

War and Peace knowledge organiser

Key words

Key Word	Definition
Conscientious objector	Someone who refuses to engage in military service or go to war with weapons, because doing so would conflict with deeply held personal beliefs. These can be based on religion or experience, or moral and ethical considerations.
Holy War	A war in which religion is a driving factor.
Jihad	Struggle.
Just	Fair - so it is fair to go to war if certain conditions are met.
Just War Theory	The belief that war is acceptable if it meets certain conditions.
Nuclear weapons	Weapons that work by nuclear reaction.
Pacifism	The belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other violence
Peace	Freedom from conflict. A time when there is no war.
Peacemaker	A person who works to make peace in the world or in a certain part of it.
Peace-making	The action of trying to make peace.
War	A state of armed conflict.
Weapons of mass destruction	Weapons that can kill large numbers of people and / or do cause great damage.

Should we go to war?

Positive consequences of war

The end of evil and peace: there is a winner, fighting ends

Negative consequences of war

Death/ Destruction/ Mental Illness/Loss of education/ Disease



Just War Theory

Civilians: No civilians should be involved and no deliberate unnecessary cruelty.

Proper authority: War should be declared by a proper authority such as a government or King.



Establish good: The war must be being fought in order to achieve a good consequence or to fight evil.

Last resort: Everything else should be tried before you go to war.

Just: Started for a fair reason.

Reasonable chance of success: It should be possible to win.

Sufficient force: Only the amount of force required to win should be used, no more.

The Bible and War

In favour of war: "Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. Beat your plow shares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, "I am strong!" Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, LORD!" (Joel 3: 9-11)

Against war: The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..."



Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)



Against WMD

They are very costly to develop and maintain.

There is no effective protection against them, nor can people control who has access to them.

Their destructive power is immense and long lasting

'You shall not murder' (one of the commandments)

In favour of WMD

The possession of them has kept the major world powers from going to war since 1955, out of fear of what might happen.

It is preferable for the major powers to have these bombs for deterrence than for an unstable dictator to use them in war.



Jihad

Lesser Jihad: Fighting in SELF DEFENCE against those who have harmed them or tried to deprive them of their faith.

Greater Jihad: A struggle against oneself to become closer to God, be a law abiding citizen and be the best possible Muslim.

The value of peace

- ✓ Stops suffering.
- ✓ The negative consequences of war stop.
- ✓ Allows time for people to develop respectful relationships with others.
- ✓ People feel safe.
- ✓ Can spend time looking after others in need.



"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone" Hebrews 12:14



Key examples of pacifists/peacemakers

A Christian role model for peace: Archbishop Desmond Tutu/ Desmond Doss.