

Key words

Justice- Being treated Fairly /equally/putting things right

Injustice- Treating people unfairly/ wrongly

Discrimination- Treating people different

Equality- Treating people fairly regardless of sex, race etc.

IRA - a group of people seeking the end of British rule in Northern Ireland, and the reunification of Ireland.

UVF -a group of people trying to keep British rule in Northern Ireland.

Nelson Mandela - was a nonviolence anti-apartheid activist, politician who became South Africa's first black president.

War - armed conflict

Necessary Evil - something which is not ideal but occasionally has to happen

Conflict - a struggle between two sides who disagree

Retaliation - Deliberately harming others in response to them harming you

Nuclear Weapons- Weapons that work through nuclear reaction kill large numbers of people

Weapons of Mass Destruction- weapons that kill large numbers/cause great damage

Indiscriminate- unselective or Random

Utilitarian- doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people

Conscription - where everyone has to join the army

Moral Absolutist - Things are absolutely right or wrong, the situation doesn't matter

Pacifist - people who refuse to use violence

Conscientious Objector - someone who objects to a war for political or moral reasons

White feather - used as the symbol of pacifism

Just War Theory - something which tells Christians when it is fair to go to war.

St Thomas Aquinas - An Italian Christian Theologian who created some rules to help people decide when war is acceptable

Civilians - people who are not soldiers or involved with fighting

Holy War- A war which is fought in the belief that you are doing it in God's name

Crusade- Military expeditions to recover the Holy land for Christianity from Muslims

Convert- To change religion

Justice- Being treated fairly /equally

Forgiveness- showing grace /mercy and pardoning someone for a wrong

Reconciliation-Bringing people together that previously were in conflict to make peace

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Weapons of Mass destruction have been used in a few wars. They destroy large areas of land and people all at once, they are indiscriminate and kill both soldiers and civilians.

There are different types of WMD's the most well-known being Nuclear Weapons. Some see Nuclear weapons as serving as a deterrent to ensure peace and stop others from attacking. They would also argue that conflicts in the 20th century were settled because nuclear weapons are possessed by certain Governments which made these countries too risky to attack.

Some say using Nuclear weapons are acceptable and take a utilitarian perspective. For example, when the USA bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they felt this would save the most lives overall and end the Second World War.

Others argue against Nuclear weapons arguing they are very costly and cause widespread suffering. They state that the indiscriminate nature of these weapons killing innocent people could never be just and goes against the Just War Theory.

Justice and Injustice

Justice is concerned with what is right and fair. Many wars and disputes happen as a result of people fighting for what they believe to be just. This can be linked to equality where people think they are being treated unfairly (injustice). This may lead to conflict. There are many types of Justice including Legal justice which tries to make things fair for victims and criminals, or social justice which is about treating people equally in society.

"Let justice roll like a river"

"He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

Terrorism

Terrorism is an act of violence that is intended to create fear and panic in society. A terrorist is a person who intends to carry out such an act. These acts are carried out on civilians as opposed to military targets and because of this most people would believe them to be unlawful.

Terrorism is not new one of the most famous acts of terror was the Gunpowder plot in the 1600s by a Catholic group whose aim was to assassinate the King (Guy Fawkes).

"We must obey God rather than man." Do not kill



Year 9 Why is the modern world so violent?



Holy War

Holy War is a war which is often fought under God's name. Those involved believe that God is 'on their side' and that they will be rewarded by Him for participating in it. They would also believe that dying whilst fighting in this war would grant them entry into heaven. For a Christian it must be authorised by a religious leader with great authority such as the Pope. The purpose or aim may include:

- Relics (getting important artifacts back)
- Rescue Christians who are being mistreated
- Revenge for murdered Christians etc
- Reclaim land (eg Crusades for Holy Land)
- "Eye for an Eye" "Time for war, time for peace"



Forgiveness

Forgiveness-Christians believe that forgiveness is important for living peacefully. They believe that you should seek forgiveness from God and forgive those who hurt you. When Jesus was asked how many times we should forgive someone, he taught that we should 'Forgive 70X7' which means forgiveness should be infinite and unconditional. Also, when he was dying on the cross, he even forgave those who had tortured and murdered him, saying 'Father, forgive them.' Gee Walker followed this teaching when she forgave the killers of her son who stabbed him to death in a racist attack. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

War

War can be seen as a 'necessary evil' meaning that although people don't like it, they understand it is needed because the world is not perfect. Bad people exist so you have a duty to protect and defend your own family and country. Evil needs to be fought. There are many reasons for war happening, these include: Greed, Self-defence, Retaliation, Power and political reasons.

However, some people disagree with war because they say there is never a reason to kill other people. They argue war causes death, or physical/mental injury and destroys families. It can cause such damage to countries that the infrastructure can be affected for decades, for example no running water, electricity, hospitals and schools destroyed.

Just War

The Just War Theory was developed by St Thomas Aquinas. He was a Christian but believed that there were some occasions when it was acceptable to go to war. The aim of it then is to try and work out when it is ok to go to war. For a War to be 'just' (fair!) it must have a: Good cause (so a good reason not just greed or power) Started by proper authority e.g. the Government Be a last resort (so have tried other ways of settling the dispute)

Use a reasonable amount of force
Have a reasonable chance of success
Protect civilians (so not hurt ordinary people!)
Only if all this list is met is it acceptable to then go to war. This theory shows that some Christians think war is needed in some situations.
'Blessed are the peace makers.' 'Love your enemy.'

Pacifism

Someone may be a pacifist for various reasons including guilt, previous trauma, religious views or moral conviction. Pacifists believe that using violence is always wrong they are moral absolutists. A conscientious objector is different because they may have used violence in the past but believe that a certain war is not right, e.g. some soldiers became conscientious objectors over the Iraq war because they argued we were doing it for the wrong reasons. The right 'not to kill' is now considered a human right, meaning this may also apply to soldiers. Previously, in times of conscription, pacifists have had to run away or pretend to be ill in order to not be locked up or even executed as traitors. Another option is to do other roles in the army such as driving ambulances, being chefs or engineers. Some however would refuse to have anything to do with the army as it supports war. In WW1 the White feather was given to men who were not in army uniform as a way of encouraging them to join the army. This is because the white feather traditionally symbolised cowardice.
Blessed are the peace makers.'