Is war ever justified

Starter

Nuclear weapons – weapons that work by nuclear reaction. They devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people.

Samsara – The cycle of life, death and rebirth

Incarnation – someone who embodies a deity or spirit

Buddhists and Christians don’t like WMD because it challenges the sanctity of life and breaks the first moral precept

War is necessary sometimes for the greater good.

Retaliation may be a reason for war

Some people will not be willing to negotiation

It was not Afghanistan that ordered the attack, it was a terrorist group

It is someone’s duty to protect themselves and other people

Buddhists believe war is never justifiable under any circumstances

Just war- A war which meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness; follows traditional Christian rules for a just war, and is now accepted by all other religions

6 conditions for a just war

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| Condition/rule | Explanation | Importance |
| Must be fought for a just cause | e.g. fought in self-defence or to defend others, not gain territory or in retaliation | 1 |
| Must be declared by the correct authority | e.g. the government or lawful rules of the country | 5 |
| Must have just intention | E.g. fought to promote good or defeat wrongdoing. The good gained by winning should outweigh the evil which led to the war | 3 |
| Must be a last resort | All other ways of solving the problem (e.g. diplomacy) must have been tried first | 4 |
| Must have a reasonable chance of success | It is unjust to ask people to fight in a war if it is probable the war will be lost, and they would be killed | 6 |
| Must be proportional | Excessive force should not be used, and innocent civilians must not be killed | 2 |

3 rules for fighting a just war

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| --- | --- |
| Condition/rule | Explanation |
| Must be fought by just means | Innocent civilians should not be targeted or harmed |
| Only appropriate force should be used | This includes the type of force and how much is used |
| Internationally agreed conventions must be obeyed | The Geneva convention lays down rules that must be obeyed in war |

“The just war theory is the best religious response to whether it is right to fight”

For:

It encompasses multiple rules and ideas that have to be passed for a country to go to war. It is accepted by the united nations

Against:

Some people like Buddhists may say war is never justifiable

Religion:

Me:

I think that war is very rarely justifiable, however the just war theory can be good but only if all the goals have been met.