

**The Principles of
The Just War Theory**

(1) Just cause:

- A The only just cause for war is to prevent hostile and aggressive acts against innocent people whether at home or abroad.
 - a If all obeyed the first principle of the theory, there would never be a war.

(2) Competent and legitimate Authority:

- A Those deciding to engage in war must be duly constituted and recognized as the ones granted this power by those they lead. Private individuals and less than representative groups are excluded from this capacity.

(3) Just intent:

- A To defend and preserve justice and to put an end to injustice.
- B Must be to seek justice for all involved. Revenge, conquest, or economic benefits are inadequate reasons for war.

(4) To suppress or eliminate evil:

- A This principle provides for the defeat of known evil that threatens the freedom, safety, livelihood, and lives of innocent people.

(5) Last Resort

- A All other avenues of conflict resolution have been rebuffed or have demonstrably failed.
 - a This refers to *reasonable* efforts not continuous Pollyanna suggestions

(6) Proportionality

- A Does the good gained by the resort to armed conflict justify the cost of lives lost and bodies maimed?
 - a This includes both spiritual and temporal good.

(7) Limited and attainable goals

- A There must be a “probability of success”. Therefore, the goals must be clear and attainable.
 - a Without a probability of success, it is suicide.
 - b Mass destruction of more than needed to obtain the goal of peace and liberation is unjustified.

(8) Noncombatant immunity.

- A No war can be just that does not disqualify innocent, noncombatants as legitimate targets.
- B This involves the desire and attempt to keep collateral damage to a minimum.