

Examples of Just and Unjust Wars

Here are some examples of just and unjust wars. Some of these examples are real and some are hypothetical. This also shows why it is impossible for the Church of Reality to be against all wars under any circumstances and why a Realist must evaluate each situation individually in order to fulfill their religious obligations. Although the final decision to participate or not to participate lies with the individual, these examples are here to give explorers guidance in making those choices.

This list shall not be construed by any military or government as church law in order to compel military service. Church law is that the individual decides based upon the circumstances of the war and his individual beliefs as to how he can best serve the cause of peace.

Examples of Wars:

- A civil war has broken out in Bosnia. Serbs, Croats, and Muslims are slaughtering each other over old religious and ethnic issues dating back over centuries. The United Nations, worried that this conflict will spread to neighboring countries, has voted to send in a multinational peacekeeping force in an attempt to end the violence. Your country has called on you to serve in that peacekeeping force. This would tend to be a just war because it is a military action to stop an existing war.

- Adolf Hitler has invaded Poland and an underground resistance force has formed to repel the invading Nazis who are hauling off trainloads of people to death camps to be tortured and executed. In a case like this it would be highly recommended that the Realist act in any way, including killing people, in order to undermine the invading force. When you are defending against an invading tyrant who is committing atrocities, it is just and moral to stop them.

Conversely, if you are a German citizen and you are called upon by Hitler to participate in the atrocities, then it is moral and just to refuse to serve and act against your nation's cause to stop the insanity.

- You are a citizen of Iraq and the United States has overthrown your brutal dictator who was using nerve gas against civilian populations, executed political dissidents, and maintained prisons where people are tortured, raped, and executed. The United States however after "liberating" you uses phosphorus shells against civilian targets, runs a prison allowing torture and murder to occur, and is basically there to install a fascist puppet government run by oil executives. You are called upon to be part of an insurgency to repel the liberating/invasive force.

In a situation like this a Realist has a right to seek to free the nation from all invaders. The Realist is thankful that the current brutal dictator was removed but is not obligated to accept a puppet government installed by the liberators. So it may be moral to take action against the same people who overthrew your dictator. However the slaughtering of civilians to accomplish this would not likely be justified.

- You are a member of the United States National Guard and you joined in times of peace and took a military oath. During your service a new president takes power and he initiates a war based upon lies and without United Nations support, invades Iraq, overthrows a brutal dictator, installs a puppet government, and commits atrocities against the civilian population using banned phosphorus shells, setting up a network of secret prisons where people are tortured and executed.

As a member of the Guard you are ordered to Iraq to be part of this unjust cause. What is a Realist to do? In this

situation it would be immoral to participate in a cause that is clearly wrong to objective observers. A Realist would not willingly participate in such a situation. The oath to the military would be invalidated because the military changed its mission from a just cause to an unjust cause and the Realist has a higher commitment to the {In:Sacred Principles} to be on the right side of justice. Thus the Realist's religious commitment would take precedence to the commitment to the nation state.

Unfortunately a war effort isn't clearly right or wrong, moral or immoral, or the good guys against the bad guys. Sometime it's bad guys against bad guys. Sometimes there is a mixture of good and bad elements. There are sometimes ways to participate that are productive even in an unjust war. This is why no one can create hard and fast rules that apply to every situation. Each conflict is unique and has to be dealt with individually. That is why Realists must think things through, come up with a plan for peace, and execute that plan so that whatever the situation is, the Realist can make it better.