

What are the key elements of peace and conflict?

**War:** fighting between nations to resolve issues between them.

**Peace:** an absence of conflict, which leads to happiness and harmony.

**Justice:** bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law or making up for a wrong that has been committed.

**Forgiveness:** showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.

**Reconciliation:** The restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down.

When might violence be used?

\*War \* Revenge \*Self defence \*Protest



Why do people go to war?

**Greed-** In modern times wars caused by greed are often focused on gaining control of important resources. Eg. Oil. This will often mean the rich and powerful become more powerful and it can cause poverty in the defeated country as their source of income is taken away. ☹️

**Self Defence -** If a country is under attack, it seems reasonable for them to defend themselves or to help other countries under threat. For example, in WW2 the UK fought to defend itself against Nazi invasion and to defeat what it saw as an evil threat to the whole of Europe. Ultimately, self-defence can be seen as a reasonable reason for war as its aim is to gain peace and avoid harm. In Judaism, self-defence is also supported ESPECIALLY if Israel is under attack. 😊

**Retaliation-** Wars are sometimes fought in retaliation against a country that is deemed to have done something very wrong. Retaliation is deliberately causing harm to someone who has harmed you.

It is a spiteful action to punish an enemy. ☹️



Is violence ever acceptable? Protest and terrorism.

- **Protest:** an expression of disapproval, often in a public group.
- **Violence:** using actions that threaten or harm others.
- **Terrorism:** the unlawful use of violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal.

**In the UK, the law permits individuals and groups to protest in public to demonstrate their point of view.**

Why do people protest?

- ✓ There has been an injustice. (eg. Black Lives Matter protests 2020) or to show compassion to those facing injustice.
- ✓ Defending their faith if attacked.
- ✓ To bring about change. (Eg Suffragettes marches for women's vote)

Christian role model for peaceful protest= Martin Luther King Jr.



Is violence ever acceptable? Peaceful Protest and terrorism.

Quote	How does this quote support peace?
"Love thy neighbour as yourself" Leviticus 19:18 Mark 12:31	Treat people how you want to be treated- peacefully.
"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Psalms 34:14	Peace is the ideal we ought to be working towards.

Peaceful protests can lead to great changes to help society become more fair and hopefully more peaceful.

However, and extreme and violent version of protest is terrorism. Eg. Manchester arena bombings.

It kills/ harms innocent people so would not be supported by Jews and Christians "Do not kill" Exodus 20:13



Is it ever acceptable to use nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction?

**Nuclear weapons:** weapons that work by nuclear reaction; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. 1945- USA dropped two atom bombs on Japan- Hiroshima & Nagasaki. Death toll= 200k +

☹️ It goes against the sanctity of life- all life is holy as it is created loved by God. Life should not be abused. Mass killing and injury is abusing God's sacred creation.

☹️ Goes against the pacifist message of Jesus. "Love thy neighbour as yourself"

☹️ The death toll/ injury caused is disproportionate to the gain/ benefit. "Do not murder".

☹️ The possession of WMD can act as a deterrent

- prevents enemy attack.



What is a just war?



A war, which meets internationally, accepted criteria for fairness. Essentially, it is a checklist of conditions that must be met in order for a war to be fair and acceptable.

- Just means- No civilians should be involved and no deliberate unnecessary cruelty.
- Just cause- Started for a fair reason, like self defence, not being greedy for money or land.
- Correct Authority- War should be declared by a proper authority such as a government or King.
- Reasonable chance of success- must be possible to win.
- Proportional force- Only the amount of force required to win should be used, no more.
- Last resort- Everything else should be tried, such as diplomatic discussion, before you go to war.
- Intention= Establish good. The war must be being fought in order to achieve a good consequence or to fight evil.

What is a holy war?

Fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader. It might be to spread the faith, avenge a blasphemous act or rescue individuals of that faith. Those taking part might believe that they will get a spiritual reward.

Example- The Crusades. A holy war fought by Christians to recapture holy land from Muslims. It was fought from 1095- 1291. The first crusade was started by Pope Urban II.



However, do religions cause violence?

No- The teachings of Jesus make it clear that violence is not justified and will lead to your death. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Matthew 26:52

Yes- In the past there have been tensions between Protestants and Catholics. The Troubles- Northern Ireland 1968-1998. Very much interlinked with politics.

What is pacifism and peacemaking?

Pacifism:

- ✓ War and violence can rarely or never be justified
- ✓ It is best to prevent war from becoming a possibility by promoting justice and peace.
- ✓ Prayer and meditation can help people to be at peace with themselves and others.
- ✓ Quakers a Christian denomination that strongly supports pacifism.
- ✓ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God". Matthew 5:9

**Peacemaking:** Peace is not just an absence of war; it is a sense of wellbeing and security. It is important to resist oppression and injustice in non violent ways to help create a just and equal world where conflict is not necessary.

Eg. The Peace People Mairead Corrigan & Betty Williams



How should we treat victims of war?



How are people impacted by war?

- ❖ Death, grief, financial struggle, Starvation Displacement/ homelessness, PTSD.
- ✓ "Love thy neighbour as yourself" - Treat people how you want to be treated. If you were a victim of war, you would want care and compassion.
- ✓ The Parable of the Good Samaritan- Everyone is your neighbour regardless of race, age, gender, politics and you should help them if they need support.
- ✓ Pikuash Nefesh- In Judaism you are obliged to save a life if you can, even if it means breaking other mitzvot. This will include helping victims of war, as all life is sacred.

Christian Aid- Set up in 1940 with the aim to end poverty, including poverty caused by war. They support local organisations because they believe local people are they likely to be the best people for the job. Recent campaigns have raised awareness of refugees.