations** was set up in 1945 after World War Two.
- It currently consists of 193 member states, including the UK.
- It was designed to stop wars between countries and provide a meeting place where countries could discuss their problems and hopefully come to an agreement.
- The aim is to reduce the chance of wars happening and to help resolve issues before a declaration of war is felt necessary.

Freedom Fighters

A freedom fighter is a person who takes part in a revolutionary struggle to achieve a political goal, especially in order to overthrow their government.

Some people regard Nelson Mandela as a freedom fighter as he fought to stop the injustices waged against black people under the apartheid in South Africa during the 1940s.

Mandela set up a military wing of the ANC, the Spear of the Nation and began bombing infrastructure to avoid human casualties but the organisation he helped to found would later go on to kill hundreds of people.

Some would argue that a violent approach is sometimes necessary in order to establish the 'greater good'

