

Peace-making in our Time and in the Gospel

The Role of the Military

Mr Nick Orr, Saturday February 21st 2026

Historical Conception of Warfare

The Just War Theory (Cicero, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas)

'The true object of war is peace'

- a. Justification 'Jus ad Bellum'. Legitimate authority, just cause, right intention
- b. The conduct of war 'Jus in Bellum'. Proportionate. Serious prospect of success, within the law/conventions
- c. Post-War Settlement 'Jus post Bellum'. The restoration and nurturing of peace

Current conceptions of warfare

- a. 'War is the continuation of politics by other means'
- b. Part of the exertion of power comprising:
 1. Diplomacy
 2. Information (acquired and disseminated)
 3. Military force
 4. Economic resources
- c. The value of deterrence comprising:
 1. Capability
 2. Credibility
 3. Communicated
- d. The critical roles of NATO and the United Nations
- e. A trajectory of military involvement: Peace-making – Peace enforcement – Peace monitoring

Current Issues

- a. Distinguishing war from peace – Grey zone Conflict
- b. Impact of social media distorting truth and encouraging division
- c. Technology now dictating the conduct of battles rather than the other way around
- d. Weakening of NATO and the UN. Need for an integrated West European military
- e. Impact of Iraq and Afghanistan on military morale
- f. The difference in the reputation of military service between the UK and the US

- g. Depletion of the industrial defence capability of the UK
- h. No veterans service in the UK. Reliance on regimental support and public services
- i. The need to protect children from engaging in conflict. The British Military recruits over 16 years but they only engage in conflict when over 18 years

Final Thoughts

'All wars are won before they start'

'The greatest victory is that which requires no battle at all'