

## THEME D: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

### KEYWORDS

War - Open and armed conflict  
Peace- living in harmony  
Pacifism - the belief that all forms war and violence  
Justice - making things fair  
Forgiveness - a willingness to not place blame  
Reconciliation - working together to heal wrong doings  
Protest - voicing a disagreement  
Violence - causing harm  
Terrorism - use of indiscriminate violence and threats, creating fear for political purposes  
Weapons of Mass Destruction;  
Nuclear Weapons  
Chemical Weapons:  
Biological Weapons:  
Just War - a war fought for the right reasons and in the right way

### Holy War

A holy war is fighting for a religious cause or God probably controlled by a religious leader. It seems like a contradiction for many. The Old Testament refers to God helping Jews win battles in the Promised Land "driving out the nations before them". And during the crusades in the 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> C Christians believed God to be on their side.

### Weapons of Mass Destruction

Nuclear Weapons work by a nuclear reaction; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. Other types of WMDs include Chemical weapons and biological. NO RELIGION supports the use of these weapons due to their uniquely devastating effects.

US forces used atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during WW2 causing over 140,000 people to die. Japan surrendered after, for some justifying their use.

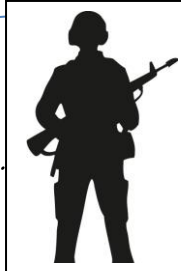
All forms of forms WMDs harm or kill innocents, which goes against the Just War theory. Christianity is clear that even though the bible states "an eye for an eye" and this justifies retaliation it cannot justify the use of WMDs

### REASONS FOR WAR

Greed - to gain or regain land, control resources and to deprive an enemy  
Self-defence - to defend your country from attack and defend values and way of life. To defeat evil.  
Retaliation - to fight against another country that has done something very wrong

Jesus that retaliation is wrong "turn the other cheek" and many Christians live their lives this way but find it difficult to do so in the context of war.

*Do not kill  
Blessed are the peacemakers  
Turn the other cheek  
There is a time for killing and a time for peace...  
Lord your God is a warrior  
Eye for an eye*



### Terrorism

Some individuals or groups use terrorism to further their cause by killing innocent people and causing widespread fear. They might use car bombs, mass shootings or poisoning.

The aim of these actions is to make society aware of their cause through fear and they believe this will push authorities into giving in to their demands.

No religion promotes terrorism due to the aim being to kill or harm innocents.

Examples of Terrorist groups - ISIS or IRA.



### JUST WAR THEORY

C - just CAUSE  
L - LAST resort  
I - right INTENTION  
P - PROPORTIONALITY  
A - right AUTHORITY  
S - reasonable chance of SUCCESS

### Pacifism

Pacifists believe that war and violence can rarely be justified. The Quakers are absolute pacifists and during the world wars many refused to fight they were called conscientious objectors. Others who were active pacifists helped the war effort in other ways e.g. Medics (Friends Ambulance Unit), cooks and mechanics.

Other pacifists are conditional pacifists, they will fight if there are just reasons to do so. They would support the Just War Theory.



### Violence and Violent Protests

eye for an eye are sometimes used to justify retaliation but this teaching was intended to reduce violence and avoid widespread killing.

Jesus' example at his arrest shows his non-violence stance "put your swords away... for those who live by the sword die by the sword".

Other Christians cite Jesus' advice to his disciples to buy a sword as a justification for violence.

Christians believe that protest to achieve what is right is acceptable e.g. MLK and the civil rights protests.