

Justification of War

Aim: to explore and debate the justifications of war , and the rules that may surround acts of war

PLAN - Possible Rules of War:

- Value civilian life of both sides of conflict – do not, intentionally or unintentionally, cause civilian casualties or injuries.
- Value the life of soldiers on BOTH sides of conflict – do not cause casualties unless absolutely necessary, for instance if a civilian life is at stake.
- Do not target the vulnerable – injured soldiers or pilots are not a threat.
- Protect those not fighting, for instance medical aids.
- Do not harm those already in custody.
- Attempt to cause no further harm than the conflict requires.

Possible to United Nations:

Good Morning, esteemed members of the United Nations,

I would say it is a privilege to be addressing you today, but the matter in question of which I mean to speak is no pleasant one. I am hoping for a more agreeable outcome than the events that spurred on this speech. I am talking, of course, of the recent conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. This war, though declared an Azerbaijani victory in November, holds many unresolved issues, such as the attack on a local church in the town of Shushi. The armed conflicted has, in history, violated many of our rules of war and I regret to state that the recent tragic death of three journalists in the second strike on the church not the first war crime in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war

This conflict is by no means the first to violate, and three civilian casualties pale in comparison to the millions of lives lost in modern wars, but it shows us that the rules currently in place are not enforced effectively. Militant forces killing civilians is a horrific example of why we need this change. Please, consider my rules as a way to ensure that wars are kept fair, unharmed to those who should be kept safe and most importantly are able to come to an end as soon as possible

Reasons why war is justifiable:

- Countries may see dictators in other countries using totalitarianism as a system of ruling.
- There may be a population that is under threat from their leader and no longer has rights.

Reasons why war is not justifiable:

- Armed conflicted more often than not causes mass casualties of both civilians and soldiers.
- The rules of war put in place to prevent this are almost always violated.

Religion vs Economy – top reasons for war

Economic Gain – Wars caused by one country's want to take away another country's wealth.

- All wars almost always have economic gain as an underlying motive for conflict.
- The Anglo-Indian wars (1766-1849) would be an example of wars fought primarily for economic gain. The conflict resulted in Britain's colonial rule in India, which gave the British unrestricted access to exotic materials native to the country.

Religion –

- Religious wars are usually slow-burners, and they can lie dormant for years, only to emerge quite suddenly and cause chaos.
- Religious wars can also often be tied to other reasons for conflict such as Nationalism.
- An example of a religious war would be The Crusades (1095-1291) during which the crusaders attempted to expel Islam and spread Christianity.