

Principles of a Just War

- ✓ A just war is waged only as a last resort.
- ✓ Only a legitimate authority can wage a just war. Only an authority sanctioned by whatever the society and those outside the society deem legitimate can serve a just cause.
- ✓ A just war only is waged to redress a wrong or injury. Self-defense against an armed force is a just cause.
- ✓ A just war is fought with “right” intentions.
- ✓ There is a reasonable chance for success. Deaths and injuries are not morally justified in a hopeless cause.
- ✓ The goal is to reestablish peace.
- ✓ The violence used is proportional to the injury suffered.
- ✓ The use of weapons distinguishes between combatants and noncombatants.

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Digging Deeper: Types of Military Action

Since the larger question of what justifies war might prove too daunting at times for students to address, a more focused and concrete question is what justifies the use of certain military tactics.

<i>Types of Military Action</i>	<i>U.S. History</i>	<i>World History</i>
Biological Warfare	Delivery of smallpox infected blankets to Native Americans by Lord Amherst.	Catapulting of anthrax infected cows over castle walls during a siege.
Chemical Warfare	Use of napalm during Viet Nam War	Use of "Greek fire" at Constantinople (1453) & Mustard gas during WWI
Economic Warfare	Blockade of Confederate ports by Union ships.	British naval blockade of German coast & sinking of freighters by German subs
Environmental Warfare	General Sherman's "March to the Sea" during Civil War.	Salting of the earth around the city of Carthage.
Attack on Civilians	Firebombing of Dresden during WWII & burning of Atlanta during Civil War.	Siege warfare – Athenian blockade of Syracuse