

A Just War  
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Father Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

1. Definition: St. Thomas Aquinas

- a) Must be on the authority of the sovereign.
- b) The cause must be 'just'
- c) Purpose must be the advancement of good or the avoidance of evil.

2. Modern interpretation: add: proportionality. Ie. don't drop a nuclear bomb on a village. Assessment must be that likely result would produce something better. Innocent people would suffer otherwise.

Judgements have to be made.

When do you go to war?

What is a feasible battle to fight?

Freedom? Who has lost it?

Ask in last war Channel Islands, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, France if they welcomed German domination.

17. In post war carve up – Could not help everybody Eastern block suffered, invasion of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, etc.

3. Beware 'peace movements' in old Soviet Block – not independent of Communist parties.

4. Debate: legitimacy of use of force, and the kind of force.

5. In certain circumstances Morally defensible and even praiseworthy to exercise force to maintain the authority of law

Lord Skidelsky

6. By using force you are preventing worse things happening.

7. You would be justified to use force to stop genocide;

8. War is justified for self defence; to stop an aggressor or would be aggressor.

9. Murky territory: internal disputes/insurrection ie. Kosovo

Must rethink : broke all international laws by intervening.

NATO's doctrine – defensive alliance, threatens no one.

UN did not sanction.

Role of world's policemen needs to be redefined.

Where does peacemaking ie. war ie Kosovo become peacekeeping ie. Bosnia and post Kosovo.

10. Why not Chechnya? Ans. Far away. Russia is a superpower with nuclear weapons.

10. No alternative to a criminal/aggressive war Nazis 1939.

11. We should be prepared to defend ourselves/allies

12. Legitimacy of Falklands/Kuwait not an issue.

Father William Sayer

13. War is bloody hell. Wasteful, destructive. Shattered bodies, lives. Many who live through the experience carry the scars for life.

14. In war men are known to achieve a nobility and courage they never knew they had.

15. Burke: For evil to triumph, good men must do nothing.

Do you give in to a bully?

If you do, bully gets worse.

Terrorism is a new dimension

16. Wars are the art of the possible. Imperfect world, cannot take on everyone. Accept

Double standards. Judgements have to be made.

17. Calculation: can you win.

18. Will intervention prevent situation from getting worse?

19. Since 1945 over 150 wars world wide – dozens now.

UN intervened Malaysia, Korea, Kenya, Aden, Cyprus, Bosnia, Middle East, etc. trying to create space for populations to come to an agreement. UN has achieved humanitarian success but less so in outcomes.