

Doctrine of a Just War

1. In a just war a legitimate authority must declare the conflict. In America, the president cannot declare war without the consent of Congress.
2. A just war is one in which force is the last resort.
3. A just war is that war which should be waged to resist a grave injustice.
4. A just war honors moral boundaries. The Hague Convention (1899, 1907), the United Nations Charter (1945), the Geneva Convention (1949) and the Nuremberg Principles (1946 – 1950) have brought a measure of accountability to modern day wars. International law has ruled out the use of poison gas, biological warfare, rape, scientific experiments and genocide.
5. A just war is one that is terminated as soon as justice (not victory) is secured.
6. In a just war the terms of peace must be equitable.
7. A just war requires a reasonable assurance of success.
8. In a just war, the principle of proportionality must be observed. A nuclear bomb should not be used in regional conflicts.