

Theme D - Peace and conflict

Reasons for war

Causes of war

Greed

The selfish desire for something, such as land or resources.

Britain declared war on Germany in 1939 because Germany invaded Poland in a desire for more land.

Christians are against war that is caused by greed - "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

Sikhs are against war that is caused by greed, as greed is a moral evil.

Retaliation

Deliberately invading a country because they have harmed you.

The USA invaded Afghanistan in 2001 because the Afghan government supported and helped Al-Qaeda, who carried out the 9/11 terrorist attack.

Christians are against war as retaliation - "Do not repay anyone evil for evil... If it is possible... live at peace with everyone."

Self- defence

Acting to prevent harm to yourself or others.

In 1991 the USA and UK declared war on Iraq to defend Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion.

Sikhism accepts war as an act of self- defence - "When all other methods have failed it is permissible to draw the sword."

Religion and war

Attitudes to holy war

Some Christians accept holy war. The Old Testament has examples of holy war, and the Just War criteria were written to allow Christians to fight in a holy war when told to by their rulers

Other Christians do not accept holy war because violence is never justified - "All who draw the sword die by the sword."

Sikhism accepts holy war because Sikhs are expected to fight in defence of justice and their religion - "Having taken the baptism of the sword, [they would be] firmly attached to the sword." Sikhs fought holy wars against the Moghul Empire during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Religion as a cause of war

Differing religious views have led to conflict, e.g. The Crusades, conflicts between Sikhs and the (Muslim) Mughal rulers of India, and the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

However, these conflicts have also been to do with power, land and self-defence, and religion has been exploited to further support.

Both Christianity and Sikhism teach that war to defend your religion is acceptable if it is a last resort.

Sikhism - "When all other methods have failed it is permissible to draw the sword."

The Just War theory

Initially a Christian idea about whether a war is fair, and therefore whether a Christian can fight in it.

Now it seeks to lay out the conditions to ensure fighting a war is justifiable. It also provides rules on how the war should be fought.

Last resort: only going to war if all other methods have been tried first

It must be declared by the correct **authority**, such as the government.

Just **cause:** fought in self defence or to protect others

Just **intention:** fought to promote good and defeat wrongdoing

There should be a reasonable chance of **success**.

Proportional force should be used to achieve success, and excessive force should not be used.

Just **means:** Innocent people and civilians must not be targeted or harmed.

Modern wars are expected to obey internationally agreed conventions on the conduct of war, such as the Geneva Convention.

Attitudes to the Just War theory

Many Christians accept the Just War theory because it provides rules to make war fair.

However, others say that modern warfare and weapons make a just war impossible - "It is impossible to conceive of a just war in a nuclear age." Pope John Paul II

Geneva Convention

Legal agreements about how war should be fought

Holy war

Fighting for a religious cause or God

Justice

Bringing about what is right and fair

Just war

A war which is considered fair

Retaliation

Deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you

Violence

Using actions that threaten or harm others

Theme D - Religion, peace and conflict

Violence and terrorism

Attitudes to violence

Attitudes to using violence to achieve an aim

Christians are generally against war - "Those who live by the sword die by the sword."

But Christianity accepts conflict can be necessary but only if it is a last resort and it meets all the Just War criteria.

Sikhs have a duty to fight for justice and to protect minorities - "A true warrior is one who fights for the downtrodden, the weak and the meek."

But war should be a last resort and fought in a just manner - "When all other methods have failed it is permissible to draw the sword."

Attitudes to violent protest

Christians believe it is important to use peaceful ways to solve problems - "Blessed are the peacemakers".

However violent protest can be used to force change if peaceful protest as been ignored. For example, Jesus drove the money changers and traders from the temple using a whip.

Sikhs are willing to fight for justice as long as the intention is peaceful. They accept that violence can and does happen, but it should always be a last resort - "When all other methods have failed it is permissible to draw the sword."

Attitudes to terrorism

Examples of terrorist attacks

Finsbury Park attack (2017)

Manchester Arena bombing (2017)

Warrington bombing (1993)

Christian attitudes to terrorist attacks

Christians believe that terrorism is wrong. It does not meet the just war criteria. The violence is not carried out by a government, and the force used is often not proportional. It also deliberately harms innocent people.

A Christian would prefer more peaceful ways of solving issues - "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Sikh attitudes to terrorist attacks

Sikhs believe that terrorism is wrong because it deliberately harms innocent people. The Sikh Just War theory says that only those who are carrying weapons and threatening life can be attacked.

Sikhs believe in the oneness of humanity, so people should be tolerant of each other and their beliefs.

A Sikh would prefer more peaceful ways of solving issues.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)

Types of WMDs

Biological weapons: using living organisms (such as bacteria or viruses) to cause disease or death.

Chemical weapons: using chemicals to harm humans and destroy the natural environment.

Nuclear weapons: using a nuclear reaction to create an explosion that devastates huge areas and kills large numbers of people.

Agree with possession of nuclear weapons but not their use

Some Christians accept countries possessing nuclear weapons, but only if they are possessed as a deterrent to others. They could only be used in retaliation for a nuclear attack - "If there is a serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth..."

Disagree with the possession and use of nuclear weapons

Many Christians believe they could still be used even if possessed as a deterrent - "All who draw the sword die by the sword."

The Anglican Church teaches that any use of nuclear weapons would violate the sanctity of life.

Many Sikhs worry that the Punjab (where many Sikhs live) could suffer in a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan (both possess nuclear weapons). Sikhs try to avoid taking sides - "No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with everyone."

Nuclear deterrent

Owning nuclear weapons to dissuade other countries from using them

Protest

A public expression of disapproval

Retaliation

Deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you

Terrorism

Using violence to achieve a political goal

Violence

Using actions that threaten or harm others

WMDs

Weapons that can kill large numbers of people and cause lots of damage

Theme D - Religion, peace and conflict

Making peace

Key ideas

Peace

The absence of war and the creation of harmony after a war.

Christians believe that God will bring peace - "He will... settle disputes for many people."

Justice

Bringing about what is right and fair and making up for a wrong that has been committed.

Some wars are fought to bring justice, and Sikhs are encouraged to fight for justice - "A true warrior is one who fights for the downtrodden, the weak and the meek."

Forgiveness

Showing mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong. It is important to forgive after a war, to bring about reconciliation.

Christians are encouraged to forgive others - "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Seventy-seven times."

Reconciliation

Trying to restore a friendly relationship after conflict or disagreement. Successful reconciliation can ensure that fighting does not resume.

Christians believe that people who bring about reconciliation will be blessed by God - "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Pacifism

Pacifism is the belief that war and violence can never be justified, and that conflicts should be settled in a peaceful way.

Jesus taught his followers to be peaceful - "Put away your sword. Those who live by the sword die by the sword."

All the earliest Christians were pacifists and many Christians today are pacifists. Pope John Paul II told Catholics "Everyone must commit themselves to peace."

Quaker attitudes to pacifism

Quakers are a pacifist group within Christianity.

They refuse to participate in violence and oppose all wars and fighting, saying they are following the true teaching of Jesus.

During World War I some Quaker men took a non-fighting role, such as an ambulance driver or medic. However, many more were sent to prison for refusing to fight in the war or to help the war effort in any way.

Quakers are committed to peace-making, and have an office at the UN where they often mediate between countries to prevent or solve conflict.

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

Working for peace

Individuals working for peace

The Corymeela Community in Northern Ireland was set up to reconcile Protestants and Catholics during and after the Northern Irish civil war (the Troubles). It now works with communities around the world to create reconciliation after conflict.

Mairead Corrigan (a Catholic), Betty Williams and Ciaran McKeown formed the Peace People organisation to show that people wanted peace in Northern Ireland. After the Troubles were largely resolved Corrigan campaigned for world peace and human rights.

These Christians are following the teaching "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Supporting the victims of war

Caritas is a Catholic charity with the mission to serve the poor and promote charity and justice across the world.

Since 2015 they have provided food and shelter for refugees fleeing war in Syria. They also provide translators and legal services for the refugees, so they know their rights and options in order to make informed decisions about their future.

Christians who support and work with Caritas are acting on Jesus' teaching to "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Forgiveness

Pardoning someone for what they have done

Justice

Bringing about what is right and fair

Pacifism

The belief that war and violence are always wrong

Peace

An absence of conflict leading to happiness and

Quakers

A pacifist group within Christianity

Reconciliation

Individuals or groups restore friendly relations